

# Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are real jobs where you earn a wage while you train. They might suit you if:

- You enjoy practical learning.
- You know what kind of job you want to do.
- You are ready to go into a workplace. (This is sometimes called being 'work ready').

## Apprenticeships are at different levels:

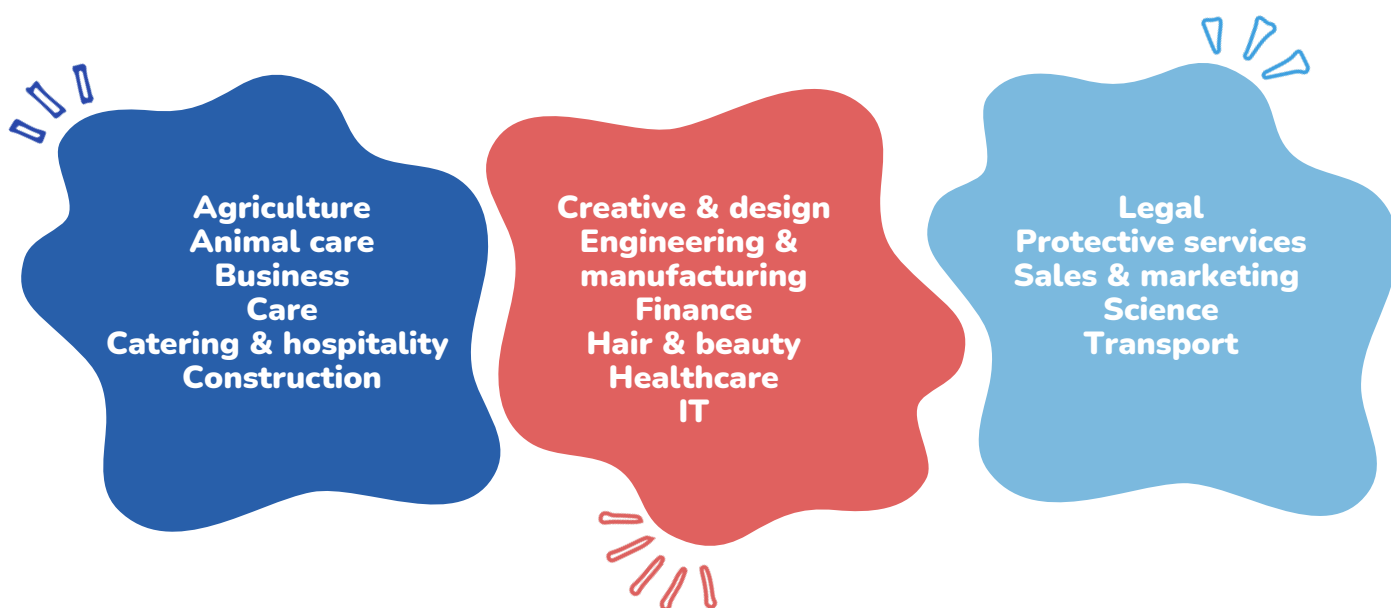
Intermediate – with training at Level 2 (equivalent to GCSE Grades 9-4).

Advanced – with training at Level 3 (equivalent to A Level).

Higher and Degree – with study for higher education or professional qualifications and with your tuition fees paid.

## Types of apprenticeship

Apprenticeships are in all kinds of work sectors, such as:



## What are the most common types of apprenticeship?

These are the work sectors that took on the most apprentices (August 2021-April 2022). Just over half were in the first two sectors:

- Business, administration & finance
- Health, Public Services & Care
- Engineering & Manufacturing Technologies
- Construction, Planning & Built Environment
- Education and training

## Pay

The National Minimum Wage for an apprenticeship (last set in April 2022) is currently £4.81 an hour if you're under 19 (or if you're 19 and over and in the first year of an apprenticeship).

Other apprentices should be paid at least the minimum wage for their age.

## What are the entry requirements?

Employers set their own entry requirements but as a guide:

- Intermediate apprenticeships often ask for GCSE Grades 3 or above, especially in English and Maths. Some employers use their own selection tests.
- Advanced apprenticeships normally require some GCSE Grades 9-4 or equivalent, especially in English and Maths.
- Higher or degree apprenticeships normally require qualifications at Level 3, such as A Level or BTEC National. Some companies look for specific grades.

## What else do you need?

Employers usually want young people who are well organised, punctual, well-motivated and good team workers. They may expect you to be comfortable using the phone and with IT. You should also be able to communicate well, both face-to-face and in writing. In your applications, try and talk about situations where you have used these skills and give details of any work experience or volunteering.



The employer may ask for a CV which is a summary of your qualifications, skills and experiences, normally set out on a couple of sides of A4. Adapt your CV with every application so that it fits with what the employer wants.

## Work based learning

If you can't get an apprenticeship, then work based learning, such as a traineeship or study programme, can help you get more skills and experience plus give you job hunting and English and Maths support.

Work based learning is classed as full time learning so it doesn't have to pay a wage. But it should attract Child Benefit (until age 20) and possibly, in cases of hardship, the 16-19 Bursary.

You can start an apprenticeship at any age. If don't find one in Year 11, keep trying, and look for ways of getting experience, skills or qualifications, e.g. work based learning, a full time course or volunteering. Don't give up!

## Find out more

For more about apprenticeships and how to get one, use your Sheffield Futures Options guide which your school will give you, and check out these websites:



[amazingapprenticeships.com](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)  
[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)  
[www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)  
[www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk](https://www.sheffieldprogress.co.uk)



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