



DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS



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What are they?

Degree apprenticeships were introduced in September 2015 and offers students an alternative route to achieve a full bachelors or masters degree as part of their apprenticeship.

As degree apprenticeships combine work with study, apprentices will divide their time between studying at their university and employment. The time divided between both is very much dependent on the type of programme. Apprentices will complete an assessment at the end of their set programme, this test will examine both their academic learning which apprentices learnt via university study and work based competency developed via employment.

Benefits:

- Competitive and hands-on experience
- Develop skills needed for the profession while studying
- Complete the programme with a full bachelors or masters degree
- Training costs are co-funded by government and employer



The Solicitor Degree Apprenticeship

The route into becoming a Solicitor has always been perceived as being strictly academic, and not largely supported by the vocational route. The traditional route is:

- Degree
- Law School
- Law Exams
- Trainee position

However, whilst traditional subjects, such as Law are of enormous value and should be encouraged, vocational subjects, such as Applied Law (level 3), are now providing new and exciting entry routes.

And this vocational route has been further boosted by the arrival of the Solicitor Degree apprenticeship.

Degree apprenticeships combine paid employment with university level learning. Open to anyone aged 18+, apprentices will split their time between university study and the workplace, and will be employed throughout.

A degree can be gained at the end of the apprenticeship, whilst also having the benefit of being in full-time employment. Course fees will be paid by the employers.

The apprentice will achieve a law degree, qualify as a solicitor, and the course fees are paid – what is not to love about degree apprenticeships.



Apprenticeships have been around for a few years within the legal industry – namely Intermediate, Advanced and Higher Level Apprenticeships in Legal Administration and Legal Services. However, in terms of becoming a Solicitor or Lawyer, these apprenticeships lead onto a relevant Law academic degree course, from which the traditional path is then followed.

The new degree apprenticeship covers the degree part and the professional solicitor qualification, creating a much more straightforward pathway.

Currently opportunities are limited, but it is hoped that this will grow and grow, creating a viable and realistic alternative path into the top legal professions.

Degree apprenticeships open up a professional world to many people to whom previously the traditional doors of academia would have been firmly shut. This can only be great news for the legal profession as a whole, and exciting news for those whose aspirations have been enhanced.

Police Degree Apprenticeship

The College of Policing has just announced the details of a brand new pathway into becoming a qualified Police Officer – the degree apprenticeship.

From 2020 there will be three routes into the police service, opening up this rewarding career to a section of society who previously may have been prevented by issues such as university fees and time. The options will be:

- Entry for graduates, with a degree in any subject, onto a graduate programme which will be paid for by the police force
- A specific policing degree – the policing equivalent to a specialist nursing degree for instance
- A police constable degree apprenticeship paid for by the police force, enabling trainees to obtain a policing degree while they earn a salary.

The new police degree and degree apprenticeship will focus on traditional policing principles, such as crime prevention and criminology, but it will also introduce 21st century policing issues, such as cyber-crime, online safety, counter-terrorism.



The degree apprenticeship is a relatively new qualification. The beauty is that they combine paid employment with university level learning. Open to anyone aged 18+, apprentices will split their time between university study and the workplace, and will be employed throughout.

At the end of the apprenticeship they will gain a degree, whilst also having the benefit of being in full-time employment. Course fees will be paid by the employers.

Entry requirements are as yet unclear and will vary between police forces, but it is expected that entrants will be required to have achieved a level 3 qualification (equivalent to A levels), and level 2 in English and Maths (GCSE level).

New pathways into the NHS – Degree Apprenticeships and Nursing Associates

The NHS is currently experiencing nationwide staffing shortages, particularly in various key roles. In order to try and attract a wider pool of new recruits, two new exciting entry routes into NHS careers have been recently unveiled.

- The degree apprenticeship route
- The nursing associate route

From September 2017, students will be able to begin their health career by joining a degree-level nursing apprenticeship. In order to support universities in the development of these courses, the government has promised £4.5m of funding.

Degree apprenticeships provide students with a wonderful university fee free route into a degree level career. They will finish the course by gaining a relevant degree in nursing, and yet also possess a huge wealth of practical hands-on experience, and a job waiting for them. And of course, they will have been paid whilst working, and have had their university fees paid for them.

Nursing degree level apprenticeships will be offered at the following universities, from September 2017:

- Derby
- Gloucestershire
- Greenwich
- Sunderland.



The entry requirements will be the same as those for the full-time nursing degree, which is normally around 112 UCAS tariff points, and five GCSE passes at grade C/4 or above in Maths, English and Science. The degree apprenticeships will usually last four years, with time spent at both university and at a healthcare provider. Degree apprenticeships have also been announced in physiotherapy and occupational therapy – two areas where there are currently severe staff shortages.

A degree apprenticeship BSc (Hons) in Healthcare Science Practitioners including Biomedical Scientists has also been announced. Employers are being encouraged to work with their local universities to implement these degree apprenticeships in time for September 2017. These courses will take a minimum of 3 years to complete, and will provide an inclusive, viable route into degree level healthcare science roles, complementing the traditional academic route.

The following universities offer the healthcare science degree apprenticeship:

- Plymouth
- University of the West of England
- University of Cumbria

The new degree apprenticeships offer new routes into health careers, overcoming potential barriers such as cost and lack of qualifications.

Cyber Security Apprenticeship

Cyber security is very much in the news – whether it be personal information and online safety, or the very integrity of governments and democratic elections, everyone needs to be aware of the dangers facing us within the cyber realm.

Cyber security professionals exist to help us as individuals, businesses, and organisations to protect ourselves from cyber-attacks. These highly skilled professionals are playing an increasingly important role within the workplace, and this heightened presence will grow and develop over the coming years, making cyber security a great career choice for today's young people.

Currently, 58,000 experts are working in cyber security in this country – but this is not enough. Our future security needs to be planned and protected, and the government has been warned that the industry is increasingly finding it difficult to recruit people with the right skills; and this is a worry.



As a result, the government has announced that schoolchildren will be offered lessons in cyber security in schools to raise the profile of this industry and encourage them to become the security experts of the future.

However, it is important that once this awareness and enthusiasm has been created, young people then have a recognisable and understandable pathway into a relevant career – whether that be via Further or Higher Education, or the apprenticeship route (the government has announced the creation of a new Level 4 Cyber Security apprenticeship, with many leading employers on board).

This announcement by the government is potentially fantastic news for the UK cyber security industry – and for all of us who regularly shop, bank and socialise online. It is vital that these measures are supported by well-informed careers advice. Young people will need to know what careers and pathways are available to them.

Degree Apprenticeships are also available in:

- Surveying
- Nuclear Science
- Aerospace Engineering
- Digital Industries
- Financial Services.

Many more are set to be unveiled over the coming years.

