

FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS

Explore this exciting new apprenticeship programme



What are foundation apprenticeships?

Foundation apprenticeships help young people gain technical knowledge and skills while earning a wage. They are designed for young people typically aged 16 to 21 (or 22-24 meeting the eligibility criteria) who want hands-on experience in key sectors like construction, digital and social care. These level 2 apprenticeships combine technical knowledge and skills with workplace learning, helping the apprentice to decide their next career steps.

Which standards are available?

The [first foundation apprenticeships](#) focus on industrial strategy and government mission areas, including:

Engineering & manufacturing

- Building service engineering
- Engineering and manufacturing

Construction

- Finishing trades
- Onsite trades

Digital

- Hardware, network and infrastructure
- Software and data

Health

- Health and social care

Where can you find vacancies?

As foundation apprenticeships are a new programme from 1st August 2025, it may take some time before we start to see lots of vacancies become available. Vacancies will start to appear on the Government's [Find an Apprenticeship website](#), as well as other jobs sites, employer websites and social media.

Who can be a foundation apprentice?

Foundation apprenticeships are only available for young people who are:

- aged between 16 and 21 (or 15 years of age if the apprentice's 16th birthday is between the last Friday of June and 31st August)
- aged between 22 and 24 years old, who either
 - hold an Education, Health and Care plan
 - have been, or are, in the care of their local authority
 - are in prison or a prison leaver

KEY FACTS



Foundation apprenticeships

- typically last for 8 months.
- support progression to more specialised apprenticeships (level 2 or 3) or direct entry to employment.
- help apprentices to develop employability skills and behaviours common to the workplace.
- are paid positions where the apprentice must be paid at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices.
- are currently available in 4 sectors, covering 7 different job roles.
- are for young people aged 16-21 (or 22-24 meeting eligibility criteria).
- have their own apprenticeship standard and assessment plan.

Learn more about apprenticeships and technical education
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