



# ***APPRENTICESHIP***

## **ESSENTIAL GUIDE 2025**



St Helens College





Apprenticeships are a great way to develop your skills and experience whilst gaining a recognised qualification. One of the many benefits is, you'll get paid to do it.

As an apprentice you are in paid employment, meaning you'll spend the majority of your time in the workplace gaining valuable on-the-job experience. So if you prefer to learn by doing, then an apprenticeship is a great place to start.

There are so many apprenticeships to choose from across a huge range of industries (some of which you will be able to explore over the next couple of pages), so you will never be stuck for choice.

Apprenticeships can take one to four years to complete, depending on which level you start at and the type of apprenticeship you choose. This means by the time you complete it, you'll know your job inside and out, and could have the chance to gain permanent employment and move up the career ladder.



Apprentices work for a minimum of 30 hours a week and a maximum of 40 hours a week.



You will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week of your apprenticeship completing 'off-the-job training' which can either be day release in College, remote learning or allocated time in the workplace.



You will earn at least the National Minimum Wage for apprentices.



You will complete a range of assessment activities as part of an 'End-Point Assessment' to evaluate the knowledge, skills and behaviours learnt throughout the apprenticeship.

# EARN WHILE YOU LEARN WITH US

## 01

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### **Industry Choice**

Apprenticeships are available with all types of employers across lots of industry sectors.

## 02

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### **Largest Provider**

Strong collaborations with local, regional and national employers, make us one of the largest apprenticeship providers in the Northwest.

## 03

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### **Employer Partnerships**

We work with hundreds of employers across the Northwest, providing an extensive range of apprenticeship vacancies.

## 04

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### **Excellent Progression**

Apprenticeship progression routes can lead to full-time employment, university or further study.

## 05

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### **Dedicated Support**

Each apprentice has their own assessor to monitor their progress and to provide support throughout their apprenticeship.

## 06

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### **Industry Experts**

Our tutors are experts in their fields with specialist knowledge of industry.

# APPRENTICESHIP CHOICES



Apprenticeships are now more varied than ever, which is why we offer a number of exciting new apprenticeships in fast growing industries, covering job roles such as Science Technician and Accounting.

If you have not yet found an employer, our dedicated apprenticeship team will support you in your search for an employer. If you already know of, or have found an employer, they will work with you and your employer to secure your apprenticeship.

## Find vacancies at:



**Apprenticeships**

[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)



**St Helens College**

[www.sthelens.ac.uk/jobshop](http://www.sthelens.ac.uk/jobshop)



**Knowsley  
Community  
College**

[www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk/jobshop](http://www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk/jobshop)

## Apprenticeship Entry Requirements

Level	Entry Requirements
2	Level 1 Functional Skills or GCSEs at grade 2 or above including English and maths.
3	Level 2 Functional Skills or GCSEs at grade 4 or above including English and maths.

# AUTOMOTIVE AND HGV

With **over 38 million vehicles on the UK's roads**, the automotive industry plays an essential role in our lives, enabling us to get from A to B.

The growing complexity of today's vehicles, and the pressure to deliver a high-quality customer experience, has created a demand for skilled professionals within the industry, ranging from technical roles such as a Light Vehicle Master Technician to customer service and sales roles such as a Sales Manager or a Dealer Principal.



## Apprenticeships

### Our motor vehicle apprenticeships:

- Heavy Vehicle Technician
- Auto Care Technician

## Qualities Required

- Good technical skills
- Good customer service skills
- Able to work in a team and on your own
- Good maths and IT skills
- Enjoy working with your hands and using tools
- Good problem-solving skills

## Connecting Classroom to Career





# BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL

There is an **estimated 5.7 million private sector businesses in the UK**, covering a wide range of occupations including accounting and administration.

Professional apprenticeships are essential to keep businesses running efficiently and profitably.



