

Apprenticeships

London



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What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job that combines work with learning



Work

You will gain experience and skills in the workplace for about 80% of your working week. That is about four working days.



Learn

You attend a college, university or training provider to gain a qualification for at least 20% (about one working day) of your week. The qualification can sometimes be completed in the workplace. You may learn online. You may also have block study time, like a full week of study.



You won't have to pay for your learning. Your employer and the government cover the cost.

It can take between eight months to six years to complete an apprenticeship, depending on its level¹ and whether it's full-time or part-time.

Who can apply for an apprenticeship?

To start, you need to:



be 16
or over



live in
England



not already
be in full-time
education

You can apply whilst you are still at school so long as you will be 16 or over by the end of the summer holidays to start the apprenticeship.¹

You can do an apprenticeship at any stage in your career. It can be a way to **start your career**, to **change careers**, or to **progress** in the workplace. There is no upper age limit.



Working part-time

You have the right to ask your employer to **work part time**². This will mean the apprenticeship takes longer to complete. You must work enough paid hours each week to do the training needed to gain your apprenticeship.³

After an apprenticeship

Many apprentices stay in work after they finish their training. A government survey⁴ stated that 95% of apprenticeship completers were in employment. 16% were in education or had started another apprenticeship. 99% reported that they had gained skills in their apprenticeship. Nearly half of people who had completed their apprenticeship (48%) had been promoted following their apprenticeship, and three in four (75%) had received a pay rise.

DID YOU KNOW?



Over 16% of people starting an apprenticeship in 2024/25 declared a learning difficulty or disability. This has risen steadily from 10% in 2015/16.⁵

Pay

All apprentices in their first year can receive the National Minimum Wage:



Age	16	17	18	19	20	21	+
Since 01/04/2025	£7.55						
After 01/04/2026	£8.00						

All apprentices who have completed their first year can receive the National Minimum Wage or National Living Wage, depending on their age:





Age	16	17	18	19	20	21	+
Since 01/04/2025	£7.55			£10.00		£12.21	
After 01/04/2026	£8.00			£10.85		£12.71	



Apprenticeship rate



National Minimum Wage



National Living Wage⁶

Many employers pay more than minimum pay.

Please note that the [National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates](#) are changed on the 1st April every year.

Apprentices have the same rights as other employees in a similar role or grade, such as:



a minimum wage



paid holidays



sick pay



other benefits, such as being able to claim Universal Credit, and other costs – for example, help towards housing or bringing up children.⁷

Your [apprentice agreement](#)⁸ sets out the terms and working conditions of your apprenticeship.



[Acas](#)⁹ gives more information on your employment rights, rules and how to bring up and resolve any problems at work.



Types of apprenticeships

The apprenticeship level you can do will depend on your experience and qualifications. The employer and training provider set the level of qualification for the learning part of the



apprenticeship. This will usually be shown on the job details. You will gain a recognised qualification at the end of your study. The different levels of apprenticeship are shown below.¹

Type	Level	Equivalent educational level
Foundation and 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

Foundation apprenticeships

These are new Level 2 apprenticeships for young people to get industry experience. You will work at a real job, learn new skills, and find out if the career is right for you. They last at least eight months but can be longer if you need more time. You can apply if you are aged 16 to 21 but don't need any specific grades or qualifications. If you are 22 to 24 you can apply if you:

- are in care or have been in care
- are in prison or have been in prison
- have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)¹⁰

Use the [Skills England apprenticeship finder](#)¹¹ to find out about the foundation apprenticeships available.

Types of jobs

What kind of job can I go into?


