

What apprenticeship is right for me?

It seems that everyone is pushing the pro's and benefits of apprenticeships - the government, the media, your peers and even schools and parents, but barely anybody has anything to say about choosing and finding the right apprenticeship for you.

How do you choose?

There are three main considerations: The level of apprenticeship; the type of apprenticeship and the type of employer.

What level of apprenticeship?

This tends to be one of the easier decisions you will make. In terms of available apprenticeships they range from Level 2 to Level 7.

As a school leaver or person without relevant experience, the Intermediate (Level 2) apprenticeship may be the perfect starting point.

However, if you have gained in excess of 5 A*- C grades at GCSE including English and maths, you may want to consider skipping straight ahead to the Advanced (Level 3) as a natural progression route. Likewise, if you have gained 2 A Levels at grade C+ you may want to jump straight in to a Higher Apprenticeship (Level 4 or 5) or Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6 or 7).

Please note: This may not be an option for all apprenticeship qualifications and you may be required to start at Intermediate and progress to Advanced. As a training provider we can support you in this decision.

Choosing a type of apprenticeship

With the hundreds of apprenticeship qualifications available from Business, Marketing, IT through to Management this may prove a slightly harder decision. If it is a case of you already know then great! If not there are online supports tools that could help you decide:

<http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/choosing-by-school-subject/>

<http://www.whatapprenticeship.co.uk/>

<http://www.allaboutschoolleavers.co.uk/career-test>

The key thing to remember is an apprenticeship is the first step to your future career so you will want to choose one that is relevant to your future career goals.

Keep an open mind and explore the opportunities in your desired location of work, there may be an apprenticeship you hadn't considered that could be perfect for you!

Please note: Bear in mind you may be restricted depending on what is available in your local area if you do not want to commute far or relocate. A little research in the current market goes a long way.

Choosing an employer

Just as important as the level and apprenticeship is who you are working for. Apprenticeship employers vary in the size and sector.

Large employers are more likely to recruit one annual intake of multiple apprentices and potentially have their own training academy and several offices.

Smaller employers tend to recruit throughout the year for one or two apprentices at a time and the office environment is more intimate.

You can research employers to determine their apprenticeship intakes and environment through their websites. A large number of employers also tend to hold open events and attend apprenticeship fairs where you can speak with the staff directly to gain answers you wouldn't find on a website.

Having reviewed these considerations, start researching the type of apprenticeship you want to complete then follow our CV guides and check out the jobs board to begin applying for opportunities.