

NSCG

Apprenticeships

Magazine 2026

Pocket **your** potential.

Discover Life as an NSCG Apprentice.

Learn from the Experts with our 'CV Tips'.

Get Ready to Experience College Life.

Questions on Apprenticeships? Check out our Parents' Guide.



Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider

Since 2019



welcome

Thinking about an apprenticeship?

You're in the right place. This magazine is your go-to guide if you're exploring an apprenticeship as your next big move.

Inside, you'll get the real story, straight from five apprentices who've lived it. They'll tell you what the journey's really like, from stepping into the workplace to finding their feet in a future-proof career. Plus, you'll find details on current vacancies, what you could be earning and super-useful tips on building a stand-out CV and nailing your interview.

We've packed in everything you need to feel confident about your next steps.

Think facts, insights and honest advice, all designed to help you make the choice that's right for you.

And the best part? You'll see how an apprenticeship lets you unlock your potential while you learn on the job. It's practical experience. It's qualification-boosting study. It's the skills and know-how you need to shape the successful future you're aiming for.



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Who are we?

Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG) have a national reputation for educational excellence, we are 1 of 13 Apprenticeship Expert Providers and are one of only two providers in the region to be Ofsted outstanding.

Our consistently high qualification achievement rates place us in the top 5% of colleges in England for learners aged 16-18.

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.

We deliver a wide and diverse range of apprenticeship standards covering 24 different sectors, including Accounting, Health Care, Early Years, Engineering and Digital. 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.

Careers we

Subject	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	Higher Level
Accounting	•	•	•
Adult Care	•	•	•
Brickwork	•	•	
Business & Administration	•	•	
Carpentry / Joinery	•	•	
Customer Service	•	•	
Construction *			•
Digital Device Repair Technician		•	
Digital Marketer		•	
Digital Support Technician / Software Developer		•	•
Early Years	•	•	
Engineering: Mechanical or Electrical **	•	•	•
Construction Equipment Maintenance	•	•	
Hairdressing / Barbering	•	•	
Health Care	•	•	
Hospitality & Catering ***	•	•	
Installation Electrician / Maintenance Electrician		•	
Laboratory Technician		•	
Learning & Skills Mentor			•
Management / Team Leading		•	•
Teaching Assistant		•	•

e offer

Delivered via subsidiary company Axia Solutions

Subject	Intermediate Level	Advanced Level	Higher Level
Facilities Services Operative / Management	•	•	•
Improvement Practitioner			•
Lean Manufacturing	•		
Print Operative / Technician	•	•	
Warehousing 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.

Discover more
about our
apprenticeships
at nscg.ac.uk



* Quantity Surveyor, Civil Engineering, Building Services Engineering

** Engineering Operative, Fitter, Lead Maintenance, Machinist, Manufacturing Technician, Mechatronics, Maintenance and Technical Support.

*** Commis Chef, Production Chef, Chef de Partie, Food & Beverage Team Member and Hospitality Supervisor.

Get the right information.

The Apprenticeship Team

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

They provide:

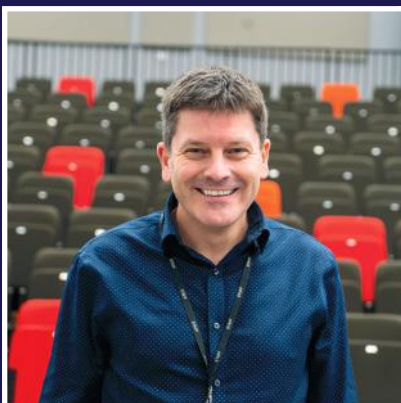
- Impartial career advice
- CV writing
- Help with finding a suitable employer
- Help with completing application forms
- Help with writing cover letters
- Interview support



Jack Pettitt

The Apprenticeship Hub Manager

"I am responsible for managing the recruitment team and leading the promotion of apprenticeship vacancies. My role is split between Newcastle and Stafford College, where I provide support to both employers and students. I also visit local schools to deliver workshops on apprenticeships, CV writing and preparing for that all-important interview."