Skills England has worked with employers to create over 600 [occupational standards](#).¹² Occupational maps group together occupations with related knowledge, skills and behaviours



into 15 industry routes. Explore them [here](#). [Occupational maps guidance](#) is also available¹³. The following sectors had most apprenticeship starts in the last school year⁵:

Business, administration and law

14,380

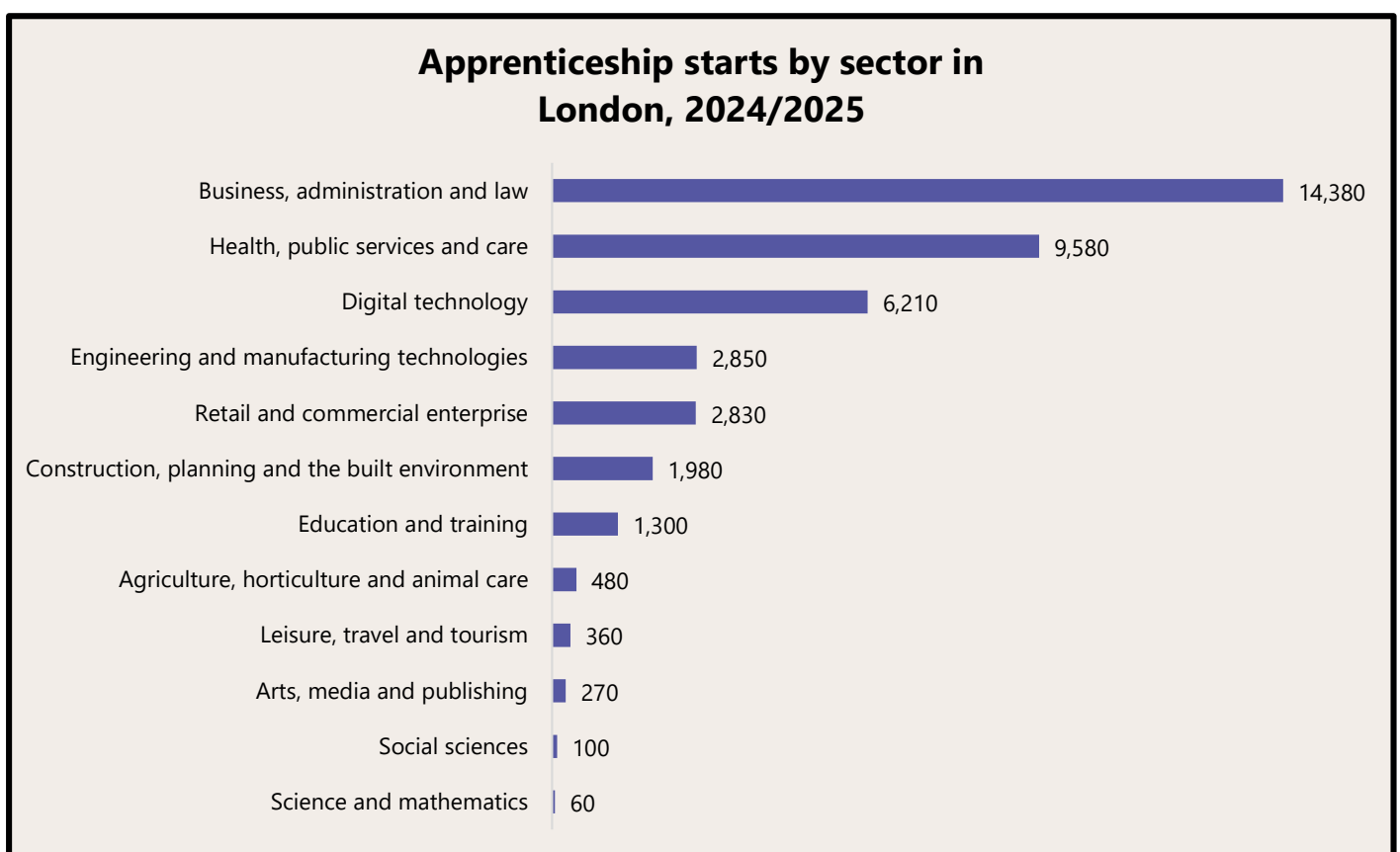


Health, public services and care

9,580



This chart gives more detail⁵



What if I don't know the kind of work I want to do?