## Apprenticeships

### Our business and professional apprenticeships:

- Business Administration
- Accounting
- Management
- Customer Service
- IT and Digital Support

## Qualities Required

- Good communication skills
- Good computer and maths skills
- Good telephone manner
- Reliable and presentable
- Able to manage several tasks at once

## Connecting Classroom to Career

**Civil Service  
Administrative  
Officer**

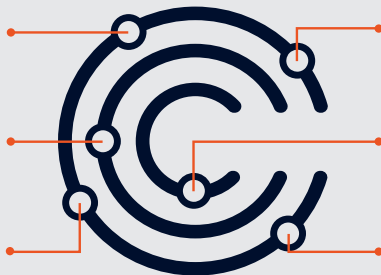
£22k - £29k

**Software  
Developer**

£26k - £70k

**Supply Chain  
Manager**

£24k - £48k



**Equalities Officer**

£22k - £45k

**IT Project  
Manager**

£35k - £60k

**Social Media  
Manager**

£25k - £60k

# CONSTRUCTION

**Construction is a multi-billion-pound industry** and it is estimated that it will need to recruit an additional 217,000 workers by 2025 to meet the demands of the industry.

Apprenticeships are a highly valued and recognised pathway into construction, covering a wide variety of occupations, from qualified Scaffolders and Plasterers to Surveyors, Civil Engineers and Site Managers.



## Apprenticeships

### Our construction apprenticeships:

- Bricklaying
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Electrical Installation
- Painting and Decorating
- Plastering
- Plumbing and Heating
- Property Maintenance Operative

## Qualities Required

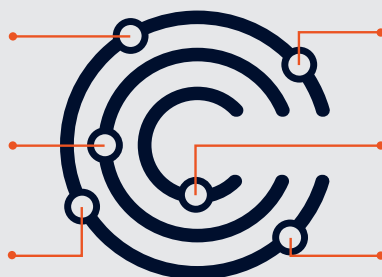
- Physical strength and endurance
- Coordination and dexterity
- Comfortable working with heights
- Basic maths skills

## Connecting Classroom to Career

**Quantity Surveyor**  
£25k - £80k

**Architect**  
£30k - £60k

**Bricklayer**  
£17k - £40k



**Electrician**  
£22k - £44k

**Construction Site Supervisor**  
£25k - £45k

**Heat Pump Engineer**  
£22k - £45k

\*Salary data collected from various sources, see inside back cover for details, July 2024

# ENGINEERING

**The UK is a world leader in engineering** and therefore spans a huge variety of specialisms, from aerospace and renewable energy to manufacturing technologies.

Engineering accounts for 18% of all UK employment covering some of the UK's most complex functions from maintaining clean energy supplies to finding sustainable ways to grow food, build houses and travel.



## Apprenticeships

**Our engineering apprenticeships:**

- Electrical Engineering
- Fabrication and Welding
- Mechanical Engineering
- Manufacturing Engineering
- Engineering Maintenance

## Qualities Required

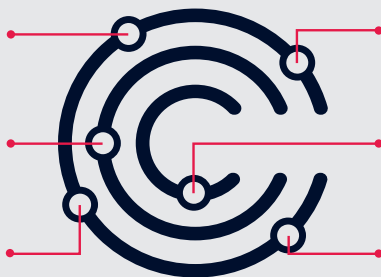
- Good communication skills
- Able to work both independently or as a team
- Good understanding of technology
- Methodical and good at solving problems

## Connecting Classroom to Career

**Mechanical Engineer**  
£26k - £52k

**Electrical Engineer**  
£27k - £58k

**Marine Engineer**  
£24k - £55k



**CAD Technician**  
£17k - £35k

**Welder**  
£25k - £45k

**Design and Development Engineer**  
£25k - £55k

\*Salary data collected from various sources, see inside back cover for details, July 2024



# HEALTH CARE AND EARLY YEARS

Apprenticeships in the health and early years sectors are becoming a more popular way to enter the industry, **with over 132,000 apprentices currently in training**. There are also opportunities to undertake a higher apprenticeship.