Stephen Finney

Apprenticeship Manager

"I oversee the delivery of apprenticeships in Professional Services (Accounting, Business, Customer Service, Marketing, Team Leading & Management), Digital Services (Device Repair, ICT & Software) and Hairdressing. Working closely with local employers, I ensure high-quality training that develops local talent, while supporting my team to maintain outstanding standards of delivery."



Nicky Warburton

Apprenticeship Manager

"I lead the apprenticeship programmes in Early Years, Teaching Assistant, Health and Social Care, Hospitality and Catering and Laboratory Technician from Level 2 to Level 5, overseeing design and delivery, team leadership, learner management, stakeholder engagement, quality assurance and compliance and ensure workforce aligned development of new standards."



Dean Moorhouse

Apprenticeship Manager

"My role is to ensure that all apprentices within the Construction and Plant Maintenance reach successful outcomes and are supported through all aspects of their apprenticeships. I am split over both the Newcastle and Stafford sites."



Richard Gibbons

Apprenticeship Manager

"I lead the Engineering assessor team, delivering Level 2-4 Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering standards across the Newcastle and Stafford sites. I work closely with employers to ensure our delivery meets current and emerging workforce needs, while collaborating with curriculum teams to develop high-quality, industry-relevant programmes."

Did you know? The Apprenticeship Team offers a **FREE** service.

Amy Cole

Teaching Assistant Apprentice,
Chesterton Community Sports College

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because I prefer to learn hands-on, rather than in a classroom setting but I still wanted to have an element of theory-based education, which I have through my days in college.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

I found my apprenticeship through the College. They sent out an email with a list of different employers looking for apprentices. I applied through the College, was interviewed for the role and got the job straight away. I'm really enjoying my role, I've loved working with new people, working with different children and forming relationships with everyone.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Usually, I arrive at school at 8.20am and do interventions with students, then I'll support different students who have got Special Educational Needs (SEN) throughout their day. Before the end of the school day I have to record notes about the students so the team can keep up to date on their progress.

What skills have you developed as part of your apprenticeship?

During my apprenticeship I've developed skills such as independence, resilience, perseverance and patience. This is because I work with a range of children at different levels and they've all got individual needs and that requires me to have to learn and adapt to their requirements.

What support have you received from your assessor?

My assessor has been lovely throughout my whole entire apprenticeship.

She's helped me with my wellbeing and with my coursework if I've got any struggles with it.

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

I've really enjoyed going on different trips with the school and I've also enjoyed looking at different theorists as part of my coursework.

What would you say to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

I would tell them to go for it because you get so much experience. It's a completely different route, you're not sitting in a classroom for multiple hours a day and you're actually getting hands-on experience.

On completing your apprenticeship, what are your long-term goals in teaching?

My long-term goal after my apprenticeship is to be a primary school teacher. I would love to teach year three or year four students. I'm going to university in the new academic year, to allow me to go on to that in the future.

Why did you decide a teaching apprenticeship was the route for you?

I wanted to do a teaching apprenticeship because I love working with children. I've always found it fascinating just learning how children work; their minds and the way that they grow and become creative. I had my own struggles growing up and my teachers really helped me, so it's really inspired me to want to be that kind of person for other students.

Watch Amy's Video.

nscg.ac.uk



Caitlin Cronin

Multi-Channel Marketing Apprentice,
Haus Marketing & Distribution Ltd

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

After my GCSEs, I went straight into A Levels because it was the route my school encouraged. But studying subjects I wasn't passionate about helped me to realise what I really wanted, and guided me toward a path that suited me far better.

My auntie told me about Newcastle College and the apprenticeships they had on offer. So I went for an interview and we went over my CV. I signed up to the text message service, which sent me regular vacancies and through that I was able to find a company and industry that I felt would really suit me.

How are you finding your apprenticeship so far?

I'm finding it really fun. I've had so many cool opportunities, such as attending trade shows and influencer events. I feel like I've had a really well-rounded experience and my employer has been really thoughtful about how to help me complete all my apprenticeship assessment criteria. I've been able to get involved in lots of different areas under the marketing umbrella, such as SEO (Search Engine Optimisation), merchandising and design work.

What does a typical day look like for you?