You can do a [Skills Assessment](#)¹⁴ on the [National Careers Service](#)¹⁵ website. [Discover your skills and careers](#) will help you to think about the things you like to do or are good at. Understanding yourself can help you work out what careers you may like working in. Use this information to then look at careers that interest you in more detail with the [job profiles](#)¹⁶.



Employers

How do I choose an employer?



The ['Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers'](#) is a national table that ranks employers in England with an excellent commitment to apprenticeships. These rankings are based on things such as:

- achievements
- intake numbers
- diversity
- learner feedback¹⁷

This is one way to decide which employers to approach. Explore the [full list](#) or the [Top Apprenticeship Employers 2025](#) video¹⁸. Amazing Apprenticeships' [Meet the Employer](#)¹⁹ section can help you to find apprenticeship employers that might interest you. Consider small and medium sized employers (SMEs) too. The Top 50 SME Apprenticeship Employers are also available at the end of the [Top 100](#) list.

The [Edge Foundation](#) reports some [real stories of apprenticeship experiences of working and learning with SMEs](#). They state some reasons why SMEs are good for apprentices including:

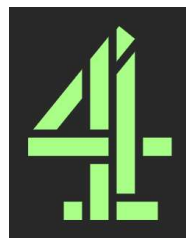
- **Close-knit teams:** Apprentices quickly become part of the company culture.
- **Real responsibility:** From day one, apprentices handle meaningful work.
- **Variety and exposure:** SMEs offer diverse experiences across departments and projects.
- **Mentorship:** Working closely with experienced colleagues accelerates learning.
- **Flexibility and growth:** Apprentices can grow professionally while balancing study, work, and personal development.²⁰



Which employers offer apprenticeships in London?

Apprenticeships are common in the public sector. Places to look include the **NHS**, your **local council**, **colleges**, **universities**, **emergency services**, **armed forces** and the **civil service**.

Employers who have advertised apprenticeship vacancies online in the region in the last year also include²¹.



Searching and applying

Search and apply on [Find an Apprenticeship](#).²²

Create an account to manage your job applications and set up alerts about new apprenticeships.



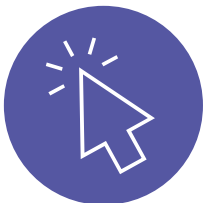
Step 1

Search for apprenticeship opportunities



Step 2

Create a 'GOV.UK One' Login



Step 3

Apply

Find an apprenticeship
Search and apply for an apprenticeship in England

Search

Keywords (optional)
Can include job title, employer or reference number

All

Your location
Enter postcode, town or city or [use current location](#)

5 miles

Apprenticeship level
All levels

Only show
 Disability Confident

Search Browse

[Reset search options](#)

Employers also advertise jobs on their own website and social media pages.

Find more detailed information on how to complete an application with Amazing Apprenticeships' ['How to register on Find an Apprenticeship guide'](#).²³

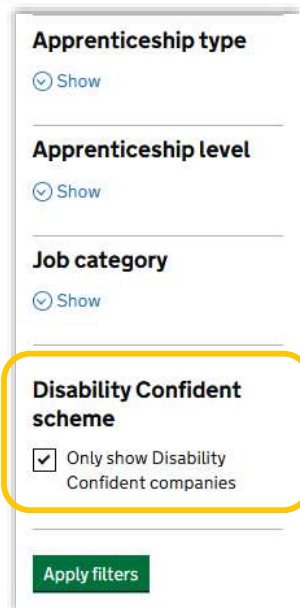
If you are looking for your first job after leaving full-time education, see the National Apprenticeship Service's [Career Starter Apprenticeships](#).²⁴



Inclusion and diversity

Can I do an apprenticeship if I have a disability or health condition?

Yes. 16% or one in six people starting apprenticeships in 2024/25 declared they were learners with a learning difficulty and/or disability (LLDDs). This number has increased in the last five years⁵.



