

NSCG

Apprenticeships

Magazine 2023

Pocket your potential

with an apprenticeship at NSCG

- 11 Latest Apprenticeship Vacancies
- 12 CV Tips
- 18 College Life
- 22 Parents' Guide



Welcom

Interested in an apprenticeship?

This magazine will give you all the information you need if you're considering an apprenticeship when you leave school.

From case studies of real-life apprentices, details of current vacancies and how much you could earn to interview and CV hints and tips. We've made sure we cover all the facts to arm you with everything you need to make the right decision for you.

Inside our apprenticeship magazine we will show you how you can pocket your potential as you combine practical training with study to ensure you're armed with the knowledge and skills needed for a successful future.

Who are we?

We're the Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG). We're Ofsted Outstanding and our consistently high qualification achievement rates place us in the top 10% of colleges in England for learners aged 16-18.

We deliver a wide and diverse range of apprenticeship qualifications covering 25 different sectors, including Construction, Digital Marketing and Leadership & Management.

On an annual basis we train more than 1500 apprentices, working with around 850 local and national employers, ranging from micro-businesses to some of the region's largest employers.

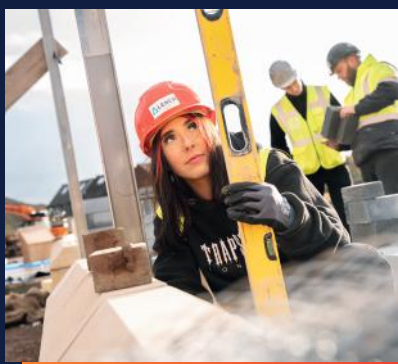
Did we mention our apprenticeship results are 13% above the national average too? This means no other local college is better equipped to help you reach your goals.



ne

Contents

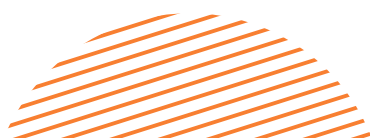
Subjects We Offer	04
The Apprenticeship Hub	06
Apprenticeship Inspiration Rachel Crawshaw - Digital Marketing	08
Who We Work With	10
Latest Apprenticeship Vacancies	11
Get Hired / CV Tips	12
Interview Dos and Don'ts	14
Apprenticeship Inspiration Vinny Lee Brennan - Hair Professionals	16
College Life	18
Apprenticeship Inspiration Jack Howell - Construction Plant Engineering	20
Parents' Guide	22
Apprenticeship Inspiration Ben Bartle - Engineering	24
How To Apply	26



We currently have around **1500** apprentices on programmes.

Subjects w

Subject	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	Higher Level
Accounting	•	•	•
Adult Care	•	•	•
Beauty Therapy	•		
Brickwork	•	•	
Business & Administration		•	•
Carpentry / Joinery	•	•	
Customer Service	•	•	
Digital Marketing		•	
Digital Software Technician		•	
Early Years	•	•	
Electrical Installation / Maintenance Installation		•	•
Engineering: Mechanical or Electrical		•	
Engineering: Plant Maintenance	•	•	
Hairdressing / Barbering	•	•	
Health Care	•	•	•
Hospitality & Catering	•	•	
Learning Mentor		•	
Management / Team Leading		•	•
Motor Vehicle		•	
Plant Maintenance	•	•	
Teaching Assistant		•	



ve offer

Axia Solutions

Subject	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	Higher Level
Facilities Operative / Management	•	•	•
Health Care Cleaning Operative	•		
Print Technician		•	
Scientific Manufacturing Process Operative	•		
Waste Resource Operative	•		

Your study options:

Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2)

The Level 2 Apprenticeship is equivalent to five GCSEs at grade 9-4.

Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3)

The Level 3 Apprenticeship is equivalent to two A Levels.

Higher Apprenticeship (Levels 4-5)

The Level 4-5 Apprenticeship is equivalent to a university-level programme such as a Foundation Degree or HNC/HND.

Did you know?

As an apprentice you'll work in a real job for at least 30 hours per week and get yourself on the career ladder.

Get the right information

The Apprenticeship Hub

To help you find the right apprenticeship, the team at The Apprenticeship Hub can help you with all aspects of employment, including writing a CV and interview preparation tips.

