

This week the Careers Advice Zone is focusing on **apprenticeships**. Is this something you have considered? **Do you actually know what an apprenticeship is?**

There are a lot of urban myths out there about apprenticeships. For example, people think they are only for people who want to go into the construction industry, where actually there are over 200 different types of apprenticeships. Others think they are for people who are 16 to 18. In fact, anyone of any age can do an apprenticeship as long as they have completed year 11 and are eligible to work in the UK. "You only make the tea" is another statement you hear a lot; this is not true. When an employer wants to recruit an apprentice, they are vetted to make sure there is an actual job and the job has a full job description which matches the apprenticeship framework/standard.

Want to know more?

An apprenticeship is where you are employed in a real job, learning from experienced, qualified staff whilst gaining a qualification and earning a wage at the same time. Have a read of this document to see detailed information.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/787717/Guide-to-Apprenticeships-260219-LR.pdf

How do you find an apprenticeship?

There are lots of ways to find an apprenticeship. Most people will use:

<https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships> This has all levels of apprenticeships from level 2 to degree level up and down the country.

You can also look on Chelmsford College website

<https://www.chelmsford.ac.uk/courses/apprenticeships-vacancies.asp>

This has local level 2 and 3 apprenticeships.

Other useful websites:

These sites feature national and, in some cases, local apprenticeships up to degree level.

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/>

<https://www.milkround.com/jobs/school-or-college-leaver-schemes/apprenticeships>

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/>

Take the direct approach. Contact companies directly. Also, if you are hoping to work for a large organisation such as Fords then you would need to look on their own websites.

Obviously, companies are facing difficult times and you might not see as many vacancies as you would do normally but there are still apprenticeship vacancies out there so do not give up!

What do you need to be an apprentice?

For most level 2 apprenticeships you will need maths and English at GCSE 3 or Functional Skills level 1. Level 3 apprenticeships require you to have maths and English at 4 and above or level 2 Functional skills. Degree apprenticeships will require you to have level 3 or A level qualifications.

It is not just qualifications; you are going to need a good CV and a “can do” attitude. You will need to prove you are mature enough to go into the workplace and be able to manage working and learning at the same time. In many cases for degree apprenticeships or apprenticeships with large organisations you will possibly have to go through a long process of telephone interviews, video interviews and assessment centres.

This website can help with giving you an insight to what these processes might be.

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/vacancies/>

Why do people choose to do an apprenticeship?

Here are some quotes from actual apprentices.

“It gives you the opportunity to properly learn the key person roles and put everything you learn from workshops into practice. “

“Benefit of doing an apprenticeship is getting a wage alongside working and learning.”

“I chose to do this apprenticeship course because it was a great way to gain experience in a career which I have always wanted to pursue.”

“I wanted to do an apprenticeship to gain experience and learn more at the same time as most Jobs want you to be experienced but I also wanted to learn more and gain better qualifications. “

“I chose to do an apprenticeship because after going to university for a term I realised it was not what I wanted to do anymore. I knew that I still wanted to further my education whilst working so an apprenticeship was the best way to do that.”

We could write pages and pages on apprenticeships so this really is a snapshot so If you would like to know more please contact the Careers Advice Zone careersadvicezone@chelmsford.ac.uk