Department for Education

Amazing Apprenticeships

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE COMPANY

WHAT IS TECHNICAL EDUCATION?

A QUICK GUIDE



DAISY - FUNDRAISING APPRENTICE

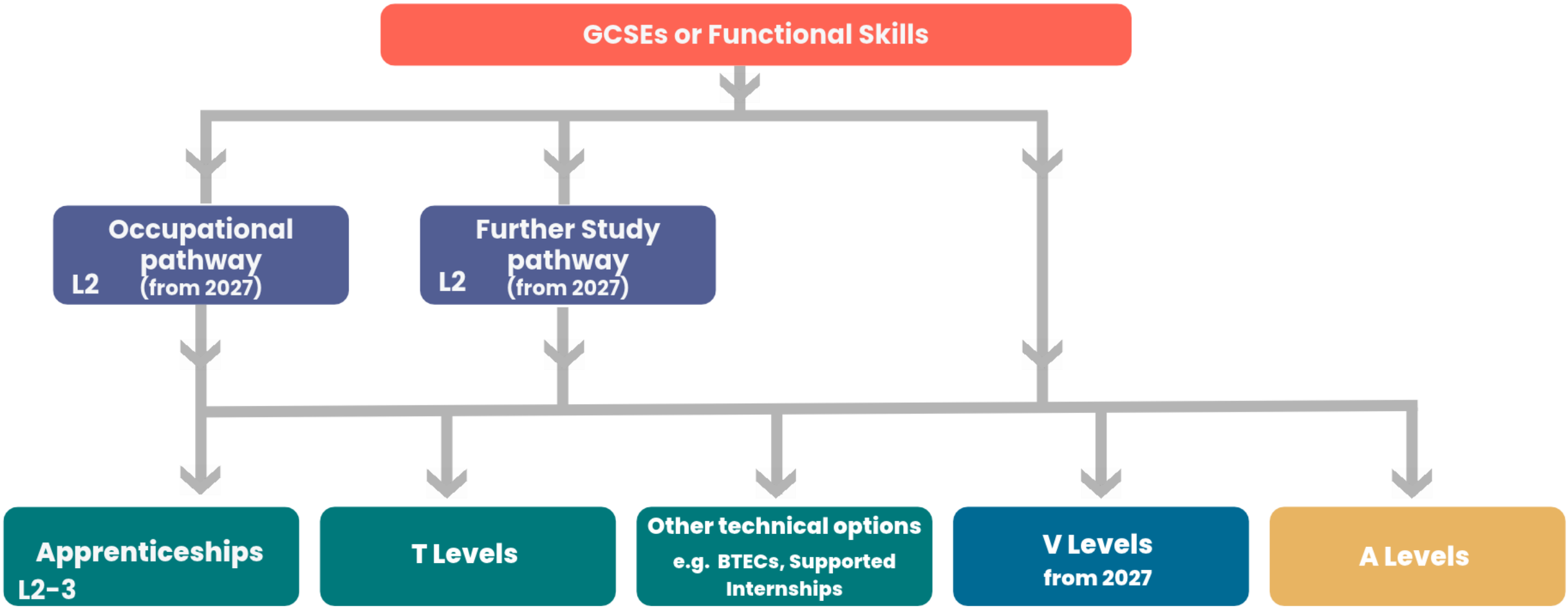
KS3/4 V3: OCTOBER 2026

TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Technical education focuses on practical skills and applied knowledge for specific careers.

- Practical learning
- Aligned with industry
- Developed by employers
- Bridges gap between theory and practice
- Career-focussed

The options


GCSEs or Functional Skills
Occupational pathway
L2 (from 2027)
Further Study pathway
L2 (from 2027)
Apprenticeships
L2–3
T Levels
Other technical options
e.g. BTECs, Supported Internships
V Levels
from 2027
A Levels

Who suits technical education?

Technical education is a great option for people who:



KELBY - NURSING APPRENTICE

Want to start working and earning



KARIMAH - JOURNALISM APPRENTICE

Want to get a head start to their career



KWAME - BRICKLAYING APPRENTICE

Know which industry they want to work in



JAKE - HTQ CONSTRUCTION STUDENT

Want a structured progression route



SOPHIE - T LEVEL SURVEYING STUDENT

Want to start getting workplace experience



TANMAI - DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY APPRENTICE

Want to continue learning

Ready to start working? What about...