Every day in this industry is different because we follow the seasons and key events throughout the year. One day I might be creating a brochure with seasonal offers and curating the pages, then another it's preparation for Christmas or Black Friday where I'll be designing banners and ads to promote gift guides.

What skills do you think you've developed during your apprenticeship?

I've developed my people and communication skills. Working with a team has helped massively with my confidence, and taking part in trade

shows and events has really improved how I speak to the general public. I've also been able to build industry-specific skills like photography, web design and email marketing.

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

The most interesting part has definitely been the events I've attended, one of my favourites is an event at Harrods. My role at the events involved speaking with influencers, doing PR tasks, taking photos and helping capture the atmosphere of the event.

So, what would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship?

I think it's the perfect way to step into the working world. I've already got nearly two years of experience in the industry, which has given me so much confidence.

An apprenticeship is a really good route for someone who isn't quite sure what they want to do but wants to gain real experience in the workplace. It's also a great way to get onto the career ladder. I had been planning to go into marketing without an apprenticeship, but many employers want experience.

The best way I could get meaningful experience was through an apprenticeship, where I've been learning everything on the job while also gaining a qualification.

**Watch
Caitlin's
Video.**

nscg.ac.uk



Get hired

Your CV, short for curriculum vitae, is basically your story on a page. It's your first chance to show an employer who you are, what you can do, and why you're someone they should want on their team.

Making it sharp, clear and memorable really matters. Think of your CV as your personal highlight reel. It's where you show off your skills, education, experience and even the hobbies that make you, you! A strong CV helps you stand out from the crowd and gives you the best shot at landing that dream opportunity.

But let's be honest, writing one from scratch can feel overwhelming. That's why we've put together a simple guide, plus some key Dos and Don'ts, to help you build a CV you can feel proud of.

Preparation

A little prep goes a long way when it comes to crafting a great CV. Start by jotting down all your past jobs, experiences, achievements and anything you're proud of, no matter how small it might seem. Seeing everything in one place makes it much easier to spot the standout moments worth shouting about.

Once you've got your list, use it to build out the sections of your CV. Think about what you did, what you learned and the skills you picked up along the way. This will help you shape a CV that truly reflects who you are and what you're capable of.





How long should a CV be?

Keep it simple, a CV should usually be no longer than two sides of A4. If you're a school leaver and yours only fills one page, that's absolutely fine! What matters is the quality, not the length.

Use the space to highlight anything that shows your skills and enthusiasm: part-time work, volunteering, hobbies, interests or any school projects or responsibilities that link to the job you're going for.



Do's

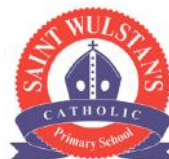
- Use an appropriate email address. If yours is badboy27@gmail.com, create a new account.
- Make sure your text isn't larger than font size 14. If you're trying to fill space it'll stand out straight away.
- Sell yourself in the first paragraph.
- Always, always, always 100% proofread and spell-check your CV. If you can, get a friend or parent to read through it and make sure you take on any comments they have. Ensure your punctuation and grammar is correct, this shows attention to detail.

Don'ts

- 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 worry if think your CV looks bare, as long as you've included all your relevant skills and experience, you're good to go!

We work with more than 1,000 employers across Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Shropshire and Cheshire.

Here is an example of a few of them:



Vacancy Example

We have dozens of live apprenticeship vacancies that are waiting to be filled by enthusiastic and hard-working individuals like you. Below is an example and what to look out for.



HONEYCOMB
GROUP

Communications & Marketing Apprentice

Employer:

Honeycomb Group

Weekly wage:

£264.25

The job:

- Help create fun and engaging posts, images and videos for social media
- Design print and digital materials like posters, leaflets, business cards and other branded items
- Keep website up to date
- Showcase homes by taking photos and writing property descriptions
- Support the management of the intranet platform and app
- Assist with internal and external events

The Benefits:

- Great salary
- Generous holiday allowance

What you'll need:

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

This is who you will be working for and the name of the role you are applying for.

Wages are typically displayed as what you will earn weekly, monthly or in some cases annually. It's important to take note as each vacancy can be different.

This is what each company would like you to do on a day-to-day basis.

