

Higher Level Apprenticeships



What is a Higher Apprenticeship?

A higher apprenticeship is a job incorporating a programme of work-based and off-the-job learning. There are now over 80 higher apprenticeships. For new standard based apprenticeships, you will undertake an end point assessment to confirm you are fully occupationally competent in your chosen career.

Higher apprenticeships have been developed at level 4, level 5, level 6 and level 7. These level apprenticeships can include achievement of a vocational qualification, vendor qualification, an academic qualification or integration of professional body requirements (or a combination of these). Indeed, your higher apprenticeship may not require achievement of a qualification at all. Higher apprenticeships at level 6 (graduate level) and level 7 (post-graduate level) do not include a mandatory bachelor's or master's degree. However, you will, in every case on successful completion of the end point assessment, be entitled to an apprenticeship certificate. Higher apprenticeships are professionally recognised and have professional body recognition where applicable.

Length of Higher Apprenticeships

A higher apprenticeship can take from one to six years to complete and involves learning in and through work and off-the-job study at a university, college or training provider. They are an effective way of aligning the higher-level technical, associate-professional and managerial skill needs of employers with the aspirations of individuals who wish to work and study and follow a learning programme that will support them gain occupational competence for a specific job role.

Below we have included information on some of the most popular higher level apprenticeships.

01

Accountancy / Taxation Professional Level 7

Summary

As an apprentice, you will learn how to provide financial information and advice ranging from strategic business advice to audited financial statements to driving mergers and acquisitions for all types and sizes of organisation; from owner-managed businesses to multi-nationals; from private enterprises to public sector institutions, from entrepreneurs to charities.

Duration

Typically 3 years

Entry criteria

Employers will identify entry requirements in terms of previous qualifications, training or other criteria (typically A levels or equivalent).

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Hazlewoods LLP, Lentells Chartered Accountants, London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, PwC, Solid State Solutions, Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Examples of roles:

Financial accountant, Management accountant, Tax accountant, Tax adviser, Tax specialist, External auditor, Internal auditor, Financial analyst, Management consultant, Forensic accountant, Business advisor.

There is no requirement to achieve a degree. Completion of the apprenticeship will result in eligibility to apply for membership of one or more of the following UK Professional Bodies:

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA)

The Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA)

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)

The Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS).

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/accountancy-taxation-professional

02

Nursing Associate Level 5

Summary

This is a highly trained support role to deliver effective, safe and responsive nursing care in and across a wide range of health and care settings. As an apprentice, you will work independently, and with others, under the leadership and direction of a registered nurse to deliver care. It offers the opportunity for career progression to registered nurse.

On completion you will have achieved a level 5 qualification such as a Foundation Degree or Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education delivered by an institution approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) to provide pre-registration nursing education.

Duration

Typically 2 years

Entry criteria

Employers will decide their own entry requirements.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Isle of Wight NHS Trust

Lewisham + Greenwich NHS Trust

South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/nursing-associate

03

Chartered Legal Executive Level 6

Summary

This offers another entry level route into public law and legal practice. It is a (usually five-year) programme ending in qualification as a chartered legal executive, a practising lawyer whose role is similar to that of a solicitor. You will provide legal services to internal and external clients and make decisions in legal matters based on legal principles or the rule of law while working within all legal and regulatory requirements. On completion you have the ability to become a partner in a law firm, set up your own legal business or other roles in the sector.

Current Chartered Institute of Legal Executives (CILEx) qualifications need to be achieved: CILEx Level 3 Professional Diploma in Law and Practice and CILEx Level 6 Professional Higher Diploma in Law and Practice. Completion of the Chartered Legal Executive Apprenticeship results in a Chartered Legal Executive Fellowship. This apprenticeship can link to progression to the Paralegal apprenticeship and Solicitor apprenticeship.

Duration

Typically 5 years

Entry criteria

There are no formal entry requirements and you may have progressed from the Paralegal Apprenticeship. However, it is recommended that you have a minimum of four GCSEs at grades C or above¹ (including English Language or Literature) or equivalent qualifications. Individual employers may choose any additional entry requirements for employment.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Typical employers; medium to large-sized firms of solicitors, including: high street practices - dealing with legal matters in the local community - medium-sized firms - combining private client and commercial work - large commercial firms - catering for business clients. Local authorities also employ chartered legal executives in areas such as litigation and advocacy. Employers that have recruited include ITV, Quality Solicitors Lockings (York), North Tyneside Council and SMQ Legal Services (Oxford).

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/chartered-legal-executive

¹In all cases, where entry requirements state GCSE Grade C or above – this will also mean the grade equivalent on the new grading scale for GCSE qualifications.

04

Construction Site Engineering Technician Level 4

Typical job titles

Assistant Site Engineer, Assistant Engineer, Civil Engineering Technician or Construction Site Technician. In the case of small and medium sized construction companies the roles are likely to include Site Engineer, Civil Engineer or Project Engineer. They are associated with the dimensional control and application of engineering solutions on construction projects and are based on construction sites with some time spent in offices.

