

Helping Students to Apply for Degree Apprenticeships



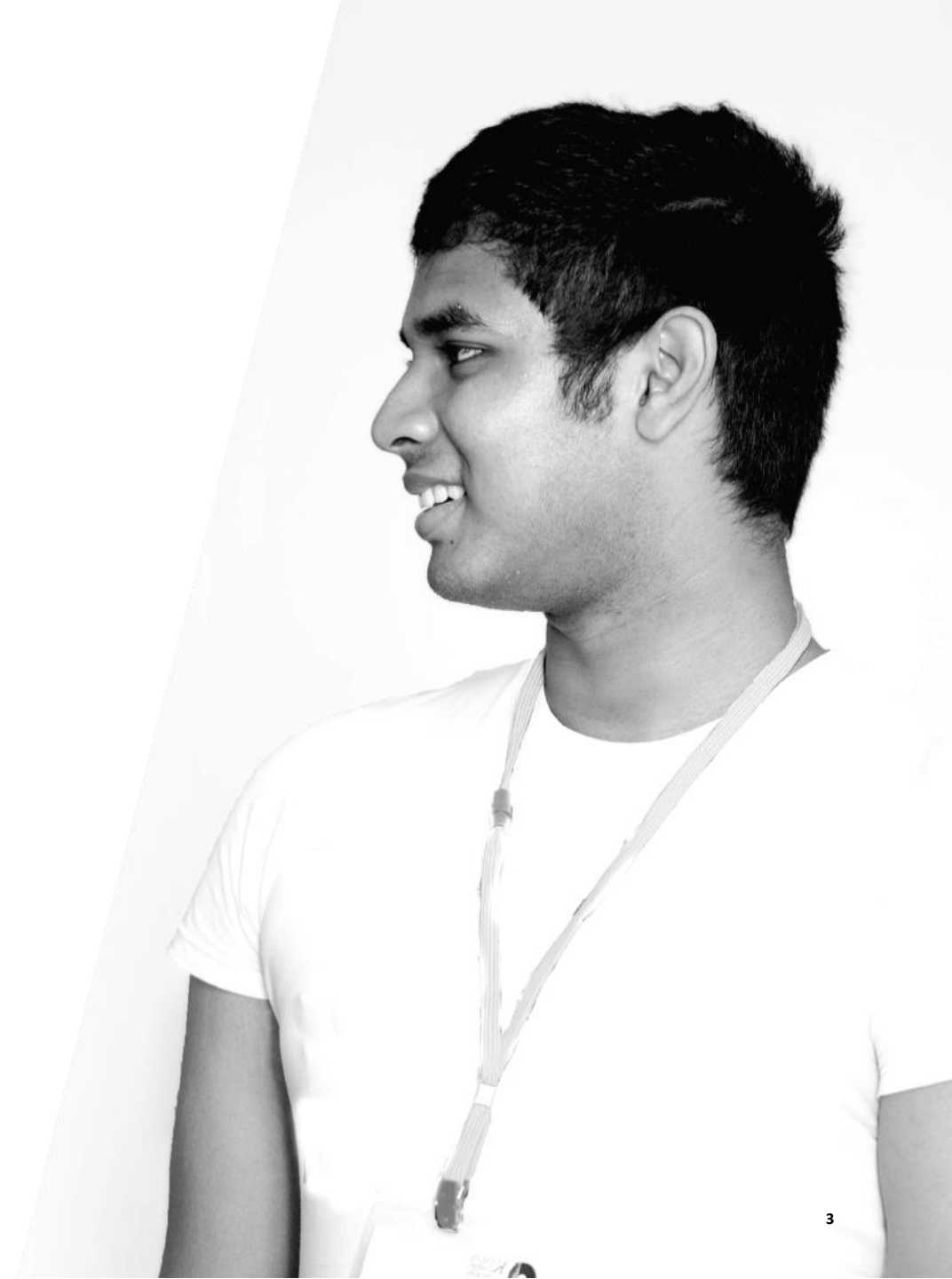
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Coming up...

- What are degree apprenticeships?
- How should students decide?
- Where to find opportunities
- How and when to apply
- How to support students
- Further information





What are Degree Apprenticeships?

What are Degree Apprenticeships?