Lots of companies like to offer extra incentives for the right candidate. So alongside your 9-5 you could be gaining additional qualifications, have flexible working arrangements or gain access to exciting development opportunities.

These are the grades you'll need to have achieved in order to be considered for the role.

View our latest vacancies.



Use this page to make notes and start building your own CV (your final version will need to be in an electronic format).

Name

Key Skills

Contact Details

Education

Work Experience / Part Time Job / Volunteering

Key Achievements

Interests

References

**Download our
CV template
here:**



What should you include in your CV?

Contact details: include your full name, home address, phone number and email address.

Profile: your profile is the intro paragraph at the top of your CV, a quick snapshot of who you are and what you can bring to an employer.

Think of it as your personal pitch: a short, confident statement that highlights your strengths, goals and what makes you a great fit for the role. Keep it focused and relevant to the job you're applying for.

Skills: employers will be looking for what skills you have, especially if this is your first job and you don't have much work experience. Popular skills that employers look for are; strong communication, teamwork, showing initiative, problem solving, flexibility, IT literacy and time management.

Try to provide an example of when and where you used your skills, it is likely you will be asked to talk about these in an interview so this is a good starting point.

Education: include where you've studied, for how long and what grades you achieved. If you haven't received your results yet, show 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 you can include any part-time or seasonal work you have completed as well as work experience or any volunteering roles you have had.

Key achievements: these allow employers to see your accomplishments, these could be achievements in school or your hobbies. If you were a class representative, on a sports team or a school council member, mention it all!

You may not realise that your achievements will show transferable skills, such as time management, communication and people skills, all of which are things employers look for in a potential candidate.

Hobbies and interests: this gives a potential employer the chance to understand what motivates you. If you haven't got lots of work experience this is where you need to give details of what you do in your spare time.

References: these are people who can talk about your work experience, character and skills. If you are successful employers will contact your referees and ask them about your ability, performance and personal skills.

Usually your referee will be someone from your previous job, but as a first time job seeker you could choose a teacher, lecturer, community leader or sports coach.

Kyan Atkinson

Carpentry Apprentice,
ME Bishop Ltd



Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because working and learning at the same time felt much more appealing to me than other routes. I learn best through hands-on experience, so this route suited my learning style.

How are you finding your apprenticeship?

I think my apprenticeship is going really well and I'm having a really a positive experience.

What's a typical day look like for you?

A typical day on site for me would start by going into the site office and signing in. Once I find out what plot I'm working in, I'll then go and talk to the carpenter I'm working with and get my jobs list for the day. At which point, I'll get out my tools and get started on my list of tasks.

So what is your college and work-life balance like?

My college and work-life balance is good, I spend one day in college and then the rest of the week in work. This routine allows me to build my knowledge while also gaining valuable hands-on experience on site.

What support have you received from your assessor?

I've received lots of support from my assessor, he comes into the workplace to check I'm doing alright, make sure everything's going okay and to take a look at my written observations and I know I can call on him if I need to.

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

The most interesting part of my apprenticeship has been learning general carpentry skills, which I need for a future in the industry. It's been rewarding to see myself improve and become more confident as I take on new tasks.

What skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

During my apprenticeship, I have developed a wide range of practical skills. I've learned to use various power tools, including chop saws and drills, and gained hands-on experience with tasks such as hanging doors, fitting latches and handles, I've also learned how to build stud walls, make accurate cuts, and fit skirting boards with clean joints and scribes. In addition, I have developed the skills needed to install window boards, including making the correct cuts, securing them to the window frame, fitting straps and using the appropriate tools to complete each job to a high standard.

So what inspired you to do a carpentry apprenticeship?

My Mum has always wanted to do house renovations, which inspired me when I was younger. So I've always wanted to try to get into doing that and everything involved in it. That's the main reason why I chose to do carpentry, because I can learn a lot of different aspects of how to renovate a house.

What would you say to anybody considering an apprenticeship?

You can learn far more practical, hands-on skills than you would by studying full-time in college, and you get real experience in the trade you're interested in. So if it feels right for you, I'd say just go for it.

