

What if I'm not ready for an apprenticeship?

If you don't feel ready to undertake an apprenticeship, there are options that could help prepare you.

Combine work and study - T Levels

Designed in partnership with employers, T Levels are a combination of classroom and on-the-job training. They are broadly equivalent in size to three A levels and can help you get into skilled employment, university, or a higher apprenticeship. Each T Level includes an in-depth industry placement that lasts at least 45 days, which means that you get valuable experience in the workplace.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/t-levels>



Study - Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Designed in line with the knowledge and skills that employers say they need. The first teaching of approved HTQs began in September 2022 in digital subjects. Qualifications in construction and health and science are coming in 2023, and a full roll-out will take place over a four-year period. HTQs can lead to high skilled, highly paid jobs in a wide range of sectors, giving you a step up in your chosen career or further study.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/higher-technical>



Work - Supported Internships

A Supported Internship is an unpaid work-based study programme for young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) that usually lasts for one year. It includes an extended work placement that lasts for at least 6 months. You'll take the first step from education into the workplace while gaining the skills you need to get a paid job.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supported-internships-for-young-people-with-learning-difficulties/supported-internships>



What if I'm not ready for an apprenticeship?

Combine a course and work experience - Traineeships

A skills-based development programme that includes a work placement, lasting from 6 weeks up to 1 year for those aged 16-24, or 25 with an EHCP. Traineeships help you get ready for an apprenticeship or job if you don't have the appropriate skills or experience. Until 31 July 2023 you can apply for a traineeship on [Find a Traineeship](#). After this date, they will be available directly from colleges and other training providers.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/traineeship-information-for-trainees>



Work - part-time or full-time

Working in an industry you are interested in is a great way to gain experience and find out if it is right for you.

However, if you're under 18, you need to stay in education or training at least part-time.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-your-education-and-training-choices/get-a-job>



Work experience

Paid or unpaid work experience can be a great way to find out more about different job roles and industries.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/types-of-work-experience>



Work - other options

There could be other local employability initiatives available through local authorities, training providers or employers.

Speak to your school or college careers adviser to find out what the options are in your area.

Volunteering

Volunteering is an excellent way to gain experience and insight into an industry. It is also brilliant to have on your CV.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice/advice-on-volunteering>

