Degree Apprenticeships are programmes designed by employers, in partnership with universities. Companies can recruit new or sponsor existing employees onto a Degree Apprenticeship. They offer an exciting opportunity to undertake university study, whilst working full-time, gaining valuable hands-on experience.

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

Apprenticeships have undergone considerable reform over the last few years to make the Degree Apprenticeship a viable alternative to a traditional degree. The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education is an independent public body that works to ensure apprenticeships are of the highest quality. They have developed ‘Apprenticeship Standards’ that outline the knowledge, skills and behaviours required to carry out each specific job role.

The range of sectors apprenticeships cover has also expanded and now include digital, finance, law and engineering to name a few.

HOW DO APPRENTICES LEARN?

Throughout their Degree Apprenticeship, apprentices will spend 80% of their time learning on-the-job and a minimum of 20% of their time training off-the-job, which is the study element. At Warwick, our programmes are typically delivered either in one-week blocks spaced throughout the year, or on day release (one day per week) as chosen by the employer.

Apprentices are taught through a mix of face-to-face teaching and online learning, work-based projects, and independent study.

The academic elements of the programme can be assessed through assignments, project work and exams. Work-based elements are regularly reviewed through a learning journal, portfolio of evidence and Tripartite Reviews Meetings – three-way discussions between the apprentice, their University Apprenticeship Tutor and the apprentice’s Line Manager - to monitor their progress.

Apprentices will have a different experience to that of a traditional student, as they are first and foremost full-time employees of their chosen company.

BENEFITS

- Earn a salary whilst learning
- Study for a full undergraduate degree
- No tuition fees
- Gain valuable work experience
- Develop skills and knowledge
- Build a professional network

THE JOB

Apprentices are employed full-time for a minimum of 30 hours a week. They will be given time out of this to work towards their degree, although some independent study will be required.

They sign a contract of employment and will have to adhere to the company’s terms and conditions just as any other employee would. Apprentices have real responsibilities in the workplace and will be working on projects that have a genuine impact on the company.

Degree Apprenticeship tuition fees are paid for by the government and the employer. This means that the apprentice graduates with no tuition fee debt.

As full-time employees, apprentices will earn a salary whilst they learn. They will be eligible for all of the benefits associated with full-time work, including pension, annual leave, sick pay and company cars, where applicable (specific benefits are dependent upon individual company policies).

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APPRENTICE SUPPORT

Support available for apprentices will differ at each university. At Warwick, apprentices will be assigned a University Apprenticeship Tutor to provide them with both academic and pastoral support, and to discuss progress and any concerns they may have throughout the programme.

Although apprentices will not spend significant periods of time on campus, they are entitled to the same support and wellbeing services as our traditional students. The services on offer are diverse and include mental health and wellbeing, study skills support, clubs, societies, and counselling services for example.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Apprentice living arrangements will vary depending upon the individual’s circumstances. If the employer is local, they may continue to live at home; if they take up a position with an employer in a different area, they may choose to rent accommodation closer to their new place of work. In some cases, employers may have several apprentices living away from home for the first time and there may be the option to rent accommodation with other apprentices.

As part of a Degree Apprenticeship at Warwick, apprentices are entitled to support from the Warwick Student Union Advice Centre, which can include checking tenancy agreements and recovering deposits. During their off-the-job training at the University, apprentices stay in halls of residence owned and run by the University of Warwick, the cost of which is covered by the employer.
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Apprenticeship Standard outlines the minimum entry requirements for the Degree Apprenticeship.

To study on a Warwick Degree Apprenticeship programme, apprentices will also need to demonstrate that they can meet our academic entry criteria. We have a range of entry requirements and accepted qualifications to support access for more people than ever before.

You can find the entry requirements for each programme at warwick.ac.uk/study/degreeapprenticeships/courses or by contacting our Apprenticeships Team at apprenticeships@warwick.ac.uk.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For more information:
The University of Warwick
Coventry
CV4 8UW

For more information:
  apprenticeships@warwick.ac.uk
  02476 150 633
  02476 150 621
  02476 150 175
  warwick.ac.uk/degreeapprenticeships

CONSIDERATIONS

Whilst there are many benefits to doing a Degree Apprenticeship, they are not the right choice for everybody.

Although apprentices will be given at least 20% of their working time for off-the-job learning, it is vital that they have good time management skills to balance their work and study. They also need to have a clear idea of the career they want to pursue, as an apprenticeship will equip them with the knowledge, skills and behaviours for a specific profession. A Degree Apprenticeship could take up to five years to complete so it is a long-term commitment.

For those who do have a specific career in mind, Degree Apprenticeships are a fantastic opportunity to achieve an undergraduate degree without tuition fees, gain crucial work experience, and earn a wage all at the same time.