



Department
for Business
Innovation & Skills

**Cost to you of becoming Higher
Apprenticeships**

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What is a Higher Apprenticeship?

A Higher Apprenticeship is a way to earn while you learn in a real job, gaining a real qualification and a real future.

Higher Apprenticeships incorporate a work-based learning programme leading to a nationally recognised qualification at level 4 and above, with Level 4 and 5 being equivalent to a Higher Education Certificate/Diploma or a Foundation Degree, Level 6 equivalent to a Bachelor degree and Level 7 equivalent to a Master's degree.

Benefits to you

Higher Apprenticeships deliver and offer a chance to earn as you learn.

Higher Apprenticeships are available at Levels 4 to 7 and offer a different route to traditional university study.

Costs

Higher Apprenticeship frameworks can include Further Education (FE) qualifications, Higher Education (HE) qualifications, professional qualifications or a combination of the three.

The cost for taking up a Higher Apprenticeship will vary depending on your eligibility for funding, the suite of qualifications within the Apprenticeship framework, the amount that the employer is willing to pay and your age. It may involve you taking out a HE tuition fee loan, a Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL) (for a maximum of 2 years) or a combination of the two.

Please note: regardless of your age, you will need to make sure that you meet the eligibility criteria for both FE and HE elements if required before commencing the Apprenticeship. The training provider will be able to advise.

If you are aged 16-18

The cost of FE qualifications up to Level 6 within a Higher Apprenticeship framework will be fully funded by Government providing that you and the suite of qualifications is eligible. If you have prior learning then the funding will be reduced in accordance with that learning.

The cost of HE qualifications is either met by the employer or by you taking out an HE tuition fee loan if you are eligible*. Where the Higher Apprenticeship has a professional qualification this cost is either met by the employer or by you.

If you are aged 19+

The cost of FE Qualifications up to Level 6 within a Higher Apprenticeship framework may be part funded by Government, providing that you are eligible and will depend upon your prior achievement and the specific suite of qualifications included within your Apprenticeship framework. The remainder is paid for by your employer.

The cost of HE qualifications is either met by the employer or by you taking out an HE tuition fee loan if you are eligible*. Where the Higher Apprenticeship has a professional qualification this cost is either met by the employer or by you. You may be eligible for a PCDL to help fund the professional qualification (for a maximum of 2 years).

More information:

More information on Higher Apprenticeships and the frameworks currently available can be found on the National Apprenticeship website:

<http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/Employers/The-Basics/Higher-Apprenticeships.aspx>.

There is a vast range of Apprenticeship opportunities with employers available on the Apprenticeship vacancies on-line system (which can be accessed via <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk>). The system helps you to understand Apprenticeships better and search through vacancies. As well as applying for existing vacancies, you will be able to register your interests in particular subject areas and will receive automatic notification of any potentially suitable vacancies as they arise.

Further information on PCDLs is available at www.gov.uk/career-development-loans/overview.

* And the course must also be designated for HE support purposes

Q and A

If my Apprenticeship lasts for more than one year do I need to reapply each year for my HE Tuition Fee Loan?

Yes. For an HE tuition fee loan, you will have to apply each year.

How much HE Tuition Fee Loan can I take out?

If you are an eligible student and your course is designated for HE student support you may be able to access up to £9,000 for a full-time course or £6,000 if it is offered by a private institution.

If you are studying on a part-time basis it is a maximum of £6,750 and £4,500 respectively.

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