They provide:

- Impartial career advice
- CV writing
- Help with finding a suitable employer
- Help with completing application forms
- Help with writing cover letters
- Interview support

Meet the team



Left to right: Natalie Bradley, Charlotte Me Hayley Joynson

Did you know?

The Apprenticeship Hub is a FREE service

on



Charlotte Meredith, Jack Pettitt and Hayley Joynson

Jack Pettitt

The Apprenticeship Hub Co-ordinator

“I am responsible for taking the lead on advertising apprenticeship vacancies and for co-ordinating The Apprenticeship Hub. My role is split between Newcastle College and Stafford College and I am the first point of contact for employers looking to recruit an apprentice. I also visit local high schools to deliver workshops on finding an employer, writing a CV and attending that all important interview.”

Natalie Bradley

The Apprenticeship Hub Administrator

“I am based at both Newcastle College and Stafford College and I process all of the apprenticeship applications that we receive. I co-ordinate monthly welcome events and invite applicants into the College for interviews as well as attending local schools and events with the team to promote apprenticeships and give advice and guidance on the process.”

Hayley Joynson

The Apprenticeship Hub Recruitment Specialist

“I am based at Newcastle College and I am responsible for employer liaison and matching candidates to the right apprenticeship placements. I provide guidance regarding candidates CVs, showing them how to improve and showcase their skills. I also coach the candidates through the interview process, giving them lots of interview tips throughout their journey.”

Charlotte Meredith

The Apprenticeship Hub Administrator

“I invite applicants to welcome events at college and set up interviews with potential apprentices. Along with the team, I also visit local schools to speak with pupils about studying an apprenticeship when they leave school. I have previously studied as an apprentice myself, so I have a real understanding of what’s involved.”

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because although I did apply to university, I wasn't entirely sure it was something I wanted to do. The idea of 'earn as you learn' really appealed to me as I could gain work experience whilst still gaining a qualification which ticked all the boxes.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I studied my A Levels at Newcastle College so I knew a lot about the Apprenticeship Hub and they had been really helpful with letting me know the roles available. I applied for a position with DJH Mitten Clarke independently and they already worked with Newcastle College so having attended previously, I knew it would be a great fit for me.

What does a typical day look like?

A typical day for me will be arriving into the office, checking my emails and having a catch up with my manager to go over my list of pending jobs, discussing what my priorities are. One of my main responsibilities is handling the company's social media channels and creating posts to share what we've been up to. This could be a community project we've been involved in or a social event we've hosted, so I'll create content and graphics around that and get it ready to post. I also have regular meetings with my team where we delegate jobs so every day looks very different.

What skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

I have developed a lot of digital skills such as coding and how to use different content creation software such as Canva. I've also developed a lot of personal skills too such as communication and I've really grown in confidence thanks to working within an office and with a team. I feel like I've grown as a person thanks to having this apprenticeship.

What is your college and work life balance like?

I do four days in the office and one day at home or in college doing my studies. This really helps as I get all my apprenticeship work done during my study day and then I get to put all of the theory that I've learned in to practice when I am in the office.



What support do you receive from your assessor?

I receive lots of support from my assessor, whether it's help with questions about my workplace or about my college work, he's always just a phone call away. We have regular meetings to go through all the work I've got and he sets me targets on things to achieve before the next time we meet, so he's a great support and really encouraging.

How did you feel when you were offered the job at DJH Mitten Clarke?

When I was offered the job at DJH Mitten Clarke I was thrilled because it's such a great place to work, we host lots of social events together and the marketing team is fab. There's around six of us in total so I'm working with people that have a got a lot of experience in the industry which is really beneficial.

What's the most interesting project you've been involved in so far?

It's probably been our team event that we host every summer called the Summer Summit which sees all six DJH Mitten Clarke offices from across the region come together in one place. There's about 300 people in the company in total and so I have a lot to do in terms of organising the event. We have a guest speaker, do team games and put on a team lunch and I get to create all the visuals for the event and work on the presentations and proposals in the lead up to the event itself. We also have a videographer attend so I get to help edit the footage to share on social media and with the team. Seeing it all come together was incredibly rewarding.

What's been the most memorable moment so far?

The most memorable moment for me has probably been passing my exams. I had to do two exams in marketing and also a coding exam which was something I'd never done prior to my apprenticeship. Passing them first time was a big achievement for me and something I'm very proud of.

