

## Apprenticeships and School Leaver Programmes

### What are Apprenticeships?

Apprentices earn a wage and work alongside experienced staff to gain job-specific skills. Alongside their employment, usually on a day-release basis, apprentices receive training to work towards nationally recognised qualifications. Apprenticeships can take between one and four years to complete depending on the level of apprenticeship, the apprentices' ability and the industry sector. The minimum salary is £2.60 per hour; however, many apprentices earn significantly more.

### Who are they for?

Apprenticeships are open to all age groups above 16 years-old whether you are just leaving school, have been working for years or are seeking to start a new career. Click [HERE](#) to read about five reasons why apprenticeships are a real alternative to university.

### Are they competitive?

There may be different entry requirements depending on the Apprenticeship and the industry sector. However competition for places with employers and apprenticeship providers can be fierce, so you will need to show that you are committed, and aware of your responsibilities to both yourself and the company who would employ you. You also need to be happy to work as part of a team and individually, and be able to use your own initiative.

### Training

Apprenticeships are designed with the help of employers in the industry, so that they offer a structured programme that takes you through the skills you need to do a job well. As an employee you will be in employment for most of your time as most training takes place on the job. The rest usually takes place at a local college or a specialist training organisation. You can complete this 'off-the-job' training on day release or over a number of days in a block.