Summary

You will gain a level 4 qualification in Construction and Built Environment that meets the knowledge requirements of the job role and is approved by the Institution of Civil Engineers as meeting the educational requirements for EngTech MICE. Achievement of this apprenticeship will lead to the status of Engineering Technician with the Institution of Civil Engineers and the designatory letters EngTech MICE.

Duration

Typically 3 years depending on your previous experience and access to opportunities to gain the full range of competence.

Entry criteria

Individual employers will determine their own entry requirements.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

The following employers were involved in this apprenticeship's design and development: Balfour Beatty, Costain, Wates, Willmott Dixon, Lend Lease, Hind Joiners, KM Decorating, BAM Construction, Laing O'Rourke, Kier, Byrne Brothers, Seddon and NG Bailey.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/construction-site-engineering-technician

05

Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Level 5

Summary

Assistant Practitioners work as part of the wider health and social care team and have lots of contact with patients, service users or clients providing high quality and compassionate care. You will have a more in-depth understanding about factors that influence health and ill-health (e.g. anatomy and physiology) and examples of common work activities include assisting in total patient assessment, coordination of care (including referrals to other practitioners) and higher clinical skills such as catheterisation, wound care and discharge planning. Assistant Practitioners can be found working in a range of areas such as cancer services, physiotherapy, genito-urinary medicine, orthopaedics, hospice care, mental health, social care, community, occupational therapy, learning disabilities as well as roles that cross traditional occupational areas.

At the end of your apprenticeship you will have demonstrated that you have met the standard of the Care Certificate, achieved an accredited level 5 occupational competence qualification such as a Foundation Degree, the Level 5 Diploma for Assistant Practitioners in Healthcare or another relevant Level 5 Diploma of Higher Education. You will be also working in line with The Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers in England. If you wish to progress into registered practice this apprenticeship can provide credits for higher education programmes aligned to professional registration as nurse.

Duration

Typically 18 months to 2 years.

Entry criteria

Individual employers will determine their own entry requirements.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

The following employers were active in designing this apprenticeship: Barchester Healthcare, Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Health Education England, Hospice UK, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust, St Giles Hospice and The Priory Group.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/healthcare-assistant-practitioner/

06

Network Engineer Level 4

Typical job titles

Network Technician, Network Engineer, Systems Engineer, Network Administrator. Your primary role is to design, install, maintain and support communication networks within an organisation or between organisations. You will understand network configuration, cloud, network administration and monitoring tools, and be able to give technical advice and guidance.

Summary

Apprentices must achieve one internationally recognised vendor or professional qualification as prescribed by the Apprenticeship Standard. Your achievement will be recognised for entry onto the register of IT technicians confirming Skills Framework for the Information Age (SFIA) level 3 professional competence.

Duration

Typically 2 years.

Entry criteria

Employers will set the selection criteria, but this is likely to include A levels, a level 3 apprenticeship or other relevant qualification, relevant experience and/or an aptitude test with a focus on functional maths.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Employers involved in creating this apprenticeship: IBM, Accenture, BA, BT, Capgemini, Cisco, Fujitsu, HP, John Lewis, Lloyds, Microsoft, The Royal Signals, Telefonica, Virgin Media and Visa.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/network-engineer/

07

Relationship Manager (Banking) Level 6

Summary

The role provides products and services to a portfolio of customers, to help them achieve their business goals alongside delivering the bank's business plan, whilst meeting the required ethical, risk and governance standards. The role may sit in several different areas of the bank: in corporate, commercial, retail banking, wealth management, private banking or card services.

You will typically specialise in a particular area of banking. As you will be new to the sector you will do one of the following level 3 qualifications: Certificate in Business Banking and Conduct; Retail Banking Conduct of Business or Professional Banker Certificate plus a combination of modules from a relevant diploma.

Duration

Typically 4 years.

This apprenticeship enables your career track to reach the same level as a graduate. Professional body memberships that are relevant are:

1 Retail banking:

Chartered Banker Institute, London Institute of Banking & Finance;

2 Wealth:

Chartered Banker Institute, London Institute of Banking & Finance, Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment, Chartered Insurance Institute

3 Corporate Banking:

Chartered Banker Institute, London Institute of Banking & Finance, CFA Institute (Chartered Financial Analyst).

Entry criteria

Individual employers will set the selection criteria. Most candidates will have A levels or existing relevant level 3 qualifications. Other relevant or prior experience may also be considered.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Employers involved: Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds, RBS and Santander.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/relationship-manager-banking

08

Senior Insurance Professional Level 6

Summary

This is a wide range of roles including internal facing 'operational management' and externally focussed 'client management'. All roles will require very strong technical competence across the following functional areas typically found within insurance companies: broking; client management; underwriting; claims: operations; loss adjusting; reinsurance; risk management; insurance product and pricing and complaint handling.