What would you say to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

I would say 100% go for it. It's a great way to gain experience on the job as well as gaining a qualification and for me personally it's been the best thing I have ever done.

“ It's a great way to gain experience on the job as well as gaining a qualification. ”

Rachel Crawshaw

Digital Marketing Apprentice,
DJH Mitten Clarke

Watch
video
here:



nscg.ac.uk

We work with more than 850 employers across Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire.

Here is an example of a few of them:



Latest Vacancies

We have dozens of live apprenticeship vacancies that are waiting to be filled by young, energetic and hard-working individuals like you. Here is just a small selection:



Bookkeeping Apprentice

Employer:

DJH Mitten Clarke

Weekly wage:

£230.77

The job:

Completing reconciliations and adjustments to produce accurate information

Preparing and submitting VAT returns under various VAT schemes

Posting and scanning invoices

Completing accounts to trial balance

Building long-lasting relationships with clients and wowing them daily

The Benefits:

Great salary

Generous holiday allowance

Flexible-working hours

Training & full AAT study support

What you'll need:

GCSE grades A*- C (9-4) to include maths and English (or equivalent)



Electrical/Mechanical Engineer Apprentice

Employer:

TT Pumps

Weekly wage:

£ competitive

The job:

Varied day-to-day duties relating to the inspection, repair and manufacture of pumps and motors. This will include inspection of motors, shafts and internal components diagnosing issues and fault finding to investigate products failures

Build-up of a wide variety of pumping equipment starting with standard modifications such as removing and installing floats

Test of this equipment, working cleanly, efficiently, managing time management to ensure the product is perfect before leaving the workshop

The Benefits:

Initially 28 days holiday raising to 33 days with each year of service, including bank holidays

Auto-enrolment pension

Private healthcare, critical illness cover and death in service cover on policy renewal

Modern air-conditioned office facility

Free onsite parking

What you'll need:

GCSE grades A*- C (9-4) to include maths, English and Science (or equivalent)



Langley Alloys

Business Administration Apprentice

Employer:

Langley Alloys

Weekly wage:

£200.00

The job:

Responding to customer enquiries via telephone and email

Generating quotations for existing customers

Creating new accounts and loading orders

Reviewing order progress to ensure successful completion

Reviewing accuracy of supplier paperwork

Entering product information into our ERP system

Seeking shipping quotations

The Benefits:

Pension scheme

A proportion of the company profit-share bonus.

Free parking (or bike store and connection to charge electric bike/scooter)

Full involvement in business reviews

Christmas party

Work wear

What you'll need:

GCSE grades A*- C (9-4) to include maths and English (or equivalent)

View our latest vacancies here:



Get hired.

In case you didn't know, CV stands for curriculum vitae which is Latin for GIVE ME A JOB! Just kidding, it roughly translates to "course of one's life" and is a document we use when applying for jobs.

It allows you to summarise your education, skills, experience and hobbies enabling you to successfully sell yourself and stand out from the crowd. Writing a CV isn't easy, especially when you're starting from scratch, so we've compiled a handy guide and list of Dos and Don'ts to help you get started...



We work with over
850 employers across
the region

Download
our CV
template
here:



How long should a CV be?

A standard CV should be no longer than two sides of A4. As a school leaver your CV may only take up one page and that's OK! You can include any relevant work experience, hobbies or interests relating to the type of job you're going for and include any special roles or projects you were involved in at school.

What to include in a CV

Contact details - include your full name, home address, mobile number and email address.

Profile - at the top of your CV, the profile acts as a statement that summarises you as a person. You can include your interests, achievements and what kind of job you're looking for but keep it snappy.

Education - include where you've studied, for how long, and what grades you got. If you haven't got any results yet, put your predicted grades. You don't need to include your primary school results.

Work experience - at this stage, employers won't expect you to have lots of work experience, but they'll be interested in any that you do have. This could include a part-time job you have, any work experience you undertook during school or volunteering in family businesses.

Skills and achievements - if you were a class representative, on a sports team or School Council member, mention it all! You may not realise that these responsibilities will showcase transferable skills, skills such as time management, reliability, communication and people skills all of which are things employers look for in a potential candidate.