Apprenticeship type
Show

Apprenticeship level
Show

Job category
Show

Disability Confident scheme
 Only show Disability Confident companies

Apply filters

On the 'Find an apprenticeship' website, you can tick a box to search for '**Disability Confident**' employers. The Disability Confident scheme aims to help employers make the most of the opportunities provided by employing disabled people. Do not restrict your search to these employers, though, as you may miss out on other suitable apprenticeships.



[Access to Work](#)²⁵ can help you to get or stay in work if you have a physical or mental health condition or disability.

You can apply for, if needed:

- Money (a grant) for practical help with your work;
- Help with managing your mental health at work; and
- Money for communication help at job interviews.

You can ask your employer to make [reasonable adjustments](#)²⁶ (or changes) in your workplace.



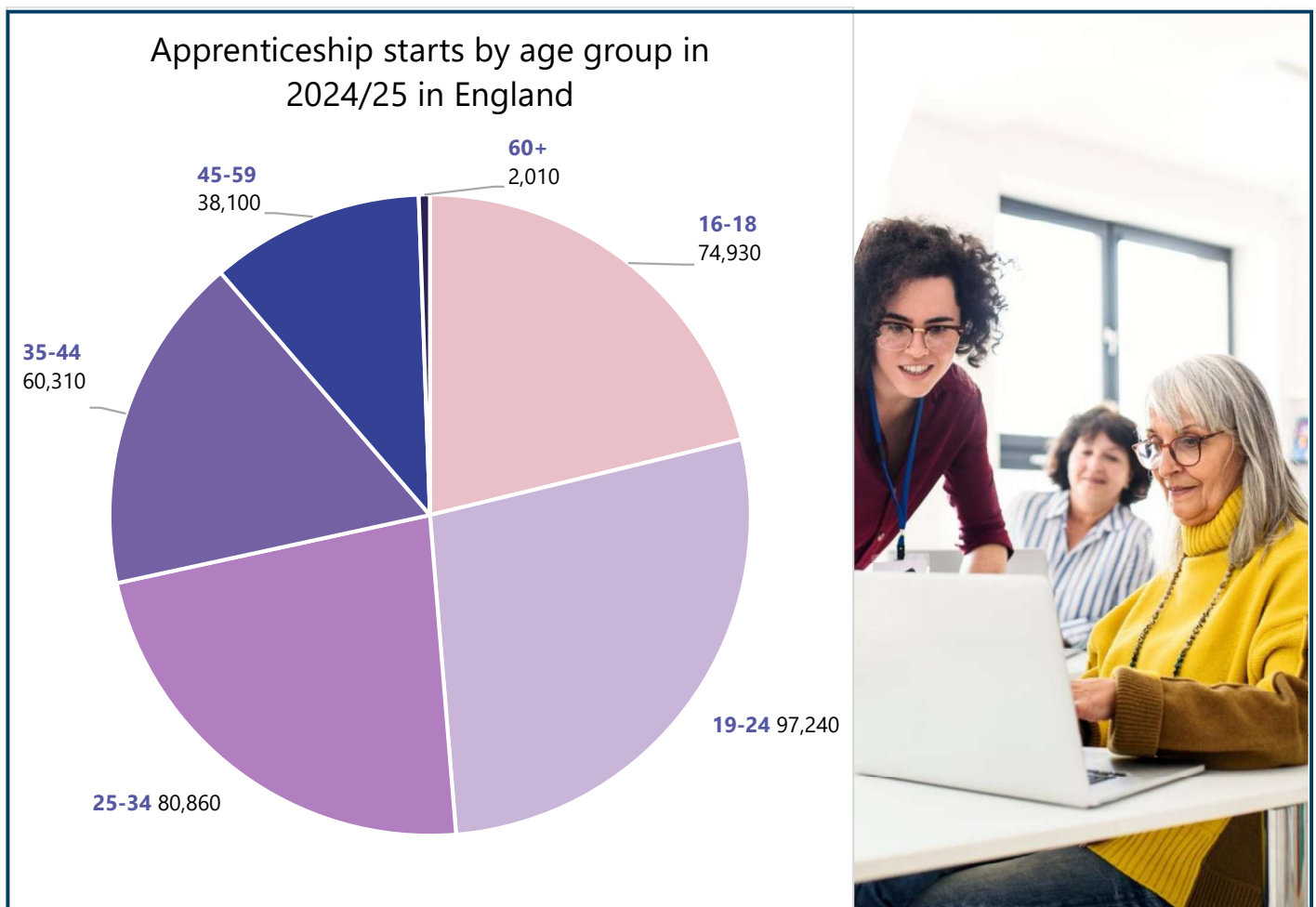
Disability Rights UK's guide [Into Apprenticeships 2025: The guide for disabled people](#)²⁷ gives more information.



