

Appreniceships FAQ's

Q: How much will I get paid?

A: All apprentices in their first year get paid a minimum of £4.15 an hour (This rate will rise to £4.30 as of the 1st April 2021), although some employers pay more. After one year, any apprentices who are 19 or over move onto the national minimum wage for their age. Apprentices that are 18 or under stay on the £4.15 rate, however employers can choose to pay more than this rate. Apprentices also must be paid for any time spent in college.

Q: Do I need to find an employer before I apply?

A: Yes. You do need to find an employer or apply for a suitable job via the Apprenticeship Recruit an Apprentice Service. Jobs are also advertised on the college website – www.yeovil.ac.uk.

Q: What level can I start my apprenticeship at?

A: This depends on the type of apprenticeship as they are all allocated different levels as a starting point. It also depends on your existing qualifications.

Q: Is there an age limit on starting an apprenticeship?

A: You must be 16 or over to start an apprenticeship.

Q: How often will I be at college?

A: This varies depending on the programme. Some apprentices attend 1 day a week, some attend in block weeks, some attend specific sessions like master classes, and some don't have to attend at all.

Q: Does an apprenticeship allow me to progress in my career?

A: Yes, it gives you a valuable qualification which shows you have reached the level of competence required for that particular job role. You may then choose to progress to higher level qualifications or apprenticeships. A lot of companies use apprenticeships to develop the skills of their existing employees.

Q: How long does an apprenticeship take?

A: Anything from 12 months to around 4 years, depending on the apprenticeship.

Q: Do apprenticeships involve exams?

A: All apprenticeships are now called Apprenticeship Standards and you will need to complete an End Point Assessment (EPA) which is assessed by an independent organisation. Some standards also include qualifications, and these must be completed and achieved before the End Point Assessment can be taken. If you don't have the relevant level of Maths and English you will also need to sit these exams.

Q: How many hours will I have to work?

A: Apprentices normally have to work 30 hours minimum a week. They can work less but the length of the apprenticeship would normally increase as a result. Most apprentices do work more hours than this. The maximum hours you can work is dependent on your age.