

# BWS GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

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**2025**



# The basics

An Apprenticeship is one of the options open to you after Year 13. In essence, an Apprenticeship allows you to enter the workplace, earn a salary (or at least get paid) and gain a qualification at the same time. Duration varies on the level - for example, a degree Apprenticeship will take between 3 and 5 years.

Apprenticeships are available at different levels depending on the offered qualification – exactly the same as academic qualifications. Thus, A levels are a Level 3 qualification as is an Advanced Apprenticeship.

## Qualifications framework

Level	Academic & Vocational				Apprenticeship	
2	GCSEs 9-4 A* - C	Level 2 First Certificate or Diploma			Intermediate Apprenticeship	
3	A levels	International Baccalaureate Diploma	L3 Certificates & Diplomas (subsidiary, diploma, extended)	T levels (from 2020)	Advanced Apprenticeship	
4	Foundation degree	Higher National Diploma	Bachelor's degree	Integrated Master's degree	Degree Apprenticeship	Higher Apprenticeship
5						
6						
7	Master's degree				Degree Apprenticeship	
8	Doctorate					



In planning your future, you will ideally want to investigate Higher or Degree Apprenticeships at this stage, but you can also consider Advanced Apprenticeships, particularly if there is a very different, practical skillset involved.



# Apprenticeships are only available in vocational areas as the qualifications are specifically linked to a job role.

Therefore, you will not be working towards a degree in geography or English but those such as digital solutions, marketing or business administration. One of the attractions of, particularly a degree apprenticeship, is that you do not pay university tuition fees. It is not the same experience as attending full-time, as your study will mostly distance/online learning with perhaps some short-term attendance.

Your employer will allocate time within your working schedule for you to study.

Examples are day release, where you study one day per week, or block release, where you work for a period and then study for several weeks, then return to work.

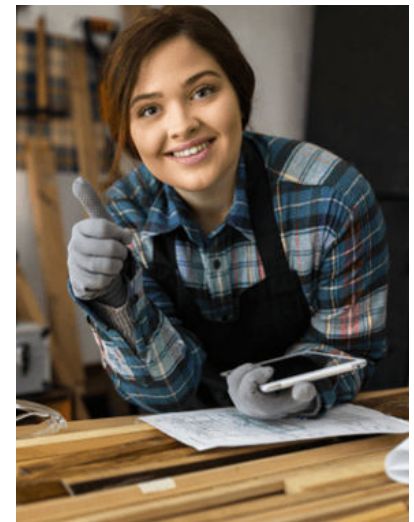
## Obviously as an Apprentice is studying on a part-time basis, the qualification will (usually) take longer to achieve

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Degree Apprenticeships began to emerge seriously about 10 years ago and are continuing to increase in number and availability. They typically take 3, 4 or usually, 5 years to complete. A growing number of employers are offering them, such as the Bank of England, BT, the BBC, JP Morgan, Siemens, Jaguar Landrover etc., but you will need to be persistent, organised and research thoroughly as entry is highly competitive and the recruitment process is challenging. There may be initial tests, assessment centres, telephone and panel interviews. Your application will need to be well-prepared and carefully tailored for the organisation you are applying to. That said, help and guidance is available throughout the process. This is a great option to consider particularly if you are keen to get started in the workplace.



**The following pages suggest some useful resources to find out more about apprenticeships - unfortunately there is not one 'go-to' place to find them all. If you would like to discuss this option, you are welcome to arrange a meeting. Contact me, Mrs Armstrong [saa@bishopwordsworths.org.uk](mailto:saa@bishopwordsworths.org.uk)**



# Resources

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## Where to start

Sorting through the vast range of websites, guides, articles and vacancy lists can be rather daunting but don't be put off. It's a good idea to search both at national level if you are prepared to relocate, and locally, within an easily commutable area. This will give you an idea of what is available, the employers and universities. You make your application through the employer.



Past students from BWS have secured places at J P Morgan, the BBC, Qinetiq, EY, Grant Thornton, GE Aviation, Thames Water, the MOD, the Government Economic Service and Evelyn

## The UCAS Apprenticeship Guide



[www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](http://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)

Covers everything you need to know about how Apprenticeships work and answers questions.

# Resources

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## What Are Degree Apprenticeships?

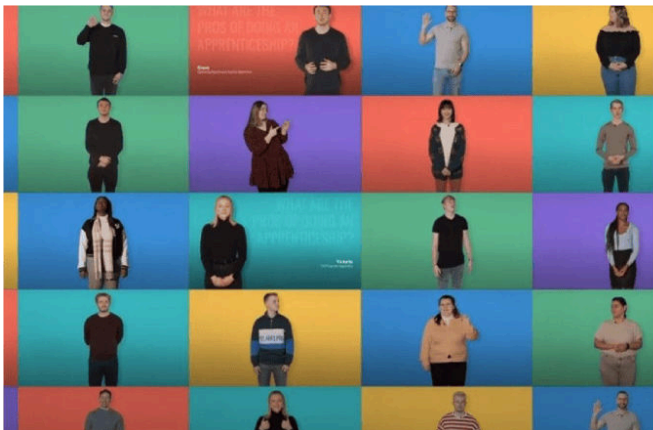


[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygRM9HkCtI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygRM9HkCtI0)

What are **degree apprenticeships**?

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## The Pros and Cons of Degree Apprenticeships



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylnU5LsIIkE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ylnU5LsIIkE)

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## Skills for Life - Apprenticeship mini course



### Apprenticeships Unlocked

Springpod  x 

Are you thinking about applying for an apprenticeship but don't know what to expect? Take this short course and see if it's the right pathway for you!

[unlocked.springpod.com/unlocked-intro/apprenticeships-unlocked](https://unlocked.springpod.com/unlocked-intro/apprenticeships-unlocked)



# Resources

Rate My Apprenticeship is a great site for all things apprenticeships. The top code takes you to some industry guides but do explore the whole site. They also offer an excellent overall guide -second code.



[www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/best-apprenticeship-employers/guide](https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/best-apprenticeship-employers/guide)

One of the best career sites is Prospects. They have lots of good information about Degree Apprenticeships



[www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships)



## Podcast



[open.spotify.com/episode/](https://open.spotify.com/episode/)



# Vacancies

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Apprenticeship vacancies occur at any time, although January to April can be said to be the peak period for those with a fixed September start. Some close quickly so it is important that you register your interest and regularly check to see what's available. Prepare or update a comprehensive CV so that all necessary information is to hand.

A skills audit is also useful in preparation so that you can easily match your skills to what is being asked for (sometimes called a person specification). However, don't be put off from applying if your skillset does not match exactly.

## National Careers Service - Skills assessment

### Careerpilot

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### All About School Leavers

### UCAS

### Milkround

### Not Going To Uni

### Amazing Apprenticeships

### [Apprenticeships.gov](https://www.apprenticeships.gov/)

### [Apprenticeships in Salisbury](#)



**Assistance in school is available for further guidance and completing applications, CV writing, interviews and assessment centres.**

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