

## A Guide to Apprenticeships

### What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a real job with training which allows the Apprentice to earn while they learn, whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. Apprenticeships take between one and seven years to complete and are available in 1,500 occupations across 170 industries varying from Construction to Manufacturing through to IT and the Creative and Digital sectors.

### Apprenticeship levels

There are various levels of Apprenticeship depending on an Apprentice's current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent Educational Level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level Passes
Higher	4, 5	Foundation Degree and Above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's Degree

Please note Walsall Council definition of Advanced/Higher Apprenticeships is Level 4 and 5.

All Apprenticeships will include elements of on the job and off the job training leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Apprenticeships will require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the Apprentice's ability and competence in their job role.

### Benefits of doing an Apprenticeship

- Earning a salary;
- Training in the skills employers want;
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace;
- Increased future earning potential
  - Apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a Higher Apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime;\*
- Learning at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor;
- Continuous Professional Development;
- Paid holiday.

## Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

## Salaries

The minimum wage for Apprentices is £4.30\* per hour however Walsall Council have set the wage rate as 'age appropriate' according to the National Minimum Wage. If you are already employed by the Council and are undertaking an Apprenticeship standard as part of your Continuing Professional Development then your salary will remain the same.

## Current rates

These rates are for the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage. The rates change every April.

Year	25 years and over	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Higher Apprenticeships (Level 4 and above)
April 2021	£8.91 per hour	£8.36 per hour	£6.56 per hour	£4.62 per hour	£9.50 per hour

*\*correct as of April 2021*

Endless Possibilities - Walsall Council Apprenticeship Programme  
Contact: Learning & Development Team Tel: 01922 655678  
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