

APPRENTICESHIP



Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a work-based training programme for people who want to develop their skills and get experience. Apprentices spend most of their time in work and training on the job and a small amount of time studying. Apprenticeships often lead to a recognised qualification.

Who can do one?

Apprenticeships are for anyone above the age of 16 who isn't in full-time education. There isn't an age limit but they're normally aimed at 16-24 year olds.

Choice of apprenticeships

The different types of apprenticeships available at each level and the standards and criteria you must meet to complete the apprenticeship programme and receive your apprenticeship certificate are set out in apprenticeship frameworks for Level 2 and Level 3.

Currently there are around:

- 150 Level 2 and Level 3 apprenticeships
- 45 Higher Level Apprenticeships

to choose from, including:

- computer science
- motor vehicle
- mechanical engineering
- retail
- construction
- accountancy

For some there are minimum entry requirements, such as GCSEs. Your chosen training supplier can advise you on this.

Benefits of an Apprenticeship include:

- earning while you learn
- achieving professional-level qualifications without paying higher education tuition fees
- increased opportunities for career progression
- a clear pathway to achieving ambitions in the workplace

Higher Level Apprenticeships

If you've completed A Levels or equivalent, you may be interested in a Higher Level Apprenticeship, which offers the opportunity to gain quality training and a recognised higher qualification while in paid employment.

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) currently offer you qualifications from Level 4 to Level 7 (Master's degree). The majority are at Level 5 (Foundation degree or equivalent).

The length of a Higher Level Apprenticeship will vary depending on the programme you chose, but will be a minimum of two years.

Higher Level Apprenticeships are available through the Further Education colleges and universities in Northern Ireland, in over 20 occupational areas including:

- ICT
- Professional Services
- Engineering
- Life Sciences
- Accountancy
- Health Care

Eligibility for Higher Level Apprenticeships

Opportunities are available for you to gain qualifications from Level 4 upwards if you are a new employee or an existing employee in a new job role. Entry requirements will depend on the apprenticeship pathway. To take part in the Higher Level Apprenticeship programme you need, as a minimum, to:

- be employed or be about to take up paid employment as an apprentice, or be an existing employee moving to a new job role, with a Northern Ireland based company
- work a minimum of 21 hours per week (which includes time for 'off-the-job' training)
- have achieved all necessary entry qualifications determined by the relevant sector
- pass any entry tests specified by the relevant sector
- be the minimum school leaving age in Northern Ireland

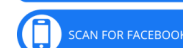


For more information on Apprenticeships, contact the SRC, Newry Tel: 0300 123 1223

Web: <https://www.src.ac.uk/courses/skills-training/apprenticeships-at-src>



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