**Watch
Kyan's
Video.**

nscg.ac.uk



Interview

Preparation is everything when it comes to interviews. A little planning helps you walk in feeling confident, calm and ready to make a brilliant first impression.

Do:

Your research: Read the job description carefully so you know exactly what skills and experience the employer is looking for. Then dig deeper: explore the company's website, socials and any recent news stories. Understanding who they are, what they do and their values and goals will help you stand out, and they will ask what you know about them, so wow them with your prep.

Practice, practice, practice: Look up common interview questions online and practise your answers out loud. Employers want to see clear communication skills, so ask someone you trust, a teacher, parent or friend, to run a mock interview with you. The more you practise, the more confident you'll feel.

Dress to impress: Plan your outfit the night before so you're not scrambling in the morning. Aim for smart and appropriate for the role, a suit might be perfect for an accounting role but less practical for a plumbing apprenticeship.

If you're unsure, the Apprenticeship Hub can point you in the right direction.

Make a great first impression: Know exactly where your interview is and aim to arrive around 10 minutes early. Take the interview details with you, including a contact name, number and email, just in case.

And remember to switch your phone to silent to avoid any awkward interruptions.

Stay calm: Interviews can be nerve-racking, but staying centred makes a huge difference. Try not to fidget, keep your posture relaxed and make eye contact, it helps you appear confident even if you don't completely feel it.

If you're stuck on a question, don't panic. Interviewers aren't trying to catch you out. You can ask them to repeat or rephrase the question, or come back to it later. Take a breath, reset and give it your best.

Checklist.

Ask questions: At the end, you'll usually be asked if you have any questions and you should! It shows enthusiasm and gives you a chance to learn more about the role. Good examples include:

"What are the opportunities for progression once I have completed my apprenticeship?"

"What does a typical day or week look like?"

"When can I expect to hear back?"



85% apprentices gain employment after their programme.

Don't:

Be late: Turning up late is a guaranteed confidence-killer and doesn't set the right tone. It also suggests poor time management. Give yourself plenty of time to get there, arriving calmly and on time helps you start strong.

Lie: Always answer questions honestly. Lies have a way of catching up with you and even if you were offered the job, an employer could withdraw it if they later find out you weren't truthful.

Being genuine builds trust and that's something employers really value.

Assume: Never walk in expecting the job is already yours. Employers interview several candidates to find the best match, so stay respectful, polite and professional throughout. Show them why you stand out, but stay humble with it.

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 / Leek College)**.

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

NSCG | Apprentice Inspiration: Engineering Operative

Raziya Akhtar

Engineering Operative Apprentice,
EA Spaces Ltd t/a ESG

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I chose an apprenticeship because I prefer more hands-on learning and you get highly qualified training, earn a qualification and a wage alongside, which is a bonus. As I'm doing an engineering apprenticeship, I feel like there's not many females in that sector, so it's an opportunity to represent females and ethnic minorities within a male-dominated sector and hopefully inspire others to join and do an apprenticeship.

How did you find your apprenticeship in the first place?

I found my apprenticeship through LinkedIn. I applied for the vacancy and then I got invited to an interview and gained the position of a CNC and Parts Technician at ESG.

How are you finding your apprenticeship, and how's it going on a day-to-day basis for you?

My apprenticeship's going really well. I've just completed my End Point Assessment (EPA) and I'm delighted to have been awarded a Distinction! I feel like I've learnt a lot of skills and knowledge within my apprenticeship. It's really interesting because it's a lot of hands-on work, but also learning the theory for the job as well.

What skills have you developed during your apprenticeship?

I feel like I've developed a lot of skills during my apprenticeship. Within the engineering base, I've learnt milling, turning, fitting and welding; it was the first time I have ever done welding and it was really enjoyable. And then within a work-based setting, I've learnt a lot of skills like communication, teamwork, how to read technical drawings and using a wide range of machinery like the CNC, Texel, table saws and a lot of hand tools.

What is your college and work-life balance like?

I would say my college and work-life balance is good. I come to work four days and then I'm at college for one day a week. I feel like everything I learn at college, I'm able to apply that knowledge within the workplace environment and I still have time on the weekends to go out and meet with friends and family.

What's been the most memorable part of your apprenticeship?

