



★ RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS 2023

WELCOME

Young people's priorities have changed since Covid-19, with 73% now considering an apprenticeship to future-proof their career.

The opportunity to bypass £45,000 of student debt by going to university and getting a paid job straight out of school or college has become too good to pass up.

So the more you know about apprenticeships, the better...

HOW MUCH WILL MY CHILD BE PAID?

All apprentices are paid the National Minimum Wage of £4.81/hour or above. According to over 40,000 reviews on [RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk](https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk), apprentices can earn anywhere from **£16,100 - £24,960 a year**, depending on their age, employer and apprenticeship level.

WHO FUNDS APPRENTICESHIPS?

Every programme is co-funded by the government and the employer, using the Apprenticeship Levy introduced back in 2017.

DO APPRENTICES GET STUCK MAKING THE TEA?

Apprentices have to cover a wide range of tasks in order to successfully complete the programme. As such, employers are obliged to provide practical and relevant work that supports their professional development.

IS MY CHILD GUARANTEED A JOB AT THE END?

Almost! 90% of apprentices go into work or further training after completing an apprenticeship, and two-thirds get hired permanently by their employer.

RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk is committed to inspiring young people to reach their career goals, whether that starts with an apprenticeship or university.

Our brand new, dedicated ParentsHub has everything you need to support your child with their career options. From in-depth guides on apprenticeship levels and industries to student success stories and events. We're here to help you help them.

[Click here](#)



GET YOUR FACTS STRAIGHT

Apprenticeships aren't what they used to be. You can now do an apprenticeship in literally anything - from business and construction, to engineering, science, IT and law.

There's a lot going around about apprenticeships, but we're here to set some facts straight.

MYTH

Apprenticeships are for those who don't do well at school.

FACT

Apprenticeships are open to anyone who is 16 or over, and not in full-time education.

WHY?

There are 7 different levels of apprenticeship, and which one your child does will depend on the qualifications they leave school/college with. Some require certain A Levels or GCSEs, whilst work experience will do for others.

MYTH

Apprentices don't earn very much.

FACT

An apprenticeship is a one-way ticket to financial independence.

WHY?

The average salary for an apprenticeship is £16,184 a year. Imagine what your child could spend all that hard-earned cash on. They could even start saving for a house...

MYTH

Most apprentices are men.

FACT

It's a 50/50 split between the number of men and women starting apprenticeships each year.

WHY?

Women made up 49.9% of apprentices in 2021/22. The gender gap is even closing in traditionally male-dominated sectors like engineering and construction.



MYTH

Apprenticeships only exist in trade industries.

FACT

Apprenticeships are now available in over 600 occupations, including Nursing, Digital Marketing and even Beekeeping.

WHY?

Because tons of exciting companies, like AstraZeneca, Booking.com and PwC, now hire apprentices fresh out of school or college.

MYTH

An apprenticeship isn't a proper job.

FACT

Apprentices get paid to work on projects that contribute to the business.

WHY?

Apprentices are given real responsibility from day one, working alongside experienced professionals to develop the skills they need to thrive in the industry. Sounds like a proper job to us.

MYTH

An apprenticeship won't lead to a full-time job.

FACT

Apprentices spend 3-6 years gaining the relevant experience and qualifications for their line of work. So they tend to get hired quickly.

WHY?

90% of apprentices stay in employment after finishing their apprenticeship, with many working their way up to the boardroom. An impressive 30% of Rolls-Royce's senior UK managers first joined as apprentices!

APPRENTICESHIPS VS UNIVERSITY

After finishing school or college, most students will either go to university, or do an apprenticeship. Both are marvellous options, but which one is right for your child?

1 LEAVE SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

Anyone over the age of 16 can start an apprenticeship.

2 START AN APPRENTICESHIP

Get on the career ladder early and work, learn and earn all at the same time. (FYI, an apprenticeship really is a job, so that means working 9-5, Monday to Friday.)

3 LIVE AT HOME OR MOVE OUT

Many companies pay their higher apprentices enough to rent their own place. The average salary for levels 4/5/6/7 is £24,957 a year!

4 GET WORK-READY

Throughout your child's apprenticeship, they'll pick up the technical know-how and soft skills required to do the job well. Making them extremely employable.

5 GAIN PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Apprenticeships offer qualifications that are equivalent to five GCSEs, all the way up to a Master's degree. (Remember, you don't have to go to university to get a degree!)

6 MEET NEW PEOPLE

"You study with people from all around the UK, and there are lots of organised social events. Many apprentices house-share. You also get to meet people at different stages in their careers and build a strong network."

Jess, Business Apprentice at EY

7 ENTER THE BIG WIDE WORLD

If your child shines on their apprenticeship, there's a good chance their employer will want to keep them on permanently. If not, others will snap them up.

