UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Degree Apprenticeships – An Introduction

History of Degree Apprenticeships

- First launched in **2015** with the introduction of the **Apprenticeship Levy**
- Initial Government ambition of **3 million apprenticeship starts by 2020**
- Governed by **Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education**: monitor performance and approve new Standards for delivery
- Education and Skills Funding Agency set strict **Funding Rules** which training providers and employers must adhere to
- These rules are applicable to **England only**. Scotland and Wales have a different set of rules.

Apprenticeship funding

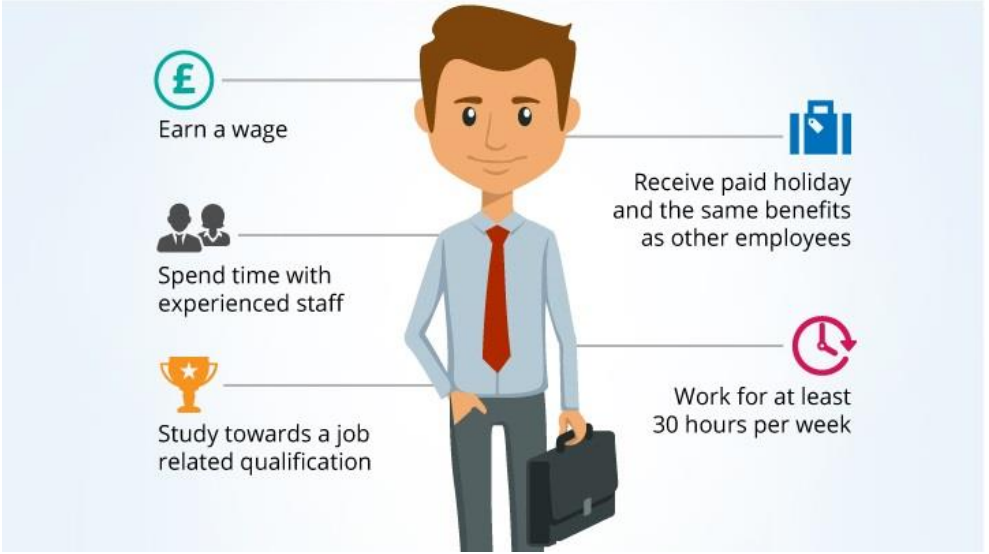
- All organisations with an annual payroll bill of over £3m pay the **Apprenticeship Levy**
- 0.5% of an organisations annual payroll bill, paid monthly to the Government and stored in the organisation's Levy Account
- The money in their pot is theirs to spend on apprenticeship training for their employees
- Funds stay in their Account for 2 years, after which it goes back to Government
- After 2 years, it goes to the Government who use it to subsidise apprenticeship training for companies with a payroll bill below £3 million

Apprenticeship Levels

Apprenticeship Level	Equivalent standard qualification
2	GCSE
3	A Level / BTEC
4	Year 1 Undergraduate degree
5	Year 2 Undergraduate degree
6	Full Undergraduate degree
7	Master’s degree

What is an Apprenticeship?

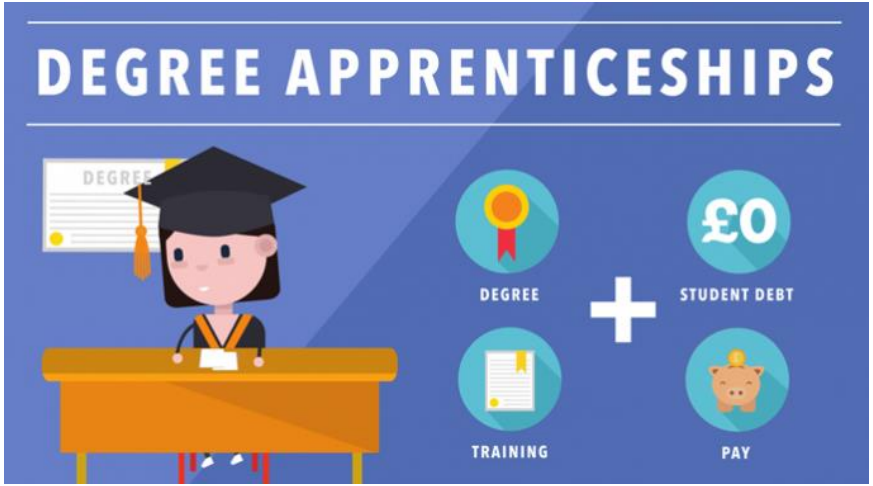
- Outlines the **Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours** (KSBs) required for a particular job / occupation
- Combine work and study by mixing **on-the-job training** with **academic learning**
- Apprentices are be **employed** to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification
- **Paid** at least the apprenticeship age-related minimum wage



