

# Why choose Apprenticeships?

**Whether you are looking for a job that enables you to carry on learning, or are already in employment and want to gain further qualifications, an Apprenticeship could be the option for you.**

Apprenticeships are specialist on-the-job training programmes which allow you to develop your career, study nationally recognised qualifications and learn new skills, all while earning a wage.

Milton Keynes College has worked with large and well known employers such as The Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, ABB Robotics and Milton Keynes Council to support the delivery of Apprenticeships in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area.

Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training. There are over 85,000 employers offering Apprenticeships in more than 130,000 locations; there are almost 200 types of Apprenticeships suitable for hundreds of job roles.

## Why choose the Apprenticeship route?

Apprenticeships are a great alternative to A Levels or university. Many employers look to 'grow their own' talented workforce and are willing to progress good candidates to high levels of vocational qualifications that meet the needs of their business. Many apprentices continue their education after they have completed their Apprenticeship with Foundation and part-time Degrees, which can often be funded by their employer.

Choosing the Apprenticeship route is about earning as you learn, is tuition fee free and enables young people to work to high levels of education and training that directly meets the needs of industry.

## How much do apprentices get paid?

Apprentices do real jobs for real employers. Therefore, you are paid while you learn. If you are entering work for the first time, you will start earning from day one.

There is no set rate of pay for apprentices, however all employed apprentices must receive a wage of no less than £2.50 per hour. The average wage per week for an apprentice is now around £170 and in some job roles around £210 per week.

As your skills develop, your pay will increase accordingly. You may also get additional money for essential books, clothing or equipment, or to help you with a disability. As an apprentice, you will also receive the same benefits as other employees such as pension contributions, subsidised canteen and leisure facilities.

Finally, research shows that apprentices earn, on average, over £100,000 more throughout their lifetime than other employees.

## What training do apprentices receive?

Apprenticeships are designed with the help of the employers in the industry, so that they offer a structured framework that takes you through the skills you need to do a job well. There are targets and structures in place to make sure that your employer is supporting you and that you are making good progress.

### Why do an Apprenticeship with Milton Keynes College?

- Milton Keynes College has over 20 years' experience of delivering high-quality Apprenticeship programmes across a wide range of occupational areas.
- We have excellent links with employers in the Milton Keynes and surrounding area, offering a wide range of Apprenticeship opportunities at all Apprenticeship levels.
- We deliver a wide range of Apprenticeship frameworks, giving young people a great choice of career paths.
- We have fantastic facilities for the delivery of off-the-job training ensuring apprentices are trained to the highest and most up-to-date industry standards available.
- An assessor will visit you regularly in the workplace to give you individual support throughout your Apprenticeship to achieve all of the required qualifications and to enable you to succeed in your chosen career.
- Milton Keynes College has excellent success rates for work-based programmes and these continue to improve every year.
- You have the opportunity to progress to higher levels of Apprenticeship or qualifications.

### Support through your Apprenticeship

The College and your employer will make sure you have support throughout your Apprenticeship programme. Our job is to ensure that your training fits your personal requirements, offers the skills needed for the job and satisfies national standards. We are also there to help you through any difficult times.

When you sign up to an Apprenticeship, you will be allocated a named assessor who will guide you through your learning experience. Initially they will draw up an agreement between you, your employer and the College. They will then develop an individual learning plan, including agreed targets against which your progress will be monitored. You can expect ongoing support throughout your Apprenticeship and as a minimum, you should see your assessor once every 12 weeks, but you can contact them at any time. They will work closely with you and your employer to ensure you successfully achieve your Apprenticeship.

## Next Steps

If you would like to find out more about becoming an apprentice, please contact the College on **01908 684444**. We look forward to speaking to you and will do all we can to ensure your training at Milton Keynes College is second to none. You can also obtain more information and view our current Apprenticeship vacancies on our website: **[www.mkcollege.ac.uk](http://www.mkcollege.ac.uk)**

If you are already employed and wish to undertake Apprenticeship training in your area of work, please ring the Milton Keynes College Business helpline on **01908 637056** or email: **[business@mkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:business@mkcollege.ac.uk)**