

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL APPRENTICES

Are you looking to combine training and skills development with on-the-job experience? An Apprenticeship could be for you.

At the University of Wolverhampton, we offer Higher and Degree Apprenticeships that combine learning on and off the job, so you can gain higher level skills, technical knowledge and practical experience to further your career.

The University is contracted by employers to provide apprentices with off-the-job training, which will form part of the apprenticeship programme. You will spend a portion of your time studying on campus whilst also gaining experience in the workplace.

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a job with an accompanying skills development programme – meaning that it's a route to upgrading your skills and employability, while you earn.

Apprenticeships are available for all ages and offered at different levels of experience, and employers can support people they already employ or recruit into new positions.

Before becoming an apprentice, you must already be employed in a job relevant to your apprenticeship, and working 30 hours or more per week.

Apprentices gain the technical knowledge, practical experience, and wider skills they need for their current job as well as their future career. They gain this through a wide mix of learning in the workplace, formal off-the-job training, and practising these new skills in a real work environment.



What are Degree Apprenticeships?

Apprentices can achieve a full Bachelor's or Master's degree as part of their apprenticeship, in programmes developed by partnered employers, universities, and professional bodies. If you take a Degree Apprenticeship you will both work and study, spending part of your time at university and the rest with your employer. Depending on the programme and the needs of your employer, this can work day-to-day or in blocks of time.

An apprenticeship may take between three to six years to complete, depending on the course level.

Who can do an Apprenticeship?

Anyone can do an apprenticeship, providing they meet the below entry criteria*:

- You must be working in a suitable job role
- You must have a contract of employment
- You must work at least 30 hours a week
- You must work at least 50% in the UK
- You must have the right to work in the UK
- You must NOT currently be enrolled on a funded programme



What are the benefits?

As an apprentice, a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship won't cost you anything. Your employer and the government cover the costs of your training and assessment. Studying an apprenticeship with us means that you will:

- earn while you learn, and be paid at least the national minimum apprenticeship wage
- develop in-demand workplace skills for a defined professional role
- get a head-start with an employer who wants to invest in your future
- begin your journey towards membership of a professional body
- benefit from our state-of-the-art facilities, multi-million pound investments, and student learning opportunities.



*Please note, there are also course specific entry requirements that may apply.

What should I do?

It's important to do thorough research and make sure you find the perfect apprenticeship for you. You'll be working a challenging job and trying to prove yourself in the workplace, while getting to grips with studying for a higher- or degree-level qualification.

While the outcome of an apprenticeship is rewarding and will open up doors in your career you may never have thought possible, it will be challenging. You'll be expected to achieve both academically and at work, managing your time and adjusting to longer hours with fewer holidays than at school or college.

If you think an apprenticeship might be right for you, you need to do your research and find out if there's a way to get to the career or job role you want through an apprenticeship.

What we can offer

At the University of Wolverhampton, we offer Higher (Level 5) and Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6 and 7) that combine learning on and off the job, so you can gain higher level skills, technical knowledge, and practical experience to further your career.

We have apprenticeship courses available in:

- Construction, Civil Engineering and Surveying
- Digital and IT
- Engineering
- Healthcare and Health Sciences
- Leadership and Management
- Legal

You can find a full list of courses delivered by us on our website:

www.wlv.ac.uk/business-services/apprenticeships/

If you are not currently in work then see the section on the next page on 'Where to look' for apprenticeship vacancies advertised by employers.





Applying for apprenticeships – Where to look

You will need to secure an apprenticeship role yourself. You may have been with your current employer for some time or only recently started a job, but you must **ALREADY** be employed to undertake an apprenticeship. The job must be relevant to the apprenticeship, as you'll be employed for the duration of the programme and you must work at least 30 hours per week.

If you are interested in looking for an apprenticeship, use the national apprenticeship site to search for vacancies.

Key tips

1. You can search by apprenticeship level and location, but do broad searches and keep your options open. Many apprenticeships offer pathways to progression.
2. Register to get alerts.
3. Keep checking, as new vacancies are posted daily.
4. Don't apply off your phone and consider each application carefully.
5. Use the UCAS website for further information. Depending on the occupation, it may also be worth looking at:
 - WM Jobs website
 - NHS jobs website
 - Healthier Futures



Other tips

- Look at sector-specific employer websites, as many employers use their own sites to advertise vacancies
- Speak with family and friends who may know an employer who is willing to support you
- If you are already employed, talk to your line manager or training department, as they may be able to support you

Find out more

Our Apprenticeship Hub is a one-stop destination where you can access valuable resources, support, and information on our apprenticeship programmes.

Your employer can call **0800 953 322** or email **apprenticeshiphub@wlv.ac.uk** to find out where an apprenticeship could take you in the future.