Aren't apprenticeships just for young people?

No. They are for **people aged 16 and over**. Over half (51%) of people starting apprenticeships in 2024/25 were aged 25 and over. Around **2,010** people aged 60 and over started an apprenticeship in England in 2024/25⁵.

This chart shows the amount of apprenticeships started by different age groups in England in the 2024/25 academic year.



Do more males or females start apprenticeships?

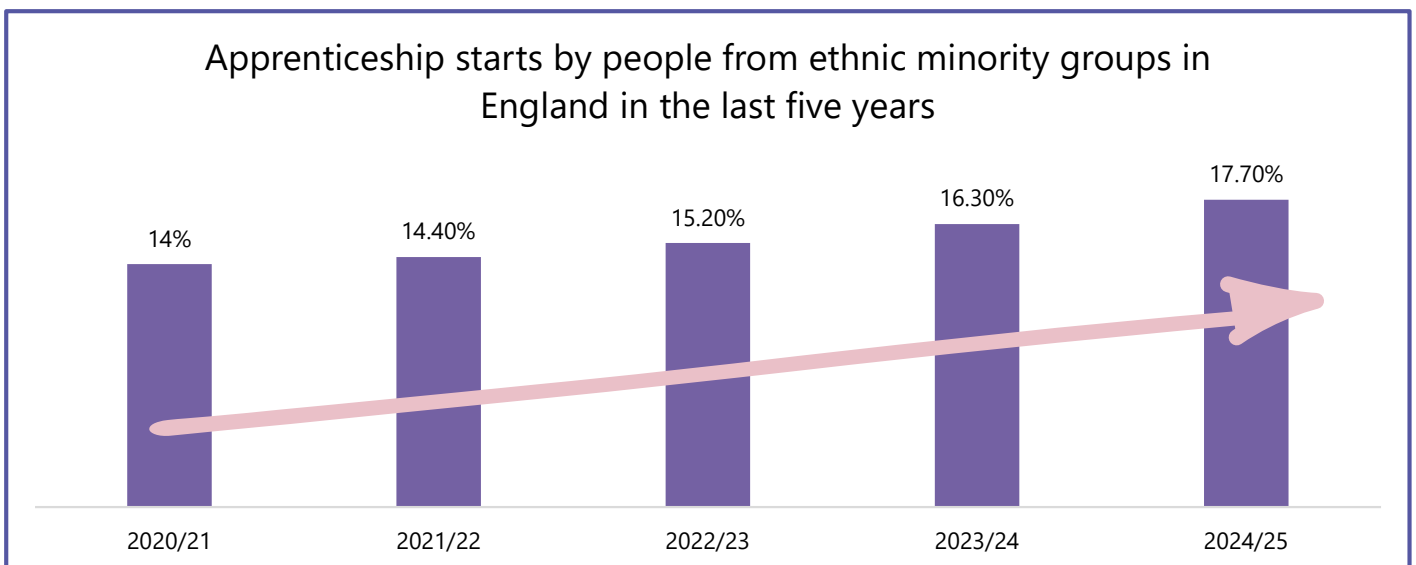
In 2024/25, **52%** of people who started an apprenticeship in England were female.





