



# Learning & Skills

“Learning for Life”

## Apprenticeship Myth Busters

### **1. Apprentices are for people who didn't do well at school**

Not at all! Whilst it's true some people perform better by 'doing'; therefore, a hands-on apprenticeship may suit them better, apprenticeships are available in a range of levels from 2 up to 7 – the equivalent of a degree.

### **2. Apprenticeships are for people who want to do more 'manual' jobs**

The apprenticeship sector has many offerings in construction, engineering and beyond but there are also apprenticeships in business admin, marketing, IT and more.

### **3. Apprenticeships are low paid.**

Some people think apprentices are poorly paid and are used as little more than cheap labour for companies wanting to cut their wage bill. But this common misconception just simply isn't true. Businesses are on the look-out for the best candidates to join them and are often willing to pay more than you might imagine.

### **4. Apprenticeships are only for school leavers (16 to 18-year olds)**

Not true, apprenticeships can be started at any age! Apprenticeships are not just for those starting out in their career, learners may be looking for a career change, trying to upskill or perhaps secure a new role after taking some time out.

### **5. Apprenticeships don't lead to a full-time job**

Whilst there is no guarantee of a permanent position once an apprenticeship is completed, a lot of companies will employ apprentices once their learning period is over. In fact, over 90% of apprentices remain in employment or go on to further learning.

### **6. An apprenticeship is not a 'proper' job**

Some believe that you aren't always viewed the same as your colleagues and have to perform the mundane tasks. In actual fact, apprentices are treated just like any other employee with tasks, projects, and responsibilities.

### **7. University graduates earn more than apprentices**

There is a common belief among students (and their parents) that a university education will set you up to earn more money than an apprenticeship. Although apprentices start at lower wage, by the time they reach graduation they are just as qualified as a graduate, but with on the job experience to boot! Sure, some graduates go on to earn a good salary, but so do many apprentices. But remember, you'll be without the burden of student debt.



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## **8. Apprentices are stuck in the same profession for life**

Many professionals will change their career over the course of their working lives. These days a job isn't necessarily for life. What's more, it doesn't mean you'll be stuck in a career forever. Unless, of course, the job is a perfect fit for you. You'll pick up transferrable skills which could be used in a different role or company.

## **9. Businesses aren't taking apprentices on**

Like any other job, an apprenticeship may depend on factors that are out of your control. Factors such as location (where you live), transport links (commuting), job responsibilities (environment) and many more. However, with the government pledging to create more schemes, it's clear that the number of opportunities is set to rise

## **10. Due to Covid 19, I can't attend an Apprenticeship**

Companies have COVID arrangements in place such as social distancing, the wearing of face masks etc. Training providers and employers are either delivering virtually or if face to face training is required, COVID arrangements will be in place for a safe learning environment, interviews may be held digitally etc.