- By the end of an apprenticeship, learners will have gained the **skills and knowledge** needed to either succeed in their chosen career or progress onto the next apprenticeship level

Key things to consider

- Apprentices receive a **full time salary** and **pay no tuition fees**
- Often very **competitive application process**
- Can be a different **student experience**
- Required to **balance** academic and work commitments throughout the course
- **Vocational learning**
- **Programme structure** can be very different



Application process

UCAS

- Can use one of your university choices
- University will screen your academic suitability
- Details passed to employer
- Employer recruitment screening
- Assessment centre

Through employer

- Check employer websites for vacancies
- Application form
- Interview
- Assessment centre

Through training provider

- Check university degree apprenticeship webpages
- Application form
- Details passed to employer
- Employer recruitment screening
- Assessment centre

Degree Apprenticeships at the University of Birmingham

Currently running (Level 6 - Undergraduate)

- BSc Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership (PwC)

In development (undergraduate)

- Laboratory Scientist

BSc Computer Science with Digital Technology Partnership

PwC

- Entry offer: AAA with A Level Mathematics
- Access to Birmingham (A2B)
- UCAS Code: **G402**
- Application process: UCAS application, internal PwC application process and assessment centre
- Course webpage: https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/computer-science/computer-science-pwc.aspx

BSc Computer Science with Digital Technology Solutions (Degree Apprenticeship)

	Modules
Year 1	• Object Oriented Programming • Theories of Computation • Artificial Intelligence 1 • Data Structure & Algorithms • Full Stack Application Development • Mathematical and Logical Foundations of Computer Science
Year 2	• Advanced Functional Programming • Mathematical Modelling and Decision Making • Security and Networks • Software Engineering • Systems Programming in C/C++ • Team Project
Year 3	• Work placement with employer

Year 4

Core Module: Work-based Project

Optional Modules:

- Advanced Functional Programming
- Advanced Networking
- Algorithms and Complexity
- Computer Aided-Verification
- Computer Vision and Imaging
- Distributed and Parallel Computing
- Evolutionary Computation
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Language and Cognition
- Machine Learning and Intelligent Data Analysis
- Neural Computation
- Programming Language Principles, Design and Implementation
- Quantum Computing
- Security of Real-World Systems
- Teaching Computing in Schools
- Theoretical Foundations for Security

“The department is extremely friendly and all the lecturers and staff are very easy to talk to, making it a wonderful place to learn and develop.”

“The department of Computer Science here is full of amazing people and they have offered a really varied first year, providing modules in so many of the big topics of Computer Science”.

“University of Birmingham is a stunning campus university, right next to a vibrant city, with a beautiful student village where I have been living. There are so many things to love about this course!”

“Working for PwC gives me the best of both worlds, a degree in an amazing university and a job where I am gaining real world experience”.

Useful websites

- **Amazing Apprenticeships** https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resources/
- **Prospects** https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/apprenticeships/what-is-an-apprenticeship
- **UCAS** https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships-in-the-uk
- **Find an Apprenticeship** www.findanapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- **Institute for Apprenticeships (apprenticeship standards)** https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/

Questions?

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