What percentage of apprenticeship starts are from ethnic minority groups?

The number has increased over the last five years. In 2024/25, 18% (or nearly one in six) of apprenticeship starts were by someone from an ethnic minority group⁵.



Care leavers

You could be able to get a bursary payment if you have been in local authority care and you're under 25 when you start your apprenticeship. Check with your training provider if you are eligible and how to apply. Further guidance is available [here](#).

Further information

- **ACAS** – free advice on employment rights, rules and how to bring up and solve problems at work.
acas.org.uk/advice
- **Amazing Apprenticeships** – website promoting the benefits of apprenticeships and technical education
amazingapprenticeships.com/
- **Amazing Apprenticeships: Higher and degree vacancy listing**
amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing/
- **Amazing Apprenticeships: How to register on Find an apprenticeship Guide**
amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/how-to-register-on-find-an-apprenticeship-guide/
- **DfE/RateMyApprenticeship (rebranding HIGHERiN): Best 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2024–2025**
top-apprenticeshipemployers.co.uk/2025-winners
- **DfE/RateMyApprenticeship (rebranding HIGHERiN): Top Apprenticeship Employers 2025 Video**
youtube.com/watch?v=u9sjzgywIE8
- **Disability Rights UK** - Guidance for jobseekers with a disability and the Disabled Apprentice Network
disabilityrightsuk.org
- **Disability Rights UK: Into Apprenticeships** – An apprenticeship guide for disabled people
disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships
- **Edge Foundation** – Provides knowledge, skills and information for future life and work
edge.co.uk/
- **Gov.UK: Access to work**
gov.uk/access-to-work



- **Gov.UK: Apprenticeships bursary for care leavers**
[gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-bursary-for-care-leavers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeships-bursary-for-care-leavers)
- **Gov.UK: Become an apprentice**
[gov.uk/become-apprentice](https://www.gov.uk/become-apprentice)
- **Gov.UK: Find an apprenticeship**
[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)
- **Gov.UK: Flexible working**
[gov.uk/flexible-working/applying-for-flexible-working](https://www.gov.uk/flexible-working/applying-for-flexible-working)
- **Gov.UK: National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates**
[gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates](https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates)
- **Gov.UK: Reasonable adjustments for disabled workers**
[gov.uk/reasonable-adjustments-for-disabled-workers](https://www.gov.uk/reasonable-adjustments-for-disabled-workers)
- **National Apprenticeship Service**
apprenticeships.gov.uk/
- **National Careers Service – Careers information, advice and guidance**
nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/
- **National Careers Service: Explore careers (job profiles)**
nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers
- **Skills England - Apprenticeship finder**
skillsengland.education.gov.uk/apprenticeships/
- **Skills England - Occupational maps**
occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk/
Skills England – Occupational maps guidance
occupational-maps.skillsengland.education.gov.uk/occupational-maps-guidance/#GetStarted
- **UCAS: Apprenticeships** - Resources, useful hints and tips, and vacancies UCAS has to offer
ucas.com/apprenticeships
- **UCAS: Foundation Apprenticeships**
ucas.com/apprenticeships/england/level-2-foundation-apprenticeship



Sources and links

- 1 Gov.UK, [Become an apprentice](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
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- 3 Gov.UK, [How to take on an apprentice](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
- 4 DfE, '[Apprenticeship Evaluation 2023 Learner and Non-completer Surveys Research Report](#)', IFF Research, September 2024
- 5 Gov.UK, DfE, Explore Education Statistics, [Apprenticeships, Academic year 2024/25](#), published 27/11/2025
- 6 Gov.UK, [National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
- 7 Money Helper, [Apprenticeships explained](#), site accessed on 26/01/2026
- 8 UCAS, [Apprentice rights & responsibilities - agreements & commitment statements](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
- 9 ACAS, [Advice](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
- 10 UCAS, [Foundation apprenticeships](#), site accessed 26/01/2026
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