

# Apprenticeship Levels Explained

There are four different levels of apprenticeship:

- **Intermediate** - equivalent to five good GCSE passes.
- **Advanced** - equivalent to two A-level passes.
- **Higher** - equivalent to the first stages of higher education, such as a foundation degree.
- **Degree** - comparable to a Bachelor or Master's degree. Find out more at [degree apprenticeships](#).

## Entry requirements

As each type of apprenticeship offers a different-levelled qualification on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), their entry requirements will vary. Generally speaking, they are as follows:

- To apply for an **intermediate apprenticeship**, you will just need to be over 16 years old and no longer in full-time education.
- For an **advanced apprenticeship**, you will likely be asked for prior work experience and at least three 9-4 grade GCSEs or equivalent - such as an intermediate apprenticeship qualification.
- As **higher apprenticeships** are the equivalent of a foundation degree, HNC or first year of a Bachelors, you will usually need at least five 9-4 grade GCSEs, as well as some Level 3 qualifications in relevant subjects, to apply. Your Level 3 qualifications could be A level, a BTEC National, Cambridge Technical or a Level 3 NVQ.
- **Degree apprenticeships** will have the tightest entry requirements. These may include three A-levels, a BTEC National or Cambridge Technical in a specified grade range or a higher apprenticeship qualification, on top of at least five 9-4 GCSE grades. It is also likely you will be required to have prior work experience.

You can apply for apprenticeships at any time of year - whether you are successful depends on if an employer has a vacancy. You will be able to check the specific entry requirements of your chosen apprenticeship once the position opens.

## Types of apprenticeships

Most job sectors offer apprenticeship opportunities in the UK, with a wide range of specific roles on offer within each. Here are just a few:

- [Accounting apprenticeships](#) in areas such as bills and expenses, payroll and taxes, plus [banking apprenticeships](#).

- [Business apprenticeships](#) in business administration, business development, consultancy and leadership.
- [Construction apprenticeships](#) in building, plumbing and quantity surveying.
- [Engineering apprenticeships](#) in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.
- Healthcare apprenticeships, in areas such as dentistry and [nursing](#).
- [Human resources \(HR\) apprenticeships](#) for those looking to progress in support, consultancy and management roles.
- [IT apprenticeships](#) in information security and software development.
- [Law apprenticeships](#) offered at paralegal, legal executive and solicitor level.
- [Marketing apprenticeships](#) in digital marketing, social media and public relations (PR).
- [Media apprenticeships](#) in the television, radio and film industries.
- [Retail apprenticeships](#) for those in buying, merchandising and management roles. There are also [sales apprenticeships](#).
- [Transport apprenticeships](#) in a range of logistics, road, railway, automotive and airline industry roles.

You will be able to enter your chosen sector at an apprenticeship level that reflects your previous qualifications and the demands of the job.