- Degree Apprenticeships combine degree level study and a workplace apprenticeship at the same time
- They typically last between three and six years
- Apprentices work for at least 30 hours per week
- University study could be a certain number of days per week, or apprentices could complete 'blocks' of university study
- Apprentices are paid a salary (which can be used for living costs) and the employer covers tuition fee costs. There is no maintenance loan
- Many students secure employment with the same employer once their apprenticeship is finished (though this is not a guarantee)



Qualification levels

- Level 2 – GCSEs, some BTECs, Intermediate Apprenticeships
- Level 3 – A levels, T levels, most BTECs, Advanced Apprenticeships
- Level 4 – first year of a ‘normal’ degree, Higher Apprenticeships
- Level 5 – second year of a ‘normal’ degree
- Level 6 – ‘normal’ degree or most Degree Apprenticeships
- Level 7 – Master’s degree and some Degree Apprenticeships



What sorts of things are available?

- Opportunities available in a diverse range of sectors e.g. banking, pharmaceuticals, transport, engineering and the third sector

Civil Engineering



Social work



Computer Science



What sorts of things are available?





How to decide?

Degree Apprenticeship or 'normal' degree?



Discuss:

- What might be some of the advantages of studying for a Degree Apprenticeship?
- What could be some of the downsides?
- How can you help students decide?

 5 minutes



Degree apprenticeship or traditional degree?

- Gone are the days when apprenticeships were seen as something for those who are not “academic enough” to go to university
- If anything, the selection process for a Degree Apprenticeships may be more demanding than for a ‘normal’ degree
- Make sure that your highest achieving students are considering degree apprenticeships
- Students are perfectly entitled to apply for both a degree apprenticeship and a traditional degree at the same time if they wish to hedge their bets (in fact this is a very sensible thing to do)

Degree apprenticeship or traditional degree?

- There are both pros and cons of taking a more vocational route as opposed to a more academic one
- Apprentices are primarily employees who spend some of their time studying as students (not the other way around!)
- Prospective apprentices need to be realistic about the fact that the lifestyle of the average employee may be different from the lifestyle of the average student

Financial considerations

- Apprentices don't pay tuition fees at all, however traditional degree students don't have to pay anything upfront
- Apprentices get paid a salary by the employer, typically in the region of £17k-£24k
- Students should not be making big life decisions on the basis of money alone
- Young people should not feel obliged to start contributing to the family household finances at age 18!
- It's impossible to know precisely how much a 'normal' degree will cost

Financial benefits of university study

- Recent analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies suggests that the average graduate tends to be at least £100,000 better off over the course of their lifetime compared to non-graduates (for cohorts born in the mid to late 1980s)
- However, the same analysis finds that 20% of graduates are likely to be financially worse off as a result of attending university
- A Degree Apprenticeship can reduce the 'opportunity cost' of university
- Young people who go to university seem to have lower levels of happiness and wellbeing compared to young people of the same age who do not attend university





Where and when to apply?

Where to look for Degree Apprenticeships

Finding an apprenticeship is like looking for a job! There is no single place to look.

Some possible places to look are:

- The Government's [Find an apprenticeship website](#)
- [Rate My Apprenticeship](#)
- Employers' websites
- [Prospects.ac.uk](#)
- University websites
- [UCAS](#)



How and when to apply?

- Students often apply to an employer, not the university (both may be involved in the selection process)
- Unlike with UCAS, there is no familiar cycle of set dates and deadlines
- Not all vacancies will be advertised by the autumn of Year 13, so students may have to wait into the new year
- It's a good idea to have a UCAS application to fall back on (ideally submitted before the January equal consideration deadline) – this application can always be withdrawn later if necessary





Supporting your students

How to support your students



Discuss:

- How can you support your students to apply for degree apprenticeships?
- What do you think the selection process looks like after the application? How would you support students to prepare for this?

 5 minutes



Providing support

- Prospective degree apprentices might need to be treated more like job applicants than university applicants
- They might require support even after the usual UCAS support has stopped
- Interviews with employers may be different from university interviews, there could be:
 - online tests
 - telephone interviews
 - assessment days



Top tips

Your students may need to do the following:

- Play a 'numbers game'? Or 'quality not quantity'?
- Research the organisation they are applying for and do their homework
- Write online applications and cover letters
- Undertake subsequent selection process
- Deal with repeated rejection and 'application fatigue'
- Seek feedback from unsuccessful applications
- Manage their expectations





Support with 'graduate job' type selection processes

- University careers websites
- National Careers Service
- Prospects.ac.uk
- The Student Room



Useful resources

- [Advancing Access Degree Apprenticeships blog post](#)
- [Advancing Access webinar on Degree Apprenticeships with the University of Exeter](#)
- [UCAS – Higher and degree apprenticeships guide](#)
- [UCAS – Degree apprenticeships](#)
- [Government information page](#)
- National Apprenticeship Helpdesk: 0800 015 0400 or nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- [Institute for Apprenticeships](#)
- [Office for Students Degree Apprenticeships guide](#)



Questions?

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