

## Apprenticeships Explained

Apprenticeships are a great opportunity to gain qualifications and workplace experience at the same time. They involve working for an employer while studying for a qualification part time with a training provider or college (usually on day release).

There are over 200 types of Apprenticeships, in a huge range of industry sectors, like childcare, engineering, IT and many more. Apprenticeships result in a vocational qualification (such as a work based NVQ) and generally fall into the following types:

Intermediate Apprenticeship	Advanced Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship
Level 2 qualification	Level 3 qualification	Level 4 qualification
Equivalent to 5 GCSEs grade A* to C	Equivalent to 2 A Level passes	Equivalent to HNC These can lead onto other higher qualifications

### The Benefits of Apprenticeships

An Apprenticeship is a great way to get qualified, but there are other benefits too:

**Apprentices get paid** – From October 2015 apprentices have to be paid a minimum of £3.30 per hour (16-19 year olds). However, as in most job roles, many apprentices get paid more by their employers with the national average actually being closer to £4.85 an hour. You also get paid holidays and pension contributions just like any other employee. Apprentices aged 20+, or 19 year olds who have completed the first year of their placement the minimum rate from October 2015 is £5.30 per hour

**Experience** – Apprenticeships look great on an application form. You will be able to demonstrate first-hand experience of the workplace that a student might lack. Plus, as Apprenticeships are designed and structured by employers, the training you will be given is directly relevant to the job you want to go into, and lots of employers want to see this in potential candidates.

**Career Progression** – Because the skills you are gaining as a result of your placement are directly relevant to the workplace, progression is generally much quicker than for other employees. The average lifetime wage of an apprentice is over £100,000 more than those who go straight into employment. Remember, that if you do decide to go to university to pursue an academic qualification in the future, UCAS now accepts Apprenticeships as a recognised route into university and you still have this option available to you.

