

June 2025

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

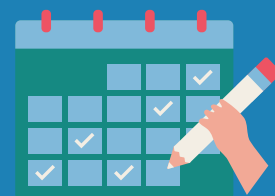
This newsletter has a focus on apprenticeships. Any links are underlined.
There is a spotlight on careers in engineering on the last page.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 12 UCAS Convention Trip: Monday 23 June

Year 10 Work Experience: 7th - 11th July

Year 9 Raising Aspirations Trip: Monday 7th July



IS AN APPRENTICESHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

You want to earn while you learn	You like academic studies
You prefer hands-on learning	There isn't an apprenticeship route into your chosen career
You want lots of experience on your CV	You want the university experience
<i>YES, an apprenticeship might be the way to go</i>	<i>NO, an apprenticeship probably isn't right for you</i>

APPRENTICESHIPS QUICK FACTS

1. An apprenticeship is a real job - you are typically employed for 30 hours a week.
2. Apprentices are paid a salary - of at least the National Minimum Wage for apprenticeships (£7.55/hour). Many employees pay more.
3. Apprenticeships last a minimum 12 months - most take between 1-4 years to complete.
4. Apprenticeships range from level 2 to level 7

Level	Apprenticeship type	Equivalent	Length
2	Intermediate	5 GCSEs grade 9-4	12-18 months
3	Advanced	2 A levels	1-3 years
4 & 5	Higher	Foundation degree	2-5 years
6 & 7	Degree	Bachelor's or Master's Degree	3-6 years

5. Apprentices do not pay for their training - all the costs are paid by the employer or government.
6. Apprentices get off-the-job training - 6 hours per week if an apprentice's paid time will be spent undertaking off-the-job learning, gaining valuable skills and qualifications.
7. There are 1000s of apprenticeships in more than 170 industries - employees include NHS, Tesco, Renishaw, Spirax Sarco, the government

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MYTH 1: Apprenticeships are for pupils who can't get into university.

FALSE

Apprenticeships are simply a more hands-on approach to getting into an industry. They are a way for students to study towards a qualification while earning money doing the job they're training for.

eg a child who wants to be an accountant could study a degree in accountancy and look for a job after university, or learn on the job and work towards an accountancy qualification on an apprenticeship. Both routes will lead to them becoming an accountant: one is more study-based, one is more practical.

MYTH 2: People with degrees get promotions at work over those who have done apprenticeships.

FALSE

Both routes give students the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in their chosen careers and employers don't value one route over another (unless the career requires a degree, like a vet or teacher).

Many industries (eg art and design, sales, and construction) favour industry experience over academic study, meaning students who have taken an apprenticeship or studied a degree with a year in industry tend to do better as they've already built up the experience they need.

In fact, the Sutton Trust found that the best apprentices can earn up to £52,000 more than graduates from non-elite universities over their lifetime!

USEFUL WEBSITES

Click on the picture or text below to go to the website.



[Gloucestershire College apprenticeship vacancies](#)



[Live vacancies page \(including NHS\)](#)



[Live vacancies page \(and lots of information for parents\)](#)



[Degree apprenticeship vacancies](#)



[Balcarras VLE](#)
(opportunities are posted here when we receive them)



[Apprenticeship opportunities](#)

CAREERS NEWSLETTER

This page shines a spotlight onto careers in **Engineering**.
Please use the links included to read more information and apply to anything you are interested in. Links are underlined.

AtkinsRéalis offers virtual work experience in the world of engineering and design. You'll enter the world of AtkinsRéalis as you discover what life could look like in consultancy, transportation, infrastructure, aerospace, technology and much more. Click here for more information.



APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT

Civil Engineer Degree Apprenticeship - Arcadis

Length: 5 years **Level:** Level 6 (equivalent to degree)



Content: Civil engineering deals with the design, construction, and maintenance of works such as roads, bridges, canals, dams, airports, pipelines, and railways.

This apprenticeship will train you in Computer Aided Design (CAD), and you'll prepare civil engineering drawings and document project processes.

Apprenticeship Mechanical Engineer - Capita

Length: 3 years **Level:** Advanced (equivalent to 2 A levels)



Content: This apprenticeship will require you to work on a variety of water engineering systems.

This includes the machinery involved with wastewater treatment, pumping, water supply, treatment, and transfer systems.

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT:

Safran

"Come invent the solutions of tomorrow in the aerospace and defense industry ... where innovation, teamwork, and continuing, daily education are fundamental values."

Safran employs 3500+ people at 12 locations in the UK.

Safran is consistently in the top 10 Gloucestershire employers in number of job adverts.

Read about Safran careers here.



JOB OF THE WEEK: Biomedical Engineer



Click here to watch the video and learn more.

Biomedical engineers work with the medical industry to find minimally invasive surgical equipment and ways to transmit data to a smart device for monitoring patient health. It's a field that links engineering and medicine to improve human health and quality of life.



UNI SPOTLIGHT: University of Sheffield

BEng(Hons) Electrical and Electronics Engineering .

The core topics in this course include power systems, power electronics, digital electronics, circuits and devices, electrical machines and drives.

Click here for more information.