Do

Use a suitable email address. Don't include anything like 'badboy27@gmail.com'. Make sure your text isn't larger than font size 14. If you're trying to fill space it'll stand out straight away. Add as much relevant work experience as possible including volunteering and shadowing and show what skills you developed. Sell yourself in the first paragraph.

Ensure your punctuation and grammar is correct. This shows attention to detail.

Don't

Don't lie about any work experience or skills you have. You will get caught out!

Don't write in long paragraphs. Keep it short and snappy to intrigue would-be employers.

Do not add private information such as sexual orientation and religious beliefs.

Do not use colourful text and creative fonts - especially not Comic Sans.

Don't fear the gaps. Even if you think your CV looks bare, as long as you include relevant skills and any applicable attributes you hold that make you the ideal candidate, you needn't worry.

Interview

Preparation is key when it comes to interviews, so ensure you give an excellent first impression and follow our helpful hints and tips...

Do:

Your research

Take the time to read up on the company, scour their website, read any recent news stories about them and get clued up on the industry. They will ask what you know about the company so wow them with what you've learned.

Practice, practice, practice

Have a look online at potential interview questions you may be asked and practice your answers out loud. One of the key things employers will be looking for is good communication skills so staging practice interviews with a teacher, parent or friend will help you feel more prepared.

Dress to impress

Ensure you dress smartly, look bright and attentive and speak clearly. Prepare your outfit ahead of time so you're not flustered on the day and dress appropriately. A formal suit might not be appropriate for a plumbing apprenticeship but it might for one in accounting. If you're ever unsure, ask The Apprenticeship Hub.

Make a great first impression

Find out where the venue is ahead of time and give yourself enough time to arrive. You should aim to arrive around 10 minutes before the start of the interview. It's a good idea to take the details of the interviewer with you, including a contact number and email address so you can get in touch if you are unexpectedly held up.

Stay calm

We understand that interviews can be daunting so take your time when you answer. If you can't think of an answer to a question, don't panic! The interviewer isn't there to trip you up and you can always ask to come back to this question later on so just remain calm, relax into it and do your best.

Useful things to take to an interview:

- Your CV
- Notebook and Pen
- A copy of the apprenticeship job description



Checklist.

Don't:

Be late

This is never a good start and won't help with your nerves at all! It'll also show the employer your time management skills aren't up to scratch so leave yourself plenty of time to arrive.

Lie

It's best to answer any questions as honestly as you can. The interviewer may see through you. Even if you do get the job, your employer can dismiss you if they find out you have lied in your application or interview.

Assume

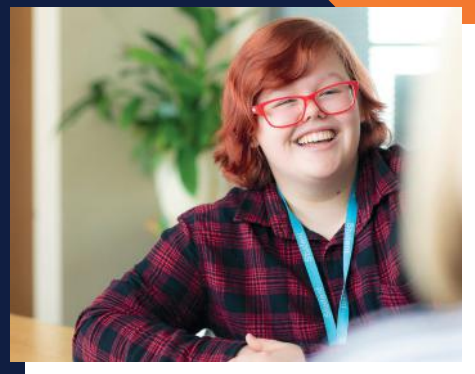
The employer may be interviewing a number of candidates, so never assume the job is yours. Be respectful and polite to the interview panel.

Get in touch

If you want to chat through your interview checklist to make sure you're prepared, get in touch with The Apprenticeship Hub team by calling **01782 254287 (Newcastle College)** or **01785 275660 (Stafford College)**.

You can also drop us an email at apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk

90% of apprentices gain employment after their programme



“ It was really important for me to gain as much work experience as possible whilst getting paid. ”



Vinny Lee Brennan

Hair Professionals Apprentice,
Colour Code Lounge

Watch
video
here:



nscg.ac.uk

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because I wanted to continue working in a salon but also gain a qualification. I love working in the salon and I felt it was really important for me to gain as much work experience as possible whilst getting paid at the same time.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I found my apprenticeship through my dad as he was a representative for a hair colour brand Newcastle College was using so he visited the College often and he felt it was the best one for hairdressing. I was working at the Colour Code Lounge already so I was able to continue working here whilst studying my apprenticeship at college.

What does a typical day look like?