To complete you will achieve an Advanced Diploma in Insurance from either of the two professional bodies: The Chartered Insurance Institute (CII) or the Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters (CILA). Both professional bodies list the optional units that are needed to match the requirements of your job role. By passing the apprenticeship, professional registration can be achieved by application to the relevant professional body with recognised designation of 'ACII', (CII), or 'Advanced Dip CILA' (CILA).

Duration

No less than 3 years.

Entry criteria

Individual employers will set the selection criteria. You will typically have A levels (or equivalent) or existing relevant Level 3 qualifications.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Employers involved: Aon, Chaucer, Covea insurance, Davies-group, Hiscox, Marsh, Miller insurance, Axa-Sunlife, Zurich, Aviva, NFU Mutual, Allianz, JLT Group, Garratts, MIB, Ecclesiastical, Lloyds of London and Markel.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/senior-insurance-professional

09

Software Developer Level 4

Typical job roles

web developer, application developer, mobile app developer, games developer and software developer. The primary role is to build and test simple, high-quality code across front end, logic and database layers (data stores and data sources). You will typically be working as part of a larger team, in which you will have responsibility for some of the straightforward elements of the overall project. But you will need to be able to interpret design documentation and specifications.

Summary

Apprentices must achieve one internationally recognised vendor or professional qualification as prescribed by the Apprenticeship Standard. Your employer will select which vendor or professional qualification you should take. This apprenticeship achievement is recognised for entry onto the register of IT Technicians confirming SFIA level 3 professional competence.

Duration

Typically 2 years

Entry criteria

Individual employers will set the selection criteria, but this is likely to include A levels, a level 3 apprenticeship or other relevant qualification, relevant experience and/or an aptitude test with a focus on functional maths.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Employers involved include IBM, Accenture, BA, BT, Capgemini, Cisco, Fujitsu, HP, John Lewis, Lloyds, Microsoft, NCA, The Royal Signals, Telefonica, Virgin Media and Visa.

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/software-developer

10

Solicitor Level 7

Summary

This offers the same career destination as if you had undertaken a full-time undergraduate programme. You will learn law and legal practice alongside gaining competence in legal skills, commercial skills and professional conduct.

You do not need to complete a degree, but you may be able to undertake a law degree depending on what approach is agreed with your employer. This apprenticeship is based on the Solicitors Regulation Authority's (RSA) Statement of Solicitor Competence which means achievement of the apprenticeship satisfies the profession's regulatory framework for qualification as a solicitor (subject to the SRA's usual tests of character and suitability). To complete the apprenticeship, you must pass the SRA centralised assessment, comprising: Part 1: Functioning Knowledge Tests and Part 2: Standardised Practical Legal Skills Assessments.

Duration

Typically 5 – 6 years

Entry criteria

Recommended minimum entry requirements are: 5 GCSEs, including maths and English - grade C or above (or equivalent); 3 A levels (or equivalent) - minimum grade C; and/or relevant employer-led work experience or level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship in a relevant occupation such as Business Administration, Legal Services, Providing Financial Services.

An example of who is recruiting includes:

Opportunities are being presented by law firms and employer organisations such as: CMS (working across international borders and all industry sectors and commercial areas of law), North East Solicitors Apprenticeship Group (leading the way in developing a collaborative approach to employing solicitor apprentices), Osborne Clarke LLP (with an international presence across Europe and Asia) and Womble Bond Dickinson (a transatlantic law firm serving corporate, individual and non-profit clients across every business sector).

For further information, please visit:

www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/solicitor

How do I find out more and apply?

Top tips:

- 1 Visit: apprenticeships.gov.uk and ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk
- 2 If you require any support with your Find An Apprenticeship application please contact: **08000 150 400** (free from landlines and mobiles)
- 3 Email: nationalhelpdesk@findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- 4 For professional advice on making your choice, visit: nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk or call: **0800 100 900** (free from landlines and mobiles)
- 5 For further details on higher apprenticeships ready for delivery and in development please visit: instituteofapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards
- 6 To find out more about which employers are recruiting and who is delivering higher apprenticeships, check out university, higher education provider and employer websites
- 7 Do not hesitate to contact the employer, university or higher education provider if you're considering a Higher Apprenticeship to ask any questions you may have
- 8 The key is to do your own research, and a good point to start is to view: university.which.co.uk/advice/choosing-a-course/is-a-higher-or-degree-apprenticeship-really-right-for-you

We wish you the best of luck

Prepared in partnership with the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC). UVAC is a national membership organisation representing higher education. It exists to champion and develop higher education's role in higher level technical and professional education and training including degree apprenticeships. UVAC has more than 94 universities in membership drawn from all university types, including the Russell Group.

Visit: uvac.ac.uk