## Apprenticeships

### Our health care and early years apprenticeships:

- Early Years and Education
- Dental Nursing
- Health and Social Care
- Teaching Assistant

## Qualities Required

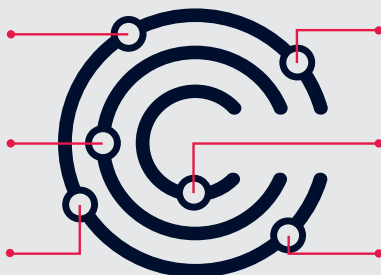
- Excellent communication skills
- Empathetic and patient
- Able to work within a team and on your own initiative
- Able to work calmly under pressure
- Strong organisational skills
- Good time management skills
- Excellent listening skills

## Connecting Classroom to Career

**Early Years Teacher**  
£30k - £47k

**Palliative Care Assistant**  
£22k - £28k

**Health Play Specialist**  
£22k - £31k



**Paramedic**  
£28k - £43k

**Child Protection Officer**  
£25k - £40k

**Occupational Therapist**  
£28k - £50k

\*Salary data collected from various sources, see inside back cover for details, July 2024

# SCIENCE

**The health and life sciences sectors are of critical importance for the Liverpool City Region,** with significant investment in local industry, the NHS and universities.

The Liverpool City Region has an active life sciences sector, employing over 6,000 people and forms one of three main concentrations of life science clusters in the UK.



## Apprenticeships

### Our life sciences apprenticeships:

- Laboratory Technician
- Science Technician

## Qualities Required

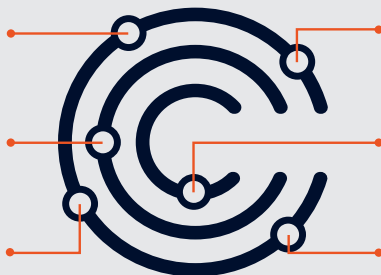
- Good analytical and technical skills
- Strong maths skills
- Able to work within a team and on your own initiative
- Methodical approach to your work
- Able to organise your workload and meet deadlines
- Good attention to detail and accuracy
- Strong organisational skills
- Excellent analytical skills

## Connecting Classroom to Career

**Forensic Collision Investigator**  
£20k - £40k

**Pharmacologist**  
£27k - £55k

**Biomedical Scientist**  
£27k - £55k



**Clinical Scientist**  
£35k - £68k

**Nutritionist**  
£28k - £43k

**Microbiologist**  
£23k - £45k

\*Salary data collected from various sources, see inside back cover for details, July 2024

# SEARCHING AND APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP



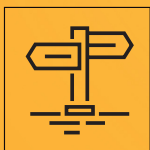
Be proactive. You don't need to wait until a vacancy is advertised to look for an apprenticeship. By calling or writing to a company, you can sometimes find the hidden opportunities. Make sure you have a stand out CV to impress!



Search and apply for vacancies on [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship) or via our Job Shop. Need advice on how to do this? We have some great tips that we'd love to share with you. Get in touch with our team!



Colleges and employers will get in touch after you have submitted an application. It is important to make sure you answer your phone even if the number appears as unknown and set up a voicemail so they can leave messages.



Although you may be waiting for your GCSE results, start applying for apprenticeships over the summer - don't wait until September. This will give you a head start on the process, and employers may offer you work experience, which could lead to an apprenticeship.



Social media can be an effective way to find apprenticeships. Employers regularly use social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to advertise new job roles, so make sure that your profile is professional.



Brush up on your interview skills by practising mock interviews with your family and friends, or professionals that you know. Remember to ask for honest feedback.

# WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD I INCLUDE ON MY CV?

## • **Personal Details**

Always include your name, email address and contact details at the top of your CV. There is no point submitting your CV if the employer can't contact you!

## • **Personal Statement**

This is your chance to stand out from the crowd and highlight your strengths. Personal statements give the employer a sneak peek into who you are, what you can bring to their business and what you hope to achieve. Use this to prove why you are suitable for the role they are looking to fill, by tailoring your personal statement to the job role.

