

APPRENTICESHIP

INFORMATION

GUIDE



RICHARD GRAHAM MP

A FREE information
booklet from your local
Member of Parliament



Going to University or straight into work isn't right for every school leaver. That's why I've put together this guide on apprenticeships.

Since 2010, 14,000 apprentices who have started or completed—most have completed—an apprenticeship in Gloucester. These are spread across different sectors and all across our City (and County).

Whether masonry at our Cathedral, *Punchline* magazine, the Robinswood golf club, Hazelwood accountants, GCHQ, our NHS or the many others who have apprentices, there's plenty on offer.

Apprenticeships and the benefits are well known to me and my office. It was on this issue that I first spoke in Parliament and I hired my first apprentice not long after, and I've done so every year since.

So I am hugely encouraging of apprenticeships and encourage anyone not sure about what to do after leaving school to consider this as your next step.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Graham'.

RICHARD GRAHAM CMG
MP FOR GLOUCESTER



WHAT IS AN APPRENTICE?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. As an apprentice, you'll be earning a wage, working alongside and learning from experienced staff, gaining job-specific skills, and getting time to train and study in relation to your role.

As an apprentice, 20% of your time is set aside for learning, usually at a college, university or training provider. To apply for one, you need to be over 16, and should not be in full-time education when the apprenticeship commences.

There are different levels of apprenticeship. Your school or college can advise you on which kind of apprenticeship is right for you.

	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A Level
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelor's or master's degree

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MY APPRENTICE'S VIEW

“ Apprenticeships are a great way to get on the job experience and also first hand training from people in the profession.

As an apprentice you are able to work and earn some money while gaining a qualification which is good for personal development.

I'd really recommend that if you're unsure about what you want to do after school you consider whether an apprenticeship might be right for you.

I've also met other apprentices through the South West Apprentice Ambassador Network, which I'd encourage other apprentices to join.”

Mia Cookes

Apprentice to Richard Graham since 2021

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APPRENTICESHIP MYTHS

BUSTED

1

Apprenticeships are for people who want to do 'manual' jobs

Yes, the apprenticeship sector offers manual opportunities like construction and engineering, but almost every sector now offers apprenticeships, including marketing and IT.

2

Apprenticeships are low paid

Apprenticeships receive a minimum of £4.30 per hour, but companies can choose to pay more. You also receive a qualification at the end, and most apprentices move on to full time roles afterwards.

3

Apprenticeships are only for school leavers

No, apprenticeships can be started at any age. You might be looking for a career change, trying to upskill or even be looking to secure a new role after taking some time out.

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4 Apprenticeships don't lead to a full-time job

Whilst it's not guaranteed, many companies will employ apprentices once their learning period is over. In fact, over 90% of apprentices remain in employment or go on to further learning.

5 20% of the job training means a day per week at college

Not necessarily. Other forms of learning count too, like shadowing colleagues and attending online training.

6 Apprentices don't add value to a business

Apprentices add lots of value, from sharing the workload to boosting productivity. Often, being an apprentice will fill a skills gap that the business needs.

"I've employed apprentices in my office since 2011, doing Level 3 Business Admin – and they've made a huge difference to my constituents!"

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FIND OUT MORE

If you're interested in finding out more, somebody in your school should be able to help you.

Otherwise, these websites can offer some advice:

You can find local advice and opportunities at www.gloscol.ac.uk/apprenticeships

You can also find and apply for apprenticeships at gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

For general careers advice visit gov.uk/careers-helpline-for-teenagers

NOT QUITE READY FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

If you feel that you're not ready for an apprenticeship, a traineeship is a course designed to prepare you for one. Find out more at gov.uk/find-traineeship

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I hope that you found this guide useful, but if you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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