1 LEAVE SCHOOL OR COLLEGE

There are 130 universities in the UK and 1000s of courses to choose from. Anyone with A Levels, T Levels or a BTEC can apply.

2 START UNIVERSITY

Gain some real independence away from home, whilst studying for a degree in their chosen subject. The downside? It'll set them back around £45,000.

3 LIVE IN HALLS

Surrounded by people their own age, their first year is prime time for making new friends, exploring the area and eating Pot Noodles 3x a day.

4 JOIN SOCIETIES

They'll meet people who share their niche interest in Ghost Hunting or Taekwondo, and beef up their CV with sought-after skills like leadership and communication.

5 MOVE INTO A HOUSE

Experience the highs and lows of living with friends; from cooking meals and binge-watching Parks and Recreation together, to arguing over washing up and bills.

6 GET WORK EXPERIENCE

Some degrees offer placement years, or the opportunity to study abroad. Otherwise, your child can easily fit an internship or two into the breaks between semesters.

7 ENTER THE BIG WIDE WORLD

350,000 graduates leave university each year, so a degree alone won't be enough to guarantee them a job. Apply early and create a CV with relevant experience to stand out.

TRAINING PROVIDERS EXPLAINED

Apprentices spend 80% of their time at work, learning on-the-job. The other 20% is for off-the-job training, e.g. classes, skills workshops or mentoring.

That's where the training provider comes in. They play a key role in helping apprentices ace their professional qualifications.

There are four main types...

1 FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES
Just like a sixth-form college but in a more relaxed, adult environment. Your child will call the teachers by their first names and take responsibility for their own learning.

2 UNIVERSITIES
Universities and other higher education institutions act as training providers for level 4, 5, 6 and 7 apprentices.

3 INDEPENDENT TRAINING PROVIDERS
Employers that can't deliver training outsource it to these organisations. They only train apprentices, unlike colleges where apprentices mix with full-time students.

4 IN-HOUSE TRAINING PROVIDERS
Large employers like BAE Systems, Barclays and Virgin Media have their own tutors and training facilities.

HOW THEY SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

Your child's training provider is there to ensure they receive...

- an induction when they begin their apprenticeship
- a detailed training plan
- regular progress reviews
- the same resources and support as full-time students

THE APPRENTICESHIP APPLICATION JOURNEY

So you've decided you want to do an apprenticeship. Now to get down to applying! The process usually goes something like this...

1

APPLICATION FORM

The first step is providing your child's personal details, education and any work experience. They may have to answer questions about their strengths and interests too.

2

CV

Your child should start to pull together their CV, popping in everything from past work experience to key skills they've developed at school.

3

COVER LETTER

Your child has one page to sell why they want the job, and why they're the right person for it. Make sure to include examples where they've used the skills the role is looking for.

4

PSYCHOMETRIC TESTS

These online tests measure your child's suitability for a job based on their skills, knowledge and personality.

5

INTERVIEW

They've made it to the face-to-face interview. They're almost there! All your child has to do now is showcase their skills in person (via video, phone or face-to-face).

6

ASSESSMENT DAY

A day of tasks and activities hosted at the company's office, or online. Your child can expect things like ice-breaker exercises, group projects, presentations and 1-2-1 interviews.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN APPRENTICE

AstraZeneca is a biopharmaceutical company delivering life-changing medicine all over the world. Not only that, the pharmaceutical giant has also made the Best 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2022/23 table, coming in at #14. Want to know more about what it's like to work there?

Meet Tom, a current apprentice...

Hi there! I'm Tom. For the past two years, I've been loving life as a Supply Chain Degree Apprentice for AstraZeneca. This is what my day looks like...

AstraZeneca 

08:30

Log on, check my calendar to see what meetings I have for the day and go through my emails and messages.

09:00

Check the task log and various mailboxes, before assigning myself to new supply chain tasks and kicking off the day with those.

10:30

30-minute daily team meeting. Team members will raise any points that need acknowledging, discussing and resolving to ensure the team continues to operate successfully.

11:00

Continue with the morning's supply chain tasks. Supply chain tasks vary, however they all contribute to the successful on-time delivery of medicines to patients globally and involve working with colleagues in logistics, regional demand, and network strategy on key projects.

12:00

LUNCH TIME!

12:45

Back to work. First, I'll spend 30 minutes catching up on any emails and messages missed over lunch.

13:15

The rest of the afternoon will be spent finalising any supply chain tasks I picked up this morning.

15:00

If I have time and no urgent supply chain tasks to complete, I'll offer support to the team to ensure all our tasks are completed on time before the end of the day. I love working with my team - makes it all the more worthwhile.

16:30

HOME TIME!



DESIGNED FOR PARENTS OF STUDENTS AGED 14-18

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