

Happy new year to you! As we approach the end of the first full week back on site in 2024, I thought it would be helpful to focus on different themes in the bulletins released this term. This one will focus on the topic of Degree Apprenticeships, which are growing in popularity in the UK.

Key Points:

- Students taking this option still gain a degree but are doing it in a different way to those attending university full time. Instead, they are based at work and are given time off (normally an average of one day a week) to gain their degree qualification.
- These are paid positions. The table below provides a flavour of the different salary levels, based on a quick search earlier this week on opportunities in Manchester for a September 2024 start (N.B. this is a small snapshot).
- Additionally, the employers pay the university tuition fees, meaning there is zero student debt. Because of this investment in you, there is almost always a guaranteed job with the employer at the end.

Title	Salary (PA)	Employer
Engineering Degree Apprenticeship	£18,000	MBDA
Solicitor Apprenticeship	£23,400	DWF
Economics Degree Level Apprenticeship	£24,000	Government Economic Service
Sales Degree Apprenticeship	£20,320	Coca-Cola
Project Manager Degree Apprenticeship	£23,400	Atkins Limited
Flying Start Tech Degree Apprenticeship	£23,400	PWC
Corporate Data Analyst Degree Apprenticeship	£31,512	Amazon

What's the catch?

- These are competitive positions, and unlike most university courses, there are several stages of a recruitment process that applicants must navigate. We can absolutely support you with these stages, but you do have to be resilient to handle setbacks you may experience.
- Unlike UCAS, each vacancy tends to have their own individual application form, which obviously is time consuming to complete these effectively.
- You have to be confident that the apprenticeship is in an area of interest. For example, there would be no point applying to be a Solicitor with DWF if you had no interest in any legal professions, so it is important that you research properly the positions available.
- Finally, though you will have a degree at the end of the programme, your university experience will be very different to those who take the more traditional route. I know that for many of you, the social experience of university is of significant importance and there's no doubting a route like this would be different.

Keen to find out more?

- In terms of research, UCAS or Unifrog would be your starting points, with both providing information and hosting live vacancies.
- Following this and if you are keen to discuss further, please make an appointment to see me. I would be delighted to offer further guidance.
- Finally, a practical point. There is nothing to stop you applying to both apprenticeship and university vacancies. It is always helpful to have options!

Best wishes,

Mr Wain