



# A Handy Guide to apprenticeships

★ RATEMYAPPRENTICESHIP

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# Why are apprenticeships such a hot topic?

Apprenticeships are now a very attractive option for young people.

They provide an opportunity to get debt-free qualifications (now all the way up to Master's Degree level) whilst earning a salary and gaining professional work experience, often years ahead of graduates.

Employers are also expanding their apprenticeship schemes. The Apprenticeship Levy, introduced in April 2017 has encouraged companies across the UK to create even more opportunities for young people.

The Government has aimed for three million apprentice starts by 2020. There has never been so many options for young people who are seeking an alternative to going to university.



# Levels of apprenticeships explained:

Apprenticeships have changed radically in the past few years; the options available to school and college leavers can be confusing.

As a school, we know how hard it must be to provide complete advice on the different levels and schemes available to students and their parents.

There is a full breakdown of the different types of opportunities on RateMyApprenticeship's website to help you answer those tricky questions. We've covered the main points on the next page to get you started.

## Options for 16-18 year olds:

Level	Known as	Prerequisite	Qualifications Gained
2	Intermediate Apprenticeship	2 or more GCSEs	National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) or knowledge based qualification such as a BTEC
3	Advanced Apprenticeship	5 or more GCSEs	Higher National Certificate (HNC)

## Options for 18 and over:

Level	Known as	Prerequisite	Qualifications Gained
4/5	Higher Apprenticeship	2 or more A-Levels or an Advanced Apprenticeship	Level 4 or 5 competence qualification or a knowledge based qualification: Higher National Diploma or a Foundation degree
6/7	Degree Apprenticeship	3 or more A-Levels or equivalent qualifications. Entry requirements will vary for different employers	A full Bachelors or Masters degree



For students, the **Next Step Explorer Poster** in this toolkit will help explain which option is most suitable for them based on how old they are and what qualifications they have.

To find out more about the qualifications students can gain from these options, head to [RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk](https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)

# Spotlight: degree apprenticeships

## **What is a degree apprenticeship?**

Degree apprenticeships are aimed at 18 to 19 year old school leavers as an alternative route into higher education. Students will combine full-time work for an industry leading company with part-time university study. These courses typically last between three and five years, with a Bachelors or Masters degree waiting at the end.

Competition for degree apprenticeships is fierce. However, increasing numbers of employers and higher education institutions are setting up schemes with the government's backing. There are now 24 different types of degree apprenticeship available, ranging from banking to engineering, law and product design.

# Why consider a degree apprenticeship?

- **Students study for a debt-free degree**
- **They can earn while they learn**
- **Gain professional work experience**

## How do students apply for a degree apprenticeship?

- Finding a degree apprenticeship will require your students to do some research around what schemes are out there. We recommend students find between one and five degree apprenticeship schemes they want to apply for and spend time writing a quality application - however there is currently no limit on how many applications a student can make.
- Application timings will vary dependent on the employer so some extra work may be required to ensure your students have a track off all the different openings and deadlines.
- Students applying for a degree apprenticeship will currently do so through the employer, not through UCAS.
- On RateMyApprenticeship, degree apprenticeship opportunities are updated regularly so this is a great place for students to find opportunities.

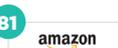
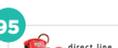
P.S. If your students sign up to the website, we can send them schemes and the deadlines direct to their inbox!

*All information correct on date of publishing (November 2017).*



# The Top 100 Employers of 2018:

Based on over 4,300 reviews from our website, RateMyApprenticeship's Top 100 Employers Table showcases companies who are top of their class; offering apprenticeship, school leaver and work experience programmes for school and college leavers across the UK.

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To find out more about our Top 100 Employers, head to [RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk/top-employers](https://RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk/top-employers)

# How can we help you?

There are a number of different ways we can help you to deliver quality and informed career advice around apprenticeships and the options available to your students after they finish school or college.

## **E-newsletters**

Each month we share our latest news, resources and vacancies via email. To be added to our mailing list contact:

[hello@ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk](mailto:hello@ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk)

## **Printed publication**

We send 'A Guide to Career Options 2018' to every school and college in the UK so look out for a copy soon!

## **Advice hub**

In your toolkit, you'll find a number of different resources; from posters and leaflets to an apprenticeship guide. You can also access these and more via our Advice Hub on the website at

[www.RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk/advice](http://www.RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk/advice)

**98%**  
**of apprentices**  
**would recommend**  
**their scheme to**  
**a friend.**



★ RATEMY**APPRENTICESHIP**

hello@ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk  
0203 056 7700



[www.RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk](http://www.RateMyApprenticeship.co.uk)