

# YOUR TOP 10 QUESTIONS ABOUT HIGHER AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

## 1. What are the requirements for applying to a degree apprenticeship?

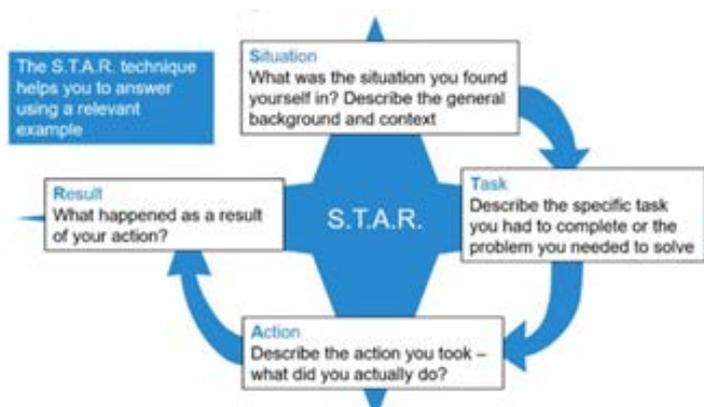
It is likely you will need to have at least 5 GCSE grades A\* - C (or 9 - 4). It is likely you will also need level 3 qualifications (A Levels or BTEC). Employers will all have slightly different requirements, so do check the specific vacancy and with the employer what requirements are needed for that particular degree apprenticeship.

## 2. How will working and studying be separated for a degree apprenticeship, will you still have a typical university experience?

You will dedicate about 20% of your working week to your university studies, with the rest spent focusing on work. You will therefore need to find a good work-study-life balance but that does not mean you will miss out on university life. You will still be a member of a vibrant student community no matter where you study, so make the most of it!

## 3. What are some good ways/websites to find degree apprenticeships in my field?

For a range of websites that are trusted and tried by the AccessHE team, check out our [Degree Apprenticeship 'Cheat Sheet' Resources](#) attached!



## 4. How can I make sure I ace my interview?

Research the company to feel more prepared as they may ask you why you want to work for there? You can use the S.T.A.R technique (situation, task, action, result) in an interview to ensure you provide examples to evidence a question. Try it and use the diagram to give an example of when you have given good customer service?

You can never be overdressed, but you can make a bad impression being under dressed so make sure you look smart. Plan your journey for a face-to face interview or check your technology and set up before a video interview so you leave no room for error.

### **5. How do I apply for a degree apprenticeship? Is there a specific time of year that they launch like UCAS?**

There are many ways you can apply for a degree apprenticeship. Usually, you will apply via the employer directly (you can find almost all on the government's website) and follow their application protocol. In some instances, though, a university will manage the recruitment process, in which case you will need to apply through UCAS. Degree Apprenticeship opportunities arise when the employer needs to recruit for the position. They do not follow the usual UCAS cycle, so keep checking all the time!

### **6. How can I make myself stand out in my application?**

Ensure you have included clear examples of your experiences and that relates to the apprenticeship (see question 4 for S.T.A.R technique). Remember that a lot of what you do already, including your hobbies, give you many applicable skills, so make sure you sell yourself. Show your knowledge of the company and the job role in your application which should be proofread and checked for any grammar and spelling mistakes.

### **7. What are the key skills that employers are looking for in a Degree Apprentice?**

This is hard to answer, as each job will need a different skillset. The job description may describe a clear set of 'hard skills' you will need to have, for example IT skills. It is therefore important to research the career you will be going into. [Prospects](#) is a great resource to start with, which lists hundreds of different job profiles including expected responsibilities and skills needed. In general, however, it is important you can demonstrate 'soft skills' such time management, resilience, teamwork, leadership and communication.

## **8. What are the advantages and disadvantages of a degree apprenticeship?**

The advantages of a degree apprenticeship are receiving a salary (average £18,000 in London), a head-start on a career and gaining valuable skills whilst doing a full degree that you don't have to pay for. Some disadvantages of a degree apprenticeship are that there is less choice or diversity of subjects to study in comparison to a traditional degree, you must complete at least 30 hours of work a week and therefore you will be busier than most other students.

## **9. How long is a degree apprenticeship?**

Because you'll be working whilst doing a degree (which doesn't give you as much time as a typical university student to devote to your studies), degree apprenticeships range between 3 and 6 years to complete. Higher apprenticeships are often shorter, but it varies from employer to employer.

## **10. To do a degree apprenticeship, do I have to do it as soon as I leave school? If not, is there an age limit on when you can complete it?**

There is no upper age limit for apprenticeships!