Apprenticeships



Find out more!

Amazing Apprenticeships

Video: Assembly film

An apprenticeship is a real job

What do you know about ‘real jobs’?



- You are paid a salary
- You have real responsibilities and tasks
- You are an employee with a contract
- You go through an application process
- You learn by doing your job and from colleagues
- You get experience of the workplace
- You are part of a team

✓ Everything you’ve suggested about real jobs is also true about apprenticeships.

An apprenticeship is a real job

Like ‘real jobs’, if you are an apprentice...

- You are paid a salary
- You have real responsibilities and tasks
- You are an employee with a contract
- You go through an application process
- You learn by doing your job and from colleagues
- You get experience of the workplace
- You are part of a team

✓ All of these things are true about apprenticeships.

APPRENTICESHIPS

How is an apprenticeship different to a ‘real job’?

Working, earning
AND learning!



APPRENTICESHIPS

Key facts

Foundation - degree level

650+ standards - 70% occupations

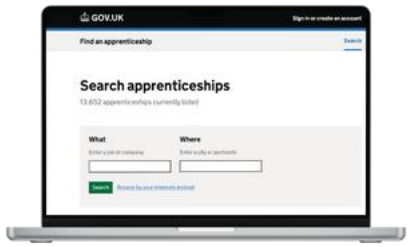
Typically 8 months – 6 years

Off-the-job training

Entry requirements

Progression

Finding an apprenticeship



findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

Different Levels of Apprenticeship		
Apprenticeship Level	Equivalent Qualification	Typical Duration
Level 2 (Intermediate)	5 GCSEs at grades 4-9 (A*-C)	12-18 months
Level 3 (Advanced)	2 A Levels	18-48 months
Level 4 (Higher)	Certificate of Higher Education (first year of degree level)	1-5 years
Level 5 (Higher)	Foundation Degree or Higher National Diploma (HND)	2-5 years
Level 6 (Degree)	Bachelor's Degree	3-6 years
Level 7 (Degree)	Master's Degree	1-6 years

[Search apprenticeship – Find an apprenticeship – GOV.UK]

Search apprenticeships

What

Enter a job or company

Where

Enter a city or postcode

Search Browse by your interests

Other Ways to Find Apprenticeships:

1. See our student opportunities letters:
October 2026: https://www.kls.herts.sch.uk/assets/Student-Opportunities-Issue-2-21st-September-2026.pdf
2. UCAS Apprenticeships
UCAS now lists thousands of apprenticeship vacancies alongside university courses.
Website: https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships
3. Not Going to Uni
A dedicated site for school leavers seeking alternatives to traditional university.
Website: https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk
4. Unifrog
https://www.unifrog.org/student/help/direct/the-apprenticeships-tool
5. LinkedIn
Search for: "Apprenticeship“; "Degree Apprenticeship“; "School Leaver Programme"
You can set job alerts and follow employers you're interested in.
6. University Websites
Many universities partner with employers to deliver degree apprenticeships.
Search "degree apprenticeship" on university websites.
7. Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal
Local apprenticeships in Hertfordshire.
https://www.hopinto.co.uk/opportunities/apprenticeships/

Or use your connections

Or drop in on companies/ businesses

Degree Apprenticeships

Apply Directly to Major Employers

Many large employers recruit degree apprentices annually. Examples include:

- **PwC** (Accounting, Tax, Technology)
- **Deloitte** (Consulting, Audit, Cyber Security)
- **KPMG** (Audit, Technology, Data)
- **EY** (Business, Finance, Technology)
- **Rolls-Royce** (Engineering)
- **BAE Systems** (Engineering, Cyber)
- **Network Rail** (Engineering, Project Management)
- **BT** (Digital, Cyber Security)
- **IBM** (Technology)
- **Amazon** (Operations, Software Engineering)
- **NHS** (Nursing, Allied Health, Management)

Most open applications in the autumn for starts the following year.

Degree Apprenticeships:

Use Specialist Degree Apprenticeship Sites

- UCAS Degree Apprenticeships: https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/degree-apprenticeships
- Amazing Apprenticeships: https://amazingapprenticeships.com
- RateMyApprenticeship: https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk

Check Entry Requirements

Typical requirements are:

- **Level 6 Degree Apprenticeship:** usually 96-144 UCAS points (often BBB to AAB at A Level, depending on employer).
- **Level 7 Degree Apprenticeship:** often a bachelor's degree or equivalent experience.

For a sixth-form student taking A Levels, Maths and STEM subjects are often preferred for engineering, computing, and data roles.

Degree Apprenticeships

1. You Earn a Degree

With a Level 6 degree apprenticeship, you graduate with a bachelor's degree from a university such as:

- Hertfordshire, Warwick, Aston, Exeter, Manchester but you are employed throughout your studies.

2. No Tuition Fees

- Traditional university: typically £9,250 per year tuition fees.
- Degree apprenticeship: employer and government fund the training and degree.

3. You Earn a Salary

Typical starting salaries:

- Level 2-3 apprenticeships: around £12,000-£22,000
- Degree apprenticeships: often £20,000-£30,000+ depending on sector

For example:

- Engineering apprentices at firms such as MBDA, Airbus, or Rolls-Royce often start in the £20k-£25k range.
- Digital and technology apprenticeships can be similar or higher.

4. Less Time at University

A typical degree apprentice might:

- Work 4 days a week and study 1 day a week ("day release") rather than attending university full-time.

5. More Competitive

Degree apprenticeships are generally much harder to get because applicants receive:

- A degree
- Work experience
- A salary
- No student debt from tuition fees, but not available to apply for student loans

This is why many applicants submit 10-15 or more applications.

Typical Timeline		
Apprenticeship Type	When to Apply	Start Date
Level 2 & 3 (Intermediate/Advanced)	September to July	Throughout the year
Higher Apprenticeships (Level 4-5)	September to March	August to September
Degree Apprenticeships (Level 6-7)	September to February (sometimes March/April)	August to September

How many applications may I need to make?

- **Less competitive Level 2-3 apprenticeships:** many applicants receive an offer after **3-10 applications**.
- **Higher and Degree Apprenticeships (Level 4-7):** it's common for successful candidates to make **10-30 applications**.
- **Highly competitive programmes** at employers such as Rolls-Royce, Airbus, BAE Systems, Deloitte, PwC, and Amazon can have **50-100+ applicants per vacancy**, meaning even strong candidates may apply to **20+ opportunities** before securing a place.

What increases your chances?

1. **Apply early**: many employers recruit on a rolling basis and close vacancies once filled.
2. **Mix aspirational and realistic choices**:
    1. Aspirational: PwC, Deloitte, Airbus, Rolls-Royce.
    2. Strong prospects: local employers, councils, NHS trusts, utilities, and medium-sized firms.
3. **Tailor each application** to the employer's values and role.
4. **Prepare for online tests** (verbal, numerical, and situational judgement tests), which eliminate many applicants before interview.

You've almost certainly heard of A Levels....but

T-LEVELS

are the technical alternative!



Key facts about T Levels

T LEVELS

Two-year course

Alternative to A Levels or V Levels

80% study / 20% work

45-day industry placement

1 T Level = 3 A Levels

Designed by employers

Get work ready

Wide range of subjects



Looking for a vocational pathway?

V LEVELS

New Level 3 qualifications

Key facts about V Levels

V LEVELS

- Two-year course
- Alternative to A Levels and T Levels
- Combine with A Levels and English or maths
- Available in 3 subjects with more each year
- Similar in size to one A Level
- Designed around skills employers need
- Focus on applied learning
- Attracts UCAS points

V LEVELS

- **Aimed at students who would like to explore sectors without specialising.**
- **Blend applied learning with practical assessment and will include some non-exam assessment.**

From September 2027



Education and Early Years



Finance and Accounting



Digital

More subjects will roll out each year until 2030/31

A reminder of the options covered today

Apprenticeships

- A real job and paid a salary
- 8 months - 6 years
- Age 16+
- Levels 2-7
- On and off-the-job learning
- Nearly 700 apprenticeships across every sector
- Designed with employers
- Some carry UCAS points

T-LEVELS

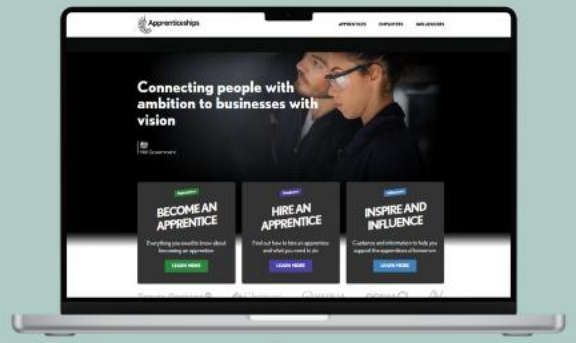
- Two-year course
- 16-19 year olds
- Level 3
- Equivalent to 3 x A Levels
- 80% classroom learning, 20% industry placement
- A wide range of subjects
- Designed with employers
- Carry UCAS points

V LEVELS

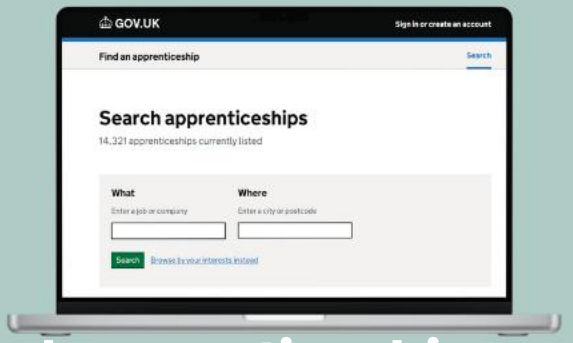
- Two-year course
- 16-19 year olds
- Level 3
- Equivalent to 1 x A Level
- Can be combined with other qualifications
- Available in 3 subjects with more each year
- Carry UCAS points

Find out more: online

Apprenticeships

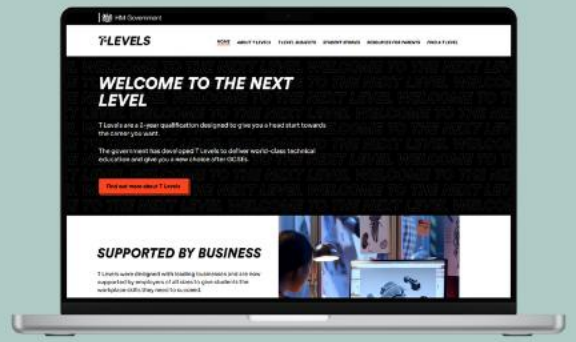


apprenticeships.gov.uk



findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

T-LEVELS



tlevels.gov.uk



amazingapprenticeships.com/t-levels

Amazing Apprenticeships

STEPS TO AN APPRENTICESHIP

What does securing an apprenticeship involve?



ACCEPT

Check key details before accepting, including location, working hours, salary and training arrangements. Ensure you understand what happens next and what will be expected of you.



PROCESS

Research the employer and understand the role. Practise talking about your skils and why you're passionate about the role. Be ready for interviews, online assessments and assessment centres.



APPLY

Apprenticeships are competitive and you may need to submit multiple applications before securing the right opportunity. Tailor each application to the role, check deadlines carefully and stay positive. Every application is an opportunity to build your experience.



SEARCH

Search for vacancies and compare options carefully. Consider the employer, job role, entry requirements, location, salary, working hours, qualifications gained, and future progression opportunities to help you decide which vacancies to apply for.



PREPARE

Prepare examples that demonstrate your skills. Many employers like applicants to use the STAR method (explaining the Situation, Task, Action and Result). Consider experiences you've gained through school, work or volunteering that show teamwork, problem-solving and communication.



EXPLORE

Don't wait for a vacancy to appear. Start exploring the different types of apprenticeships, levels and the employers you might like to work for. Think about what interests you, what you're good at and where you could see yourself working. It's also a good idea to start exploring the apprenticeship application proces and what it might involve.