The most memorable part of my apprenticeship is working on a wide range of projects. We've worked with big companies like Samsung and Wagamama and made a lot of exhibition stands, which is quite interesting to see it all come together as I've played a role in creating the final piece.

What would you say to anyone considering an apprenticeship?

Definitely go for it. The assessors and your teams are really supportive, and I feel like the best way to improve yourself is becoming valuable; I believe knowledge is power and the best investment is in yourself.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Within five years I see myself developing further and becoming a project manager or SCM within the company, and also going on site and seeing all the exhibition stands and interior furniture all coming together as one.

**Watch
Raziya's
Video.**

nscg.ac.uk



College life.

As an apprentice, most of your time will be spent gaining hands-on experience in the workplace. But you'll still be a student at Newcastle, Stafford or Leek College, with access to top-class facilities, great learning spaces and all the support you need to complete your study hours and succeed.

Libraries

Get hands-on with the latest tech, software and digital tools designed to take your studies to the next level. Our campuses are packed with computers, 1000s of books, plus DVDs, magazines and newspapers, not to mention a wide range of online resources you can access from home. It's everything you need to study smarter, faster and better.

Independent Learning Zones (ILZ)

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



Student Services

Happiness is the key to success, which is why your wellbeing is our priority. Our incredible Student Services team can help remove any barriers that are getting between you and your learning. Whether you're eligible for in-class support, need financial advice and assistance or just need someone to talk to about a query or a personal issue, we're here for you.

Coffee Lounge and Food Hall

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. You can pick up a snack or sandwich here too, or if you want something a little heartier to eat, check out the Food Hall (The Gallery at Leek College).

Gym and fitness classes discount

All Newcastle College students get a membership discount for the gym and fitness centre at the Gordon Banks Sports Centre. You can be put through your paces with the fully equipped gym and a variety of fitness classes including Fast Abs, HOIT circuits and Pilates.

The Academy of Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy

If you've got some free time between lessons you can treat yourself in our campus salon. Unwind and enjoy a bit of 'me time' by getting a relaxing massage, manicure or a fresh skin fade! Our top class hairdressing and beauty therapy academies offer a wide range of services.



STOKE-ON-TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE

I	N	S	T	I	T	U	T	E	OF
T	E	C	H	N	O	L	O	G	Y

The new £25m, Stafford-based IoT first welcomed learners in September 2025. The Institute provides employer-focused higher level courses to equip learners with the advanced skills needed to quickly move into exciting jobs in engineering, construction, design and digital.

Led by NSCG and backed by key employer partners Dell, Hitachi Energy, MOOG, Siemens and Indurent, courses are designed and delivered to provide non-traditional routes to higher education for sectors where there are particularly pressing skills challenges.

For further
information, visit
sotsiot.ac.uk



Talia Testo

Assistant Accounting Technician Apprentice,
EMS Industries Ltd.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship?

I finished my A Levels and then started an admin apprenticeship. After a while, I wanted to learn a bit more, so I applied for a role at EMS. While working in my admin role at EMS, I developed an interest in the finance side of things.

Luckily, they were looking to hire people for the finance department. From there, my manager contacted Newcastle College and signed me up for my Level 2 Accounting apprenticeship, and it just all went from there.

Was finance something that you always thought you're going to do?

Not to begin with, but my mum's actually an accountant, so when she heard I was interested in finance, she immediately said, "Just go for it!"

And how are you finding your apprenticeship so far? What are your favourite things about it?

I'm really enjoying it. I like that there's a good balance, you get on-the-job experience alongside going into college.

That's something I struggled with during my A Levels because I couldn't really retain the information; I couldn't relate it to real-life scenarios. With an apprenticeship, being able to connect what I'm learning to real-life situations makes everything click and fit together much better.

Thinking back to when you first started, what skills would you say you've gained from your time here?

I've gained quite a few skills during my time here. I've definitely grown in confidence and improved my communication skills. I've also developed a lot of technical knowledge, including Excel and accounting software. Overall I feel like I've grown a lot from my apprenticeship.

What support do you get from your apprenticeship assessor?