## • **Key Skills**

Bullet point your top five skills that you can offer the employer.

## • **Work Experience**

This section should include all of your relevant work experience, listed with the most recent first. Include your job title, the name of the organisation, time in post, and your key responsibilities. If you haven't got any work experience, speak to local businesses and voluntary services as this will really help to boost your CV.

## • **Achievements**

This is your chance to show how your previous experience has given you the skills needed to make you a suitable candidate. This may be awards that you have received in school or college or could be linked to a programme such as NCS, Prince's Trust or Duke of Edinburgh Award.

## • **Education**

It's important to list all of your qualifications (or predicted qualifications) on your CV along with the dates that you achieved them, the type of qualification and the grades you received.

## • **Hobbies and Interests**

Hobbies and interests show an employer that you are committed, and have developed team working and communication skills. For example, if you have attended dance classes or football, turning up for training each week shows dedication and reliability. Make sure to include anything else that will add value to your CV.



## **INSPIRING MECHANICAL ENGINEER**

### **REBECCA**

**"I have always loved discovering how things work and prefer to learn in a practical way, so when I had the opportunity to complete an engineering apprenticeship at Cheshire Seals and Components, I jumped at the chance. After completing my apprenticeship, I hope to progress on to a HNC to continue developing my skills."**

#### **Classroom**

Level 3 Technical Extended Diploma in Mechanical Engineering

#### **Career**

Mechanical Engineering Apprentice at Cheshire Seals and Components

#### **Joined us from**

Cowley International College



# PARENT FAQ's

## What is off-the-job-training?

It is a statutory requirement for an apprentice to spend a minimum of 6 hours per week of their paid working hours 'off-the-job'. This time will be spent receiving training to gain the skills needed to complete their apprenticeship.

The 6 hours training can be delivered flexibly, by either the College or employer, as part of each day or one day per week and can either be remote learning or allocated time in the workplace. The employer and College will decide on the best model.

## How can I tell if it is a good apprenticeship?

A high wage doesn't always mean that an apprenticeship is good. Look out for a role that is varied, has staff benefits, extra training opportunities as well as progression opportunities. All of the above shows the employer is looking to invest in the apprentice to develop them personally and professionally.

## Financial support for apprentices?

Apprentices can benefit from various money saving schemes including:

- An NUS Apprentice Extra Card - the card costs £11 per year to set up but provides apprentices with massive discounts on high street and online retailers.
- A variety of travel discounts - apprentices aged 16-25 can apply for a railcard saving up to a third on train fares.
- A £3,000 bursary is available for care leavers aged 16-24, to help the transition into the workplace.

## How much do apprentices get paid?

The current national minimum wage for an apprentice is £6.40 (as of April 2024) but this can vary depending on age and length of time on the programme. Any apprentices aged 19+, must be paid at least the National Minimum Wage rate for their age, after their first 12 months in their apprenticeship.

## What apprenticeship levels are there?

There are various levels of apprenticeships dependant on current skills and qualifications. Apprenticeship qualifications are just as substantial as alternative study routes and can still lead to university, upon completion of a level 3 apprenticeship.

See the table below for an explanation of apprenticeship equivalent levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent Educational Level
Intermediate Apprenticeship	2	5 GCSEs (grades 9-4)
Advanced Apprenticeship	3	2 A levels, Level 3 Diploma/Certificate
Higher Apprenticeship	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation, Bachelor's or Master's Degree
Degree Apprenticeship	6 and 7	Bachelor's or Master's Degree

# HOW ARE APPRENTICESHIPS ASSESSED?

**Apprenticeships are assessed through an End-Point Assessment which is designed to assess your knowledge, skills and behaviours.**

Every apprentice will complete an independent assessment at the end of their apprenticeship to ensure that they have achieved full competency in their role. If you do not pass the assessment, you will not complete your apprenticeship.

During the assessment period, you will undergo several assessments over a period of time, which will be led and graded by the End-Point Assessor.