A typical day for me would be arriving to the salon at around 9:30am and the first thing I usually do is set up my station, put some music on to set the right atmosphere and then once the ladies start arriving, I get them all a hot drink and make them feel welcome before getting straight into work. It could be anything from a colour consultation or a restyle booked in – every day is different.

What skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

Being able to gain so much relevant work experience alongside my tutorage at college has definitely helped my hairdressing skills develop quicker. I've also developed my social and communication skills by chatting to clients which has helped my confidence to grow as well.

How does your assessor support your development?

My assessor ensures I can go to them if there's anything I need. I can ask her anything and know she'll be there to support with any queries or questions I might have, whether it's something hair related or to do with my apprenticeship. She's also pushing me to go for a distinction so to have that encouragement is great.



What's been the most interesting part of your apprenticeship so far?

The most exciting part of my apprenticeship so far has been winning the Quif Centre Stage competition. This is an industry competition where I had to work with a model and do a colour, cut and finish and present my work to a judging panel and live audience. Winning the competition means I'll be a guest judge on next year's Quif Centre Stage panel and I also won £1000 worth of Quif hair products.

I've also had the opportunity to work on Cheshire Fashion Week which was unlike anything I'd done before and Salon International which is a huge industry event. These kinds of opportunities really spiralled once I won the Quif Centre Stage competition and that's something I wouldn't have been able to do if I was in a classroom so doing an apprenticeship has definitely allowed me to explore lots of opportunities.

What would you say to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

I would say absolutely go for it. Compared to a full time course you're going to find you can learn so much more, so much faster and you can really experience the industry you're going in to which I think is so important. If you want to gain qualifications whilst earning a wage and gaining valuable experience, this is definitely the best way to do it.

College life.

NSCG offer over **30**
Apprenticeship Standards
at various levels

As an apprentice, you'll spend most of your time in the workplace but you'll still be a student at either Newcastle College or Stafford College which means you'll have access to top-class facilities and plenty of support in completing your college or study hours.

Learning resource centres (LRCs)

Each LRC contains dozens of computers running on high-speed networks and featuring the latest software. They also have 18,000 books, videos, magazines and newspapers to support your studies.

Independent learning zones (ILZs)

Our independent learning zones give students access to hundreds of brand-new computers. You can use these areas when studying outside of your timetable.



e



Coffee Lounge

If you love coffee, you'll love these hotspots. Grab yourself a freshly brewed Costa Coffee at Stafford College or Starbucks at our Newcastle campus.

Gordon Banks Sports Centre

All students get a discount on membership at the Gordon Banks Sports Centre at Newcastle College, where our indoor and outdoor sports facilities are amongst the best in the country. The centre has a gym, dance studio, four-badminton court sports hall, a full size floodlit 3G pitch and loads of fitness classes to help you stay in shape.

The Academy of Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy

The Academy of Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy features on both campuses and is open to students. The perfect place to unwind and enjoy a bit of 'me time' when you're not working.

The Riverbank Restaurant

Stafford College's restaurant, which is staffed by lecturers and students on Hospitality and Catering courses, can seat up to 50 people and is open at lunchtime and for two evening services each week. It opened when the College unveiled its £13 million Riverbank building and has a 4.5-star rating on TripAdvisor, so be sure to check the menus!

Brand New Skills and Innovation Centre

Our state-of-the-art, three-storey, 8,000 square metre development at Stafford College has been expertly designed to provide future learners with leading edge construction, engineering and hybrid vehicle technology workshops, along with innovatively designed social space, a 4-court sports hall, gym and 300-seat auditorium.

For more information, visit nscg.ac.uk

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because I've always been interested in mechanics and I wanted to pursue a career within the industry. I saw this opportunity come up with Marubeni-Komatsu and didn't think twice about applying.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I had a friend who was working for the company and he told me about the apprenticeship scheme with NSCG. I went online to find out more and to apply and then was invited along to an interview. All in all, it was a really easy process from start to finish.

What does a typical day look like?

A typical day is messy due to the oil, grease and muddy conditions you find yourself in when fixing plant machinery. When I get in, I check what jobs we've got booked in for the day and liaise with the team and make sure we've got the correct PPE and then get stuck in. I work with some very heavy plant machinery which can vary in weight from two tonnes up to 50 tonnes so there's plenty of variety and every day is different.

What skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

Apart from the mechanical and technical skills I've developed during my apprenticeship I've also grown in confidence and seen my communication skills improve. I'm dealing with customers and clients on a daily basis when I attend machine breakdowns and they always want to know how long the job will take so I have to conduct myself professionally and communicate effectively to manage their expectations.

What is your college and work life balance like?

It's pretty good. I go to work as normal every day for a couple of weeks and then I'll be on block release to attend college for 2-3 weeks. I live in South Wales but don't mind travelling to attend college as everyone at NSCG has been really supportive and the teaching is great. During the college time we're learning extra things that can benefit us on the job so it's good way to learn and gain a qualification whilst earning a wage.

How does Marubeni-Komatsu support your development?

Throughout the four-year apprenticeship, Marubeni-Komatsu gives you a tool allowance of £500 every year and when you complete the apprenticeship they give you a further £1000 for tooling. Equipment can be very expensive so this ensures we have the correct tools for the job and really helps financially.

What support do you receive from your assessor?

I have received lots of support from my assessor not only at work and on the job but if I have any questions or I need additional support I know I can go to my assessor for help. When it comes to college work as well, they make sure I'm up to date and not falling behind by setting goals and they check to ensure it's of a good standard so I feel very supported.

How did you feel when you were offered the job at Marubeni-Komatsu?

When I was offered the job with Marubeni-Komatsu I was shocked but very pleased at the same time. I was really hoping to get the job as it's an industry that's always interested me so to find out I had been successful was very overwhelming but it's been the best thing to happen to me.

What's been the most memorable moment so far?

I got nominated for Construction Plant-hire Association (CPA) Stars of the Future which is an awards scheme for apprentices and trainees in the construction plant industry. I think in the UK there are around 900 apprentices in the sector and many get nominated for the award. I got to go to the awards ceremony and I won Apprentice of the Year in the regional category which was Wales. I then got to go to the finals and won the award for Apprentice of the Year for the whole of the UK. That is something I'm very proud of and I'll never forget it.

What would you say to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

If you show interest, are passionate and keen to work, an apprenticeship is a great way to progress your career. You can also earn while you learn and not get into debt so it's a no brainer really. There are lots of opportunities and doors that open when you do an apprenticeship so my advice would be to absolutely go for it.

“ Winning
Apprentice of
the Year is an
experience
I’ll never forget. ”



Jack Howell

Construction Plant Engineer Apprentice,
Marubeni-Komatsu

Watch
video
here:

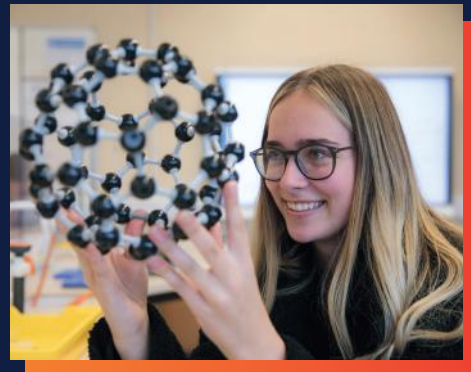


nscg.ac.uk

Parents' guide.

We understand that as parents and guardians you want your children to choose the right path. One that is going to give them a successful and happy work life.

There are some common misconceptions around apprenticeships being a less-reliable route to an accomplished career but they have changed A LOT over the last few years, offering more challenging learning programmes with the opportunity to study at university-level.



Your queries answered...

My son/daughter will miss out on university

Apprentices can study up to Level 7 with a university provider.

If they decide to continue onto an advanced apprenticeship, they will have had invaluable work experience, have no student loan to pay off, and be employed by an organisation that values and supports their dedication to work-based learning. On-the-job training alongside college-based studying is a great foundation for future studies.

Apprenticeships are low paid and only for manual jobs

This is definitely not the case with modern apprenticeships. The employers we work with really do value the work apprentices do for them and the fresh ideas and enthusiasm they bring to their workforce. Yes, pay can differ between industries, but many employers pay more than the Apprenticeship Minimum Wage and some higher apprenticeships can pay as much as £500 per week.

My son/daughter will be limited to the apprenticeship they can do

The recently created 'Apprenticeships Standards' are available across a wide-range of occupations and levels, so a dream career is in easy reach with an apprenticeship.

