

Parent's guide to Apprenticeships

SCG understands as a parent, you want your child to get the best possible start in their career. There are many options available to young people after they leave school, and in this guide, we outline information and benefits about apprenticeships as a key route into a successful career.

What's an apprenticeship? It is a genuine job, with training, meaning you can earn while you learn, gaining a nationally recognised qualification.

How long does it take to achieve an Apprenticeship?

Anything from 12 months to 4 years. Each Apprenticeship has an agreed length of study and completion. This will depend on the level as well as previous experience and qualifications.

What will it cost?

Training is free for an apprentice, however, travel costs are paid independently for attending both College and work.

Is there College attendance required?

It depends on the Apprenticeship – typically our apprenticeships are one day a week day release in College but some Apprenticeships differ with their delivery model. There will be short blocks of attendance for English and Maths for those without grade 4 at GCSE. Please be aware an apprentice is also paid for their College day release.

Of the many Apprenticeships available, Shrewsbury Colleges Group offers the following:

- Accounting
- Brickwork
- Business & IT
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Catering
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Fabrication & Welding
- Hairdressing
- Motor Vehicle / Land Engineering
- Painting & Decorating
- Property Maintenance
- Plumbing & Gas
- Supporting Teaching & Learning (*Teaching Assistants*)
- Site Supervisor

How is an Apprenticeship achieved?

An apprentice is assigned a named Assessor who will set targets for achieving the Apprenticeship, and schedule reviews to check on progress. This will include:

- a variety of practical assessments and observations in the workplace
- discussions that confirm skills, knowledge and behaviours have been gained
- completion of assignments
- in some subjects there are exams throughout the Apprenticeship programme
- for all Apprenticeships there will be an End Point Assessment demonstrating everything learnt

What happens if they haven't got an employer?

The applicant should still complete the online application form but for a full-time course in their chosen subject area. Many employers prefer to work with students recommended by the College and it's easy to transfer from a course to an Apprenticeship once an employer has been found. This can be done at any point in the year.

Do all Apprenticeships start in September at Shrewsbury College?

No. Employers are looking for apprentices all year round although summer is a busy time for recruitment.

What happens at the end of the Apprenticeship?

In some areas there are opportunities to progress to the next level with the same or different employer or get a permanent contract as most of our apprentices do.



Salaries

The minimum wage for apprentices is £7.55 per hour from April 2025, but many employers pay more than this. This is dependent on the sector, region and apprenticeship level E.g. some higher apprenticeships pay up to £500 per week.

More details on salaries and entry criteria in specific apprenticeship occupations can be accessed by looking at the vacancies on 'Find an apprenticeship'.

Entry requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16, living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

Recent legislation has come into effect which changes the minimum English and maths requirements needed to complete an apprenticeship for people with a learning difficulty or disability. The changes will lower the English and maths requirements for these apprentices to an Entry Level 3 qualification.

A Disability Confident Employer will generally offer an interview to any applicant that declares they have a disability and meets the minimum criteria as defined by the employer. For more details, search Disability Confident on GOV.UK

How to apply at Shrewsbury Colleges Group

Looking for your own employer! As scary as this sounds, it can invite you with a company that is perfect for you. Employers appreciate candidates showing initiative, so put yourself out there! Keep your eye firmly on **Find an Apprenticeship - GOV.UK** website every week.

Contact 01743 653444 if you would like more information or email apprenticeships@shrewsbury.ac.uk

What are the benefits?

Apprenticeships are now available up to degree level and beyond. Over 70 national universities are currently offering a range of degree apprenticeships with more to be confirmed throughout the year.

- Earning a salary and paid holiday
- Excellent progression opportunities, whether looking to study further or climb the ranks within the workplace
- Increased future earning potential – apprentices enjoy marked salary increases on finishing their training and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime.

What levels are there?

There are various levels of apprenticeship to apply for, depending on current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeships have equivalent educational levels:

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

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



I studied Product Design at A Level and really enjoyed it – taking on an Engineering Apprenticeship seemed the natural progression from that and I've appreciated every minute of it. It is great working for Ricoh and being able to study at SCG, as I get so many opportunities such as taking parting in World Skills.

Chloe Millington
Engineering Apprentice at Ricoh