My assessor, Lisa, has helped me a lot throughout my apprenticeship. She provides me with all the knowledge I need to complete my assessments confidently and is always there when I need her. I can get in touch with her anytime, and she's always supportive.

What would you say your favourite thing about your job is?

My favourite part is probably seeing everything come together. I've just completed my Level 2, and it reached a point where I had finished all the content of the apprenticeship and everything started to click. I gained a much bigger understanding of why I do the tasks I do and how all the processes impact the business.

For example, even something like posting a small invoice incorrectly can have a big effect, so seeing how it all fits together has been really rewarding.

Do you think long term in the future? What do you think you'll do next?

I'd definitely want to progress in my role here as much as possible. The end goal would probably be to become a Finance Director or reach that level. If my boss decides to retire, I'd happily take her role, but that's probably a long way off!

**Watch
Talia's
Video.**

nscg.ac.uk



Celebrating success.

At NSCG, we believe hard work deserves recognition and we're never shy about celebrating the incredible achievements of our apprentices.

Every year, so many of our learners are recognised for their dedication, talent and impact in the workplace.

Here are just a few of the standout success stories from our amazing apprentices.



Outstanding across the entire group

Following an Ofsted inspection in August 2025, Axia Solutions, NSCG's dedicated apprenticeship and workplace learning provider, was rated 'Outstanding' across all areas of provision, meaning NSCG is now Outstanding across the entire group. Inspectors praised apprentices who thrive and feel valued, expert trainers and high-achieving curriculums. This is a milestone that reflects our collective pursuit of excellence and our mission to provide the very best education and training for our communities.

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Apprentice of the Month Awards

Each month, all campuses hold a 'Student of the Month' awards presentation which highlights and recognises the individual effort, progress and dedication of college students throughout the academic year. One of the categories amongst these awards is 'Apprentice of the Month', a category specifically to showcase great things from our fabulous apprentices.



Celebrating future stars

Jack Lovesey has been named National Plant Mechanic of the Year (Level 2) at the CPA Stars of the Future Awards 2025, the UK's premier competition recognising the most promising apprentices and trainees in the construction plant sector. Jack, who trains with Liebherr-GB while completing his apprenticeship with NSCG, stood out from a highly competitive field to take the national title.



NSCG Apprentice shines on national stage

Level 3 Accounting apprentice Ella Beech attended the National Apprenticeship and Skills Awards final in London in November 2025. Working at DPC Accountants Limited, Ella impressed judges through the regional rounds and competed nationally for Intermediate Apprentice of the Year. With extremely fierce competition, sadly Ella didn't take home the award, but reaching the final is a fantastic achievement.

Parents' guide.

We know that, as parents and guardians, you want your young person to choose a path that leads to a happy, successful and fulfilling future.

And we also know that apprenticeships can sometimes be misunderstood.

The truth is, apprenticeships have evolved massively in recent years. They now offer high-level, challenging programmes with routes right up to university-level study. They're a reliable, respected and exciting way for learners to build real skills, earn while they learn and take confident steps towards a rewarding career.

Have a backup plan

We ***strongly advise all learners*** to have a backup plan when applying for an apprenticeship. Although apprenticeships are a great opportunity, securing an employer is not always guaranteed. It is important that you also apply for an alternative course in case you are unable to find an employer.

Having a second option in place gives you peace of mind while you continue your search for an apprenticeship.



Your queries answered...

“My son/daughter will miss out on university”

Apprenticeships can take learners all the way up to Level 7 with a university provider.

If they choose to progress onto an advanced apprenticeship, they'll already have a huge head start, real work experience, zero student loan debt and the support of an employer who values their commitment to work-based learning.

Combining on-the-job training with college study creates a strong foundation for whatever comes next, whether that's higher-level qualifications, career progression or university-level study.

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

Apprenticeship Standards are now available across a huge range of occupations and levels.

As you'll see on pages 4 and 5, we offer an extensive variety of pathways, meaning your son or daughter can take real steps towards a career they're genuinely excited about. The training delivered by our employer partners is high quality, bespoke and carefully shaped around the demands of each role.

Unlike many standalone training courses, apprentices learn directly from experienced professionals, gaining real insight into how things work in the workplace. It's a powerful way to build confidence, develop deeper understanding and prepare for the expectations of full-time employment.

