



## Successful apprenticeships

### The apprenticeship framework

Apprenticeships are learning programmes that are developed with employers and result in a package of nationally-recognised qualifications. They take between 1 and 4 years to complete depending on the level and the industry sector:

- **Intermediate apprenticeships** - when completed the qualifications are considered to be equivalent to 5 good GCSE level passes.
- **Advanced apprenticeships** - when completed these are considered to be equivalent to 2 A level passes
- **Higher apprenticeships** – these will give you level 4 or 5 qualifications equivalent to an HNC or HND or a foundation degree plus key skills at level 3 or above.

Although you might start with an intermediate apprenticeship, you can progress to an advanced apprenticeship and then a higher apprenticeship which is approximately equivalent to the first two years of degree level study.

### Who can do an apprenticeship?

You need to be over 16, living in England and not in full-time education. They aren't just for school-leavers and many over 25s do an apprenticeship. There aren't any fixed entry requirements but you might be expected to have GCSEs, ideally including Maths and English. If you haven't got qualifications, your training provider may assess you on your general level of ability. Some local colleges offer a pre-apprenticeship programme to prepare you for a full apprenticeship, so do check what's available in your area. Pre-apprenticeships usually last for 15 weeks.

### Who pays?

Most of the training is 'on the job' within the workplace, however the knowledge based element can be provided by a local college or by a specialist learning provider. If you are aged 16 - 18 the NAS will pay 100% of your training costs, and if you are aged 19 – 24 the NAS will pay 50% of the costs. If you are aged 25+ the NAS may still make a contribution to the cost for some courses.

### The National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)

The NAS website has information about all aspects of Apprenticeships for applicants, apprentices, parents, employers and training providers. There are details of over 200 frameworks for Apprenticeships from engineering to boat building, veterinary nursing to accountancy ranging over 80 different industry sectors. The web links below will take you straight to the appropriate area of the NAS website:

- [Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care](#)
- [Arts, Media and Publishing](#)
- [Business, Administration and Law](#)
- [Construction, Planning and the Built Environment](#)
- [Education and Training](#)
- [Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies](#)
- [Health, Public Services and Care](#)

- [Information and Communication Technology](#)
- [Leisure, Travel and Tourism](#)
- [Retail and Commercial Enterprise](#)

#### **Finding an apprenticeship**

- You can search and apply for live apprenticeship vacancies on the NAS website.  
[www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)
- If you live in Sussex, there's a dedicated website for the area.  
[www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com](http://www.apprenticeships-in-sussex.com)