

APPRENTICES

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS: AN OPEN DAY GUIDE

Hints and tips to help you succeed.



Introduction

Higher and degree apprenticeships combine work with study and offer off-the-job training in a higher education setting (such as university). Higher and degree apprenticeships are equivalent to a level 6 or 7 apprenticeship and lead to a bachelor's or master's degree.

Apprentices are employed throughout the programme and study part-time at an educational establishment. They take between 2 and 6 years to complete, depending on the course level.

Open days are a great way to learn more about degree apprenticeships. They are organised by educational establishments to give prospective students the chance to visit the facilities, meet course providers and talk to current students. They occur throughout the year, including weekends.

Open days provide the opportunity to:

- find out more about degree apprenticeship opportunities
- explore the training facilities
- ask questions directly to the course providers or current apprentices/students
- explore the local area

This guide covers some key things to ask and consider when attending a university open day.

1. Degree apprenticeship availability

Although degree apprenticeships are relatively new, many universities are either offering degree apprenticeships or working with employers to deliver opportunities in the future.

It's worth asking for more information about the current degree apprenticeships available as well as any upcoming opportunities to help with the decision making process.

2. Employers

Find out more about which employers the university is working with to deliver their degree apprenticeships. This will help the research and application process further down the line.

For example, employers can often bring the application deadline forward if they receive a surplus of applications, so it's helpful to find out more about the application opening date and the number of vacancies available.

3. The application process

The application process can often be complex for degree apprenticeships. It may include a formal application process with the employer as well as submitting a personal statement to the university.

Asking for more information about the application process during an open day will provide a better understanding of what to expect.

4. Career service support

Some university career services offer degree apprenticeship applicants support with the recruitment process, so find out what support you can access before applying.

5. Course delivery

Degree apprenticeship courses differ to full-time education which means they are delivered differently depending on the training provider and employer.

Course delivery could include a day release, online learning, block release or a blended learning approach.

An open day is the perfect opportunity to find out more about how the training will be delivered to ensure you apply for an opportunity that is right for you.

6. Employer and provider contact

Consider how much contact the university has with the employer and the apprentice and how they manage those relationships.

Quality degree apprenticeships should offer regular contact to ensure they deliver the best possible results and experience.

7. Current students/apprentices

Try to speak to current students and apprentices. This will provide first-hand insight into the application process, course delivery and more.

If there are no degree apprentices available to speak to, ask if there are any case studies available to view.

More information on apprenticeships:

- visit www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- call 0800 150 400