“Apprenticeships are low paid and only for manual jobs.”

The idea that apprentices are simply “cheap labour” is well and truly outdated. The employers we partner with genuinely value the contribution apprentices make, from helping to fill vital skills gaps to bringing fresh ideas, new perspectives and real enthusiasm to their teams.

Pay varies between industries, but many employers choose to offer more than the Apprenticeship Minimum Wage. In fact, some higher-level apprenticeships can pay up to £500 per week, giving young people the chance to earn a strong wage while they learn.

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

More than 85% of our apprentices stay in employment once their programme ends, a clear sign of just how valuable apprenticeships are in the world of work. Many of our employer partners see apprenticeships as a key part of their long-term recruitment strategy, especially in sectors with an ageing workforce.

That means plenty of opportunities for apprentices to shine, progress and secure a meaningful career.

Maths & English: Your son or daughter will need at least a grade 3 in both maths and English.

But don't worry if they haven't achieved this yet, they'll continue with timetabled maths and/or English sessions to help them build confidence and gain the qualifications they need for further study or full-time employment.

NSCG | Apprentice Inspiration: Maintenance Electrician

Kylan Cozier

Maintenance Electrician Apprentice,
Drayton Beaumont Group

Kyan excelled during his Building Services Engineering T Level placement at Drayton Beaumont Services. His enthusiasm and technical growth impressed the team so much that they offered him an apprenticeship to complete his full electrical installation qualifications.

Are there any skills that you learned during your T Level placement that you have been able to use during your apprenticeship?

During my T Level Placement, I was able to build some basic skills, particularly around using the industry equipment. I was able to get to grips with a grinder, hacksaw, the multitool and use these to cut Dado plastic and metal conduit, so this has been really useful to transfer to my apprenticeship.

How did your employer support you transitioning from T Levels to an apprenticeship?

Tom at Drayton Beaumont was really helpful with the whole process. He spent a lot of time going back and forth over email with me to make the transfer as smooth as possible and to make sure I had the opportunity to build on the skills I had been developing.

So how did your T Level prepare you for an apprenticeship?

Going on to my T Level placement allowed me to get familiar with being on a work site and to work with all the safety regulations and the PPE. It also meant I could start building relationships with colleagues and I started to see some familiar faces. At the start of my apprenticeship, I felt a lot more confident than I did at the start of my T Level placement as I had a better grasp of the role.

So what projects have you had the opportunity to work on with Drayton Beaumont?

On my placement I worked on a project at Newcastle College, this was the college I was going to at the time, which

was quite handy for me. My first project, during my 160 hour placement, was working in the Sports Centre. Then in my second year I worked on the new Institute of Technology in Stafford, which was a bigger build than the Newcastle College project as it wasn't just an extension, it was a full build. I enjoyed that a lot more as there was more to the job that I was able to get involved in.

Knowing what you know now, if you were going to make this choice again, would you choose the apprenticeship route?

I feel I've made the right decision choosing the apprenticeship because it has helped me progress further. I have learned so much and worked on so many projects which I wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't have chosen this option.

What do you see yourself doing in the future?

Hopefully in the future I'd like to stay with Drayton Beaumont for a few more years and then maybe move to a bigger job in a bigger city or maybe abroad.

How do you feel that you've been supported by NSCG and by your employer?

Lyndsey from the T Level team at NSCG really helped with transferring me from my T Level placement to the apprenticeship. She navigated the process with Drayton Beaumont and was always just an email away if I needed any help.

**Watch
Kyan's
Video.**

nscg.ac.uk



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



SKILLS
FOR LIFE

APPRENTICESHIPS

1. Once you've applied, you'll be invited for a discussion at the College to discuss the apprenticeship and your suitability.
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:

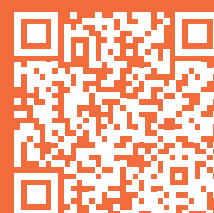
Call us on **01782 254287**
(Newcastle College)

01785 275660
(Stafford College)

Or email us at
apprenticeships@nscg.ac.uk



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apply.**



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