Each apprenticeship will have different end-point assessment activities which could include:

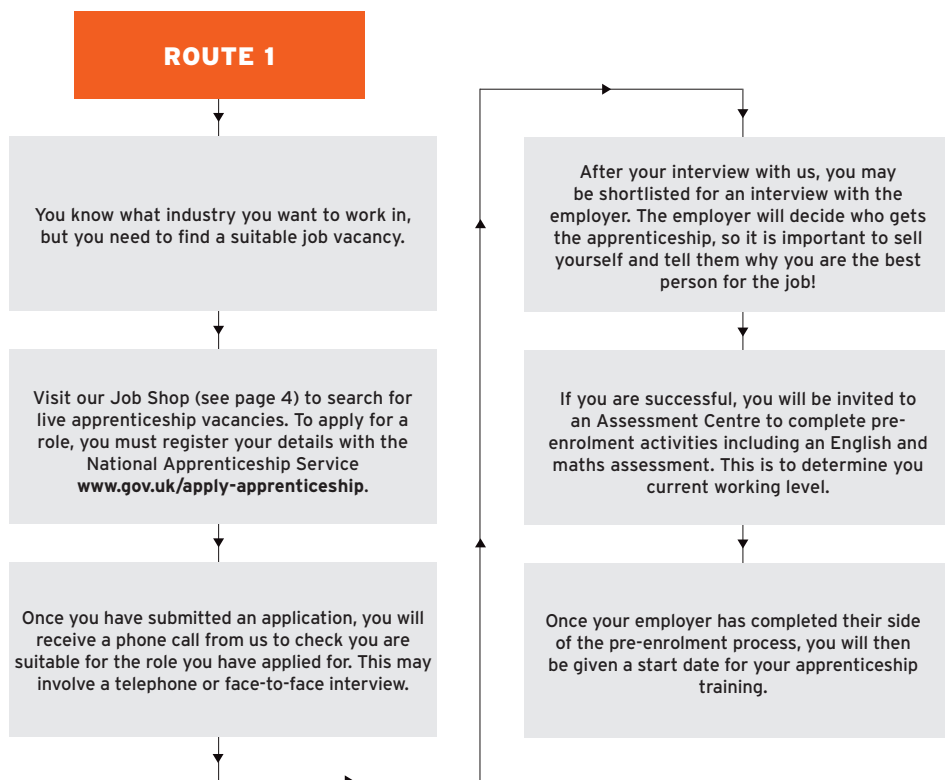
- Written examinations
- Synoptic testing
- Professional discussions
- Interviews
- Practical assessments
- Portfolios

You will begin 3-6 month preparation towards the end of your apprenticeship in readiness for this and will be fully supported throughout.

These assessments are designed to ensure you are on the right path to a successful career or progression to higher level study.

# APPLICATION PROCESS

If you are currently in year 11, you will only be enrolled onto an apprenticeship once you have received your GCSE results. However, you can still find an employer and start working with them once you finish school to gain experience in the meantime.



Don't worry if you have been unsuccessful! Start the full-time course at College and make your tutor aware that you would like an apprenticeship. Keep applying and once you are successful, we can transfer you on to the apprenticeship pathway.

## ROUTE 2

You already know of, or have found, an employer who will employ you as an apprentice.

You will need to get in touch to let us know your employer's contact details and the details of the apprenticeship you have secured and complete an application form.

You can do this by calling 01744 623521 or email: [appenquiry@sthelens.ac.uk](mailto:appenquiry@sthelens.ac.uk)

If you are successful, you will be invited to an Assessment Centre to complete pre-enrolment activities including an English and maths assessment. This is to determine your current working level.

Once your employer has completed their side of the pre-enrolment process, you will then be given a start date for your apprenticeship training.



If you are not quite ready for an apprenticeship, a traineeship could be another option to consider as it will help you to develop the skills and experience needed to secure an apprenticeship.