Training provided by our employer partners is bespoke and of high quality, and tailored to suit the demands of the job. Unlike training courses elsewhere, learning in this way helps apprentices understand exactly how things work as they learn along the way from experienced team members. This is a great way to build a deeper understanding of what will be expected of them once they progress into full-time work.

An apprenticeship won't lead into a full-time job

More than 90% of our apprentices stay in employment after their programme ends. Many of our employers see apprenticeships as a really important part of their long-term recruitment strategy especially those with an aging workforce, so there are many opportunities for apprentices to shine and secure a career.

Maths and English

Your son/daughter will require a minimum of grade 3 in both subjects. But don't worry, if they haven't yet achieved grades 9-4 in these important subjects, they'll continue with timetabled maths and/or English sessions to develop essential skills to ensure that they are prepared for continuing education or full-time employment.

“ It’s definitely going to give me more opportunities and help me progress up the career ladder quicker. ”



Ben Bartle

Engineering Apprentice,
Jodrell Bank

Watch
video
here:



nscg.ac.uk

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I had been working at Jodrell Bank for three years as an assistant telescope technician before I started my apprenticeship. They wanted to look for an apprentice and I was at a point in my life where I wanted to continue my education but wasn't sure what my next steps would be so they encouraged me to apply for the role.

What does a typical day look like?

I come to work and have an informal chat with my manager and team to find out what kinds of things they want me to work on. It can be anything from welding repairs on the Lovell Telescope, greasing the wheels or even managing the upkeep of the grounds. Every day is different which keeps things interesting.

What is your college and work life balance like?

It's good. I'm at Newcastle College one day a week but if I find I need any extra time to complete my work, my managers are very supportive of that and they let me have time off to get everything done. Dave, my tutor at college, is also great and is always on hand if I need any clarification or help with the work.

What is the support from your assessor like?

My assessor is great and really helpful. We have regular meetings to catch up and I can ask him anything and he's always there to help. He keeps me on top of my work by setting targets which help me stay on track.

How do you think your apprenticeship is going to help your career?

It's definitely going to give me more opportunities and help me progress up the career ladder quicker. I'm really happy here at Jodrell Bank and see myself working here for a long time, hopefully progressing into managerial roles one day. I am starting to manage my own projects now which I wouldn't have had the opportunity to do if I wasn't doing my apprenticeship.



What's been the most interesting project you've been involved in so far?

The Starlink Project has definitely been the most interesting. It's a project I'm managing on a device I've built to detect the radio interference from Elon Musk's satellite and how it impacts radio astronomy. I'm leading on the mechanical side of things and the findings will be used by the Professors to put a report together on the project.

What key skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

The skills I have developed are mostly the practical side of things like welding and performing heavy duty repairs, I wouldn't have been given the opportunity to do some of the things I've learned if I wasn't doing an apprenticeship. Similarly, the things I've learnt studying in class and learning how to use different software to manage projects has really helped me to gain a better understanding of the job.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

If you want to continue your education, an apprenticeship is a great way to do it whilst gaining vital hands-on experience and skills. You also finish with no debt hanging over you but great career prospects.

How to apply.

So you've got all the information you need and are ready to apply? Great! Our application process is really simple.

You'll need to apply to your chosen college at nscg.ac.uk

1. Once you've applied, you'll be invited for an interview at the College to discuss the apprenticeship and your suitability. If your interview goes well, you will attend a workshop to help you prepare for employment.
2. We can help you to find a work placement or you can search for one yourself.
3. You will attend interviews with employers.
4. Your start date will be agreed following a successful employer interview.



If you haven't heard from us within two weeks of your application, you can get in touch with The Apprenticeship Hub:

Call us on 01782 254287 (Newcastle College)
01785 275660 (Stafford College)
Or email us at apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk



It begins at:

nscg.ac.uk



Follow us:



Search for 'NSCGNewcastle / NSCGStafford'.

Newcastle

The Apprenticeship Hub team:

Knutton Lane
Newcastle
Staffordshire
ST5 2GB

T: 01782 254287

E: apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk

Stafford

The Apprenticeship Hub team:

Victoria Square
Stafford
Staffordshire
ST16 2QR

T: 01785 275660

E: apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk