

DISPELLING APPRENTICESHIP MYTHS

There are many apprenticeship perceptions that are outdated and often incorrect. This list of common myths will help you understand apprenticeships better.

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Myth 1: An apprenticeship isn't a real job.

All apprentices are employed, doing real jobs and earning a salary, with a contract of employment. Apprentices are also entitled to paid time to complete off-the-job learning, equivalent to 6 hours per week.

Myth 2: Apprenticeships aren't a popular option for young people.

In the 2022/23 academic year, more than 77,000* young people aged 16-19 started an apprenticeship. (*Gov.uk)

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Myth 3: The range of apprenticeships is really limited.

There are nearly 700 different apprenticeship standards available, with more in development every day. This includes exciting roles like Zookeeper, Solicitor and even Doctor!

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Myth 4: Apprenticeships are all low paid.

Although there is a National Minimum Wage for apprentices set annually, this is the minimum an employer can pay, and many employers will pay significantly more than this.

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Myth 5: Employers don't value apprentices as much as graduates.

Apprenticeships are valued just as highly as graduates, as apprentices have qualifications and direct experience of the workplace.

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Myth 6: You can't get a degree through an apprenticeship.

There are many degree apprenticeships, that include qualifications at bachelor's and master's level.

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Myth 7: You will have to pay for your training.

The employer and/or Government pay for all apprenticeship training costs, meaning that the apprentice can gain qualifications and training (including degree level) without gaining the debt.

Myth 8: Apprenticeships are only for those that aren't academic.

There are apprenticeship pathways that are suitable for just about everyone. The level that you start at will depend on the job role, your prior experience and qualifications.

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Myth 9: Apprentices are often 'let go' by their employer after their apprenticeship.

Approximately 94%* of apprentices remain in employment on completing their apprenticeship. (*Gov.uk)

Myth 10: You can't apply for apprenticeships and university.

You can apply for as many apprenticeships as you wish, as well as applying for other options including full-time university and anything else you are interested in.

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Myth 11: If you've done A-levels, you shouldn't consider a level 3 (advanced) apprenticeship.

Your next step doesn't have to be at the next level up. The level of an apprenticeship is determined by the job role, so it's important to keep your options open and consider all levels.

Myth 12: Apprenticeships are only for school leavers

There is no upper age limit for apprenticeships - as long as you are at least 16 and not in full-time education, you can become an apprentice. Lots of people undertake an apprenticeship to upskill during their career.

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