



Degree Apprenticeship CPD Further Information

During the recent degree apprenticeship webinars, delivered by Outreach North East and with speakers from ASK Apprenticeships, UCAS, Health Education England and Newcastle Building Society, there were many questions asked by the delegates in attendance. The answers to these questions have been collated into this resource and contain useful links and information.

If you missed the session but would like to catch up, it isn't too late to register to and receive the on-demand recording. Visit:

<https://www.outreachnortheast.ac.uk/cpd/degree-apprenticeships/>

Your Questions, Their Answers

Q. How many starts on degree apprenticeships are anticipated this year?

ASK Apprenticeships:

We are aiming to find out the national number of degree apprenticeship starts.

Health Education England:

Annually in the NHS we usually start approximately 2500-degree apprentices.

Q. What is the average age of those starting a degree apprenticeship?

ASK Apprenticeships:

Across all apprenticeship levels, nationally approximately 50% of apprenticeships are started by those aged 16-24 and so half started by those aged 25+.

Health Education England:

In the NHS the average age of those starting a degree apprenticeship is 22+.

Q. How can you find out what degree apprenticeships are available in the North East?

ASK Apprenticeships:

Employers and providers advertise their apprenticeship vacancies in a number of locations, there is not one central point of reference. Therefore, it is key for those supporting young people to encourage them broaden their searches. Websites like gov.uk, find an apprenticeship, UCAS apprenticeships, North East Jobs, NHS Jobs, etc. will have vacancies, likewise many employers choose to simply advertise on their websites alone and so research is the key. Training providers/Universities will also advertise the opportunities on their websites, social media and other comms routes too. We encourage those searching to sign up to newsletters, websites, LinkedIn, etc. so that they have the breadth of opportunities coming to them. We emphasise it is their time and effort that they need to put into searching.

Health Education England:

NHS apprenticeships are advertised on:
<https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

Q. North East vacancies seem somewhat sparse, particularly in the digital sector of which we as schools and sixth form are asked to promote. There are a few key players for digital degree apprenticeships (Accenture, EY...) are there any others?

Over 50% of all levels of apprenticeships are started with large employers such as those mentioned above and so the other half are with small to medium sized, perhaps local businesses which may simply recruit as and when they need an apprentice. In terms of Digital apprenticeships many employers offer opportunities from Level 4+, even if the company themselves are not necessarily in the digital sector, for example Rolls Royce offer a range of degree apprenticeships including one in Digital and Technology Solutions. GSK offer digital roles alongside others, Network Rail offer an IT and Business Services Degree apprenticeship, etc.

ASK Apprenticeships:

Please note that Higher Levels (Levels 4 & 5) are important to search for alongside degree apprenticeships as many employers hire at this level to ensure a number of years in industry. Some may continue to fund a degree apprenticeship or further qualifications once this is complete. Some students may even find a Level 3 apprenticeship beneficial to enter a certain industry and then work within the Company to progress in both job role, experience, and level of qualification.

We have included some further information at the end of this document about searching for specific sector opportunities.

Q. Is there any central record of a recruitment cycle/key dates or is it down to the individual employers?

ASK Apprenticeships:

This is completely up to the employer and training provider/university when they advertise and how long each recruitment process will be. Some employers start recruitment in the Autumn advertising opportunities for the apprenticeship to start the following September, in the case of Higher and Degree opportunities. However, many of the recruitment windows are much shorter and the apprenticeship can actually start any time of the year. We would always say to be ready anywhere up to a year before they are available to start. If starting Year 12 for example, get them to research now what employers advertise when throughout the year so they are prepared when they would like to apply. Some have specific apprenticeship 'windows' throughout the year such as a number of Local Councils and employers such as GSK, some will be adhoc based on need.

Health Education England:

Determined by individual employers, it's a good idea to set up notifications on NHS jobs as apprenticeships are advised all year round.

Q. Any option of completing a degree apprenticeship within the same number of years as a normal degree (three years)?

ASK Apprenticeships:

This depends upon the employer and provider. Holding down a full-time job with responsibilities and studying towards a degree certainly takes a skill and so the time allocated for the apprenticeship will be appropriate to the role and industry to ensure that they can be successful in getting the degree, understanding their role, the industry and succeeding in the workplace. Many degree apprentices get extra responsibilities over and above, such as tutoring any new apprentices that are recruited, etc. so they do carry a lot of work within the time frame.

Health Education England: Yes, and longer if part time.

Q. Some of my students are particularly interested in apprenticeships within the NHS and Teaching, can you give me some more information?

ASK Apprenticeships:

NHS Jobs website will have more information on the pathways to careers and search each local NHS Trust as they will vary as to what apprenticeship opportunities they offer. They often have open days and sometimes Summer Programmes to get involved with. Whether it is entering the Education sector as a Level 3 teaching Assistant apprentice or going straight into a Level 6 standard it will be the individual school/trust advertising and the provider.

Health Education England: See our website dedicated to NHS apprenticeships <https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/>

Q. There are so many places to search the Degree Apprenticeships, which site should we recommend to students to use, as it updates regularly and houses them all?

ASK Apprenticeships:

UCAS, Not going to Uni, Company websites, Training Provider Websites, jobs boards, social media jobs boards. The more online newsletters and companies/providers they follow the more chance of finding opportunities. If they know an employer hires apprenticeships but there are no vacancies advertised at that time of searching – contact them asking when their recruitment process starts, what roles. Get involved with onsite and inline open days, etc. Being proactive goes a long way.

Health Education England: For NHS vacancies, visit: <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/>

Further Information from ASK Apprenticeships

In addition to the vacancy search tools that are mentioned above, another way to search is through the qualification side of the apprenticeship.

To understand what Apprenticeship Standards are available the students can follow this simple search:

Step 1:

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

Search through this website to find the most appropriate standard, categorised by sector and level (keep the level at least 4, 5, 6 to see breath of opportunities not just Degree). Lots of information on these to understand what they would be studying as part of the qualification.

Step 2:

<https://findapprenticeshiptraining.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/courses>

Once they find a Standard of interest, add it into this website's search function to find the relevant Training Providers who deliver this standard nationally. Even if it is not in the North East this is not always important as many will cover England via their team travelling to the employers or distance learning for example.

Step 3:

Research through the website above, find the relevant Providers and contact them directly as there is always an email address contact. Ask to be added onto a mailing list or for direct contact with a team member that can communicate about the Standard they are interested in. Research all the Provider websites for further information, any vacancies and employer information too. Sign up to their newsletters etc to be in with the best chance of seeing vacancies. Some Providers may be able to interview direct and support with finding an employer to match with, at the very least signpost opportunities to apply for.

Further websites for Careers Lead Support

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

ASK Programme

Our Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge (ASK) Programme is designed to support these questions directly with the learners in your school/college to support you with the work that you are doing and emphasise key points that you are getting across to the learners. We are fully funded, ready to engage with young people in your establishments. From the basics of 'what is an apprenticeship' to find an apprenticeship, application support, Interview skills, assessment centre day practice, access to free downloadable resources, etc., we can support you with this progression information and guidance. Please do contact us and we can arrange a planning meeting with you:

Helen Inness, Apprenticeship Advisor helen.inness@bl-training.co.uk

Donna Mills, Apprenticeship Advisor donna.mills@bl-training.co.uk