

Parents Guide Apprenticeships Course Information



If your son or daughter would prefer to earn while they learn the skills necessary for their chosen career, and gain real hands-on experience to develop their skills, then an apprenticeship might be for them.

Apprenticeships are recognised by employers all over the country. And, as apprenticeships are designed by employers for employers, they are tailored to meet the needs of each sector, ensuring that your son or daughter will gain the skills they need to progress their career from trainee to a skilled professional.

As well as learning industry specific skills, apprentices gain key transferable skills such as team working, problem-solving, communication and using new technology.

We offer apprenticeships in the following careers:

Business Administration, Catering, Child Care, Construction, Customer Service, Electrotechnical, Engineering, Hairdressing, IT Systems Support, IT Users, Plumbing and Motor Vehicle.

See over for more information.



What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are high quality work-based training programmes for people who want to earn while they learn and gain practical and transferable skills that today's employers are looking for.

Who are they for?

Apprenticeships are open to anyone living in England and not taking part in full-time education.

What do they need to start?

1. Previous training

The entry requirements to start the programme are different depending on what programme your son or daughter is looking at. Please contact the apprenticeship team on 01234 291000 to find out more.

2. A job

Your son or daughter will need to work in a job role related to the apprenticeship programme they are interested in. They can either find an employer themselves or we can assist them with their job search.

3. Commitment

Competition for places with employers can be fierce, so apprentices will need to show that they are committed and aware of the responsibilities to both themselves and the company who would employ them.

How long will my apprenticeship take?

Apprenticeships typically take between one and four years to complete depending on the type of framework.

What will they get out of it?

Earnings

Recent research found that apprentices earn an average of £170 net pay per week. Research also shows that apprentices earn, on average, over £100,000 more throughout their lifetime than other employees. As of August 2009 the minimum wage for an apprentice aged 16 years is £95 per week.

Qualifications

An apprenticeship is not a qualification in itself, but a framework that includes the following elements:

- An appropriate work-based qualification such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) at either Level 2 or Level 3.
- Key Skills qualifications including working with teams, problem solving, communication and new technology.
- Other qualification as specified by the particular occupation.

An apprenticeship (Level 2) is equivalent to five good GCSE passes and will enable entry on to an advanced apprenticeship programme. An advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) is equivalent to two A Level passes.

Prospects

Apprenticeships will train your son or daughter in the skills employers want, so when they've finished they can carry on working, maybe get promoted or go on to higher education in a college or university.

How much does an apprenticeship cost?

The government cover the full cost of training for 16–18 year olds and contribute towards costs for those aged 19 or above.

How do I apply?

To apply for an apprenticeship your son or daughter will need to fill out and return an application form.

To request an application form:

Tel: 01234 291000

Email: apprenticeships@bedford.ac.uk

Once complete, please send the application form to:

Apprenticeships
Bedford College
FREEPOST BF356
Bedford
MK42 9BR

Once we have reviewed the application form we may invite your son or daughter for an interview and assessment.

To find out more about a Bedford College Apprenticeship

call **01234 291000**

or visit **www.bedford.ac.uk**

