



# Notre Dame

CATHOLIC SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

## Virtual Higher Education Day: Apprenticeships

We recognise that not all of you will be planning on applying to university next year, and that many of you will be interested in pursuing an apprenticeship instead. Please find below a brief overview of what apprenticeships involve and where to find vacancies for summer 2021.

### **What do apprenticeships involve?**

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. An apprentice will: work alongside experienced staff, gain job-specific skills, earn a wage and get holiday pay, and be given time for study related to their role (the equivalent of one day a week).

### **Why apply?**

- Earn a real wage.
- Be trained in the skills employers want.
- Set yourself up for the future – 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.

### **Apprenticeships aren't the 'easy option'**

Holding down a full-time job and studying takes commitment and hard work, and it won't be right for everyone. No matter what kind of career you want to follow, you need to do your research and find out if you can reach your career goals through an apprenticeship, or if you need / would prefer to study full-time at university or college.

### **An apprenticeship could be perfect for you if:**

- You have a clear idea of the career you want to pursue and are willing to commit to work and study
- You are ready to start work (an apprenticeship is primarily a job)
- You wish to continue studying at a higher or degree level, and you prefer a more practical and work-related approach to studying
- You are well organised and will be able to cope with the competing demands of work and study at the same time
- You are prepared to be assessed through a mixture of assignments and written work/essays, reports, practical exercises, end tests, and exams.

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

### **What levels are there?**



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Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grade A* – C or 9 – 4
Advanced	3	2 A level passes/Level 3 Diploma/ International Baccalaureate
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

The level of apprenticeship you start at will depend on the kind of job you are applying for. You can start an apprenticeship at the level appropriate to the job, and work all the way up to achieving a master's degree for some job roles.

Each apprenticeship vacancy listing will specify the entry requirements and qualities the employer is looking for.

For higher and degree apprenticeships, employers are generally asking for A levels and other Level 3 qualifications.

## Degree and Higher Apprenticeships

- Degree apprenticeships offer the benefits of higher education with none of the cost.
- Tuition fees are paid for by the employer and the government, so apprentices will graduate debt-free.
- Apprentices will also earn a salary from day one, so they are actually getting paid to study.

Degree apprenticeships are still quite new, so there is only a limited number of vacancies available in some sectors at the moment. The number of vacancies is anticipated to grow over the next few years

You can apply for degree and higher apprenticeships at the same time as applying to university. Applications for apprenticeships are made directly to the employer, usually through their own online application. Details of how to apply will be given on each apprenticeship vacancy.

## What can you earn?

The national minimum wage (NMW) for apprentices is £3.90 per hour from April 2019. This is the legal minimum pay per hour, many of the higher and degree apprenticeships receive a competitive salary.

## Entry requirements

- Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England and have no upper age limit.
- Each apprenticeship vacancy listing will specify the entry requirements and qualities the employer is looking for.



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- For higher and degree apprenticeships, employers are generally asking for A levels and other level 3 qualifications.

## What apprenticeships are available?

There are a wide range of apprenticeships for over 1,500 jobs, offering you the opportunity to enter careers in anything from business, legal, engineering, construction, IT, and sales & marketing but this will be dependent on the local job market and the current economy. To check out the current employment sectors in Leeds click [here](#).

To get a feel for the current job market in Leeds check out some of the resources below on Moodle Careers Topic 11.

## Where to look for an apprenticeship

With so many opportunities on offer, there are several ways you can find an apprenticeship.

- College leaver apprenticeship websites include; [National Apprenticeship Service](#); [UCAS Vacancy Search](#); [Notgoingtouni](#); [Get My First job](#); (many more can be found on Moodle Careers - Topic 11 - General resources and websites).
- Individual company websites; many employers advertise vacancies on their own website e.g. SKY, BT, PwC, NHS.
- Training providers; They have a key role to play in providing off-the-job training and supporting you generally during the apprenticeship. They often recruit on behalf of the employer e.g. Appris (engineering), Estio/QA (IT), CITB (construction).
- Moodle Careers - Topic 11 - General resources and websites / Current summer vacancies 2020.

## What you can do now:

- Start planning early and try to get some (virtual) work experience in the sector you're interested in (See Moodle Careers - Topic 3).
- Check on local university websites to see what degree/higher apprenticeships they have on offer.
- Unsure of job ideas? Try identifying your skills and interests by completing some of the career surveys on Moodle Careers - Topic 2.
- Explore the Leeds Employment sector [here](#).
- Find out more about what apprenticeships involve at <https://www.ucas.com/alternatives/apprenticeships/apprenticeships-england/whats-involved-apprenticeship-england>
- Start putting together a quality CV.
- Register on some of the main apprenticeship vacancy websites listed on Moodle Careers - Topic 11.

If you have any further questions, or would like support from the careers team, please email us using [careers@notredamecoll.ac.uk](mailto:careers@notredamecoll.ac.uk)