# TRAVELLING TO COLLEGE

## Merseytravel My Ticket

Apprentices aged 16-18 have access to discounted bus travel with Merseytravel. The Merseyside bus operator offers 'My Ticket', which is available for young people up to the age of 18, for just £2.20. This one day ticket can be used on all bus services in Merseyside and Halton.

## Merseytravel Apprentice Travelcard

The Apprentice Travel Card is available for those aged 19-24 enrolled on an apprenticeship programme. It allows young people access to half price bus and train travel across Merseyside, when buying weekly and four-weekly Solo tickets, or weekly and monthly Railpass tickets.





# MONEY MATTERS

We want to make sure that you can make the most out of your college experience. So don't worry about the costs of coming to college. We have it covered.

**All of our students aged 16-18 are entitled to:**

## 01

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### **No Course Fees**

Apprentices are not required to contribute towards the costs of the apprenticeship.

## 02

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### **Free Breakfast\***

No more rushing around in the morning – you'll get a free breakfast on the day you attend college!

## 03

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### **Discounted Travel**

Apprentices have access to a number of travel discounts across Merseyside.

## 04

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### **Free Microsoft Office 365**

Usually worth over £100, you'll get the full Microsoft Office package for free!

## 05

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### **Student Discounts**

Don't miss out on the perks of being a student – you'll have access to exclusive offers and discounts from retailers.

# EMPLOYER PARTNERSHIPS

We work with hundreds of employers across the Northwest, providing an extensive range of apprenticeship vacancies.

Our strong collaborations with local, regional and national employers, make us one of the largest apprenticeship providers in the area.



# MYTH BUSTERS

## **MYTH I CAN JOIN COLLEGE TO DO AN APPRENTICESHIP WITHOUT AN EMPLOYER.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. Before you join us, you must have an employer before you are able to start an apprenticeship. If you don't already have one lined up, our recruitment team can help you with your search.

## **MYTH APPRENTICESHIPS ARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ACHIEVED POOR GRADES AT GCSE.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. Apprenticeships are another further education route. It is a type of learning for those that want to get into employment rather than develop a career through study alone.

## **MYTH I CAN'T GO TO UNIVERSITY IF I COMPLETE AN APPRENTICESHIP.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. You can still progress with an apprenticeship and you could still choose to go on to university upon completion of a level 3 apprenticeship. All the qualifications you'll work towards are well recognised by universities and there are now degree level apprenticeships too.

## **MYTH APPRENTICESHIPS ARE BADLY PAID.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. The great thing about an apprenticeship is that you earn a wage while also gaining your qualification. You'll earn a minimum of £192 per week (as of April 2024).

## **MYTH YOU CAN ONLY COMPLETE AN APPRENTICESHIP FOR A CAREER IN A TRADE.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. Apprenticeships span several industries including professional positions such as digital marketing assistant, business administrator and IT technician specialist.

## **MYTH I NEED EXPERIENCE TO GET AN APPRENTICESHIP.**

**BUSTED** Wrong. Apprenticeships provide an opportunity for you to develop your work experience and gain skills related to the industry to help you progress. Employers recognise applicants won't necessarily have previous work experience.

## NOTES

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This Apprenticeship booklet has been produced as a guide and was correct at the time of going to print. St Helens College and Knowsley Community College reserves the right to amend, remove and add apprenticeships in the future. We also reserve the right to amend course entry criteria. This booklet cannot be considered contractual and we accept no liability for inaccurate statements. Careers information was correct at the time of going to print. Information from Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise and National Careers Service.

We do reserve the right to amend, remove and add courses and entry criteria in the future. This guide cannot be considered contractual and we accept no liability for inaccurate statements. Careers information has been taken from sources including National Careers Service, Labour Market Information (LMI), Liverpool Enterprise Partnership, Prospects and U-Explore.





# Apprenticeships

Business Development Unit  
01744 623521  
[appenquiry@sthelens.ac.uk](mailto:appenquiry@sthelens.ac.uk)



St Helens College

   /sthelenscollege



   /knowsleycollege