

## Researching apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are primarily jobs, so it's important to research this option fully. They offer the opportunity to:

- start work, earn a wage, and continue studying at a higher level
- gain knowledge, skills, and experience for specific careers

The first thing to do, if you haven't already, is make sure you sign up to the [UCAS Hub](#)

Your [UCAS Hub](#) will give you all the tools and information you need – in one place. We can then guide you to the information you need. You can easily explore, filter, and favourite the things which matter to you most. The best bit is that you'll have your own dashboard, which you can customise and tailor to suit you, and you can organise the tools that help you most, remove the ones you don't need, make notes, and tick off things on your to-do list.

### How do I sign up?

The UCAS Hub is free and easy to use. All you need to do is follow these three simple steps to sign up:

#### Step 1 – Register

To get started, visit [ucas.com/hub](https://ucas.com/hub).

#### Step 2 – Verify your account

Once you've registered, you'll be asked to verify your account. An email will be sent to the email address you registered with and all you need to do is hit '**Activate account**'.

#### Step 3 – Sign in

Now you're ready to sign in and start exploring! The first time you do, we'll ask you some extra questions so we can help you find the right info.

At any time to pick up where you left off, visit [ucas.com/hub](https://ucas.com/hub) or click '**Sign in**' on the top right-hand side of any page on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com) and select '**Students**'.

## Activity 1: I think I want to do an apprenticeship?

Here are some of the key things you need to know:

- Apprenticeships involve training for a specific job, so it's important you're confident about starting work.
- You should find out as much as you can about the job role, and the career and progression routes the apprenticeship could lead to.
- Competition for apprenticeships can be tough, as there's often a limited number of vacancies available, particularly on the new degree-level apprenticeships.

But this isn't enough to help you decide if this is the right path for you, and according to research, nearly two-thirds of the 16-24 year feel they don't know enough about apprenticeships. Use the links find out more about apprenticeships.

[What is an apprenticeship](#)

[Discover how apprenticeships work](#)

[The WHICH Complete Guide to higher and degree apprenticeships](#)

[Things you didn't know about higher and degree apprenticeships](#)

[University vs apprenticeships – you decide](#)

[Which industries are offering apprenticeships?](#)

[Everything you need to know about UK apprenticeships](#)

You can understand more about apprenticeships on the UCAS website or your national apprenticeship website, including real stories from current apprentices.

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

<p>What are the expected apprenticeship hours?</p>	
<p>How will the employer split your working week between study and work?</p>	
<p>What are the four levels of apprenticeships available?</p>	
<p>What apprenticeship level could be right for you?</p>	
<p>Can you apply for apprenticeship and university at the same time?</p>	
<p>How do you apply for an apprenticeship?</p>	
<p>What time of year do apprenticeships start?</p>	
<p>Who pays for apprenticeship training?</p>	
<p>What is the minimum wage for an apprentice of your age?</p>	
<p>Can you list five professions/industries you didn't know offered apprenticeships?</p>	
<p>Can you name three business/employers offering apprenticeships that surprised you?</p>	
<p>What are the three pros and cons of apprenticeships for you?</p>	

**Activity 2: Explore the jobs available**

The [UCAS Hub](#) can help you start your research about apprenticeships, use the subject guides to **explore** more about areas you’re interested in. They contain quick links to apprenticeships (at different levels), you can then look at the apprenticeship standards for each one. These are important as they explain the skills, knowledge, and behaviours required to demonstrate that an apprentice is fully competent in the job role, and so will help you learn more about what you will have to do.

- A) Using the subject guides on your UCAS Hub and the links below, draw up a list of the three apprenticeships you want to explore further.
- B) For each one, investigate the apprenticeship standards further, to really understand more about what would be required of you and if you might be a good fit – see if you can complete the table.

[Sectors and industries offering apprenticeships](#)

[Which industries are offering apprenticeships?](#)

[Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Information](#)



As you are exploring on [ucas.com](#) remember to favourite anything you’re interested in by clicking on the heart, this will pin any page from our website to your UCAS Hub dashboard so you can come back to it easily at any time.

Apprenticeship (sector/industry)	Apprenticeship Level	Apprenticeship standards <b>Skills I want to build</b>	Apprenticeship standards <b>Knowledge I want to learn</b>	Apprenticeship standards <b>Behaviours I want to develop</b>
1.				
2.				
3.				

**Activity 3:**

Find live apprenticeship vacancies on [ucas.com](#) – or through the country-specific sites.

- [England](#)
- [Wales](#)
- [Scotland](#)
- [Northern Ireland](#)

Here are some of the things you need to think about. You can check out the employer's website for further details and information. If you're considering an apprenticeship, also contact the employer, university, college, or training provider, to ask any questions you have.

What you need to find out	Opportunity 1	Opportunity 2	Opportunity 3	Opportunity 4	Opportunity 5
Job role description – does it fit what I'm looking for? What work is involved in the apprenticeship? Does it offer opportunities for career progression?					
Who is the employer? Is this the type of company I want to work for? Can I travel there each day?					
Does the job require you to work in different locations across the country, or would you need to move away from home?					
What is the pay or salary, and do they offer other benefits or facilities you can use?					
Who is the training provider? What is the college or university like where I'd be studying? Can I travel there?					

<p>Entry requirements – what qualifications, subjects, and grades are they looking for?</p>					
<p>What essential and desirable skills are they looking for? Do you have the experience and qualities they are looking for in applicants? Have you looked at the apprenticeship standards?</p>					
<p>What are the three pros and cons of this apprenticeship/job role?</p>					

Don't forget, once you're ready to apply, check out ['How to apply for an apprenticeship'](#) and ['How to prepare for an interview'](#) on [ucas.com](https://ucas.com).