

EARLY CONNECT INFORMATION LEAFLET

An introduction to Early Connect

What is Early Connect?

Early Connect is a unique pilot being delivered in partnership between the Department for Education and UCAS, aiming to support more young people onto apprenticeships, and to make it easier for employers to find apprentices.

When will it start?

During the academic year 2023/24, the pilot will run in three regions; Lancashire, the North East and Greater London, supporting students that are currently in Year 13.

What will it involve?

The pilot will build upon the national services that are already in place through the Department for Education and the UCAS Hub. The pilot will provide students with exclusive access to additional support designed specifically for those interested in exploring and applying for apprenticeships alongside their other options (including undergraduate courses).

Will all schools and colleges be involved?

The pilot is not mandatory. Schools and colleges in the selected pilot regions will need to opt-in to be part of the pilot in 23/24.

Is there a cost to being involved?

There is no cost for schools and colleges to participate in the pilot. Student support will be free of charge and all students will be able to access a new matching service, connecting them with relevant apprenticeship opportunities in their local area. Matching will be based on their preferences, experience and skills, and on criteria set by employers.

Supporting schools and colleges in the pilot regions

Schools and colleges will be equipped with the tools, resources and knowledge to effectively support young people considering their next steps after full-time education. We will work alongside the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge (ASK) programme and the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) to ensure that the offer is coherent and accessible.



WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

The Early Connect pilot is starting in October 2023, it will build upon the national services that are already in place through the DfE and UCAS, providing year 13 students with exclusive access to additional support designed specifically for those interested in exploring apprenticeships alongside their other options, including undergraduate courses.

For more information and to sign up to Early Connect, Scan the QR Code below:



Or contact us at:

ECsupportQ&A@ucas.com

Delivered in partnership between



Department
for Education

UCAS

An introduction to apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job where you learn, gain experience and get paid. You're an employee with a contract of employment and holiday leave. By the end of an apprenticeship, you'll have the right skills and knowledge needed for your chosen career.

How long does an apprenticeship take to complete?

It can take between one and 6 years to complete an apprenticeship depending on which one you choose, what level it is and your previous experience.

Is there a cost involved?

Apprenticeships are funded from contributions made by the government and your employer. This means you will not have any student loans or tuition fees. You will just need to cover the cost of your day-to-day expenses, such as lunch and travel.

If you're 16 to 24 and a care leaver, you'll receive a £3,000 bursary payment to support you in the first year of your apprenticeship.

How much is an apprentice paid?

What you earn will depend on the industry, location and type of apprenticeship you choose. If you're aged 16 to 18 or in the first year of your apprenticeship, you're entitled to the apprentice rate. If you're 19 or over and

have completed the first year of your apprenticeship, you're entitled to the National Minimum Wage.

This is the minimum you'll earn - many employers pay a lot more and offer their apprentices a competitive salary.

Who can become an apprentice?

To become an apprentice, you must:

- be 16 or over
- not already be in full-time education
- live in England

You can start an apprenticeship whether you're starting your career, want a change or you're upskilling in your current job. You can have a previous qualification like a degree and still start an apprenticeship.

What are the benefits of an apprenticeship?

As an apprentice you will:

- learn and train for a specific job
- get paid and receive holiday leave
- get hands-on experience in a real job
- study for the equivalent of at least 6 hours per week of your working hours - usually at a college, university or with a training provider
- complete assessments during and at the end of your apprenticeship
- be on a career path with lots of future potential

Levels of an apprenticeship

Each apprenticeship has a level and an equivalent education level. You can start an apprenticeship at any level.

Depending on the level, some apprenticeships may:

- require previous qualifications such as an English or maths GCSE
- give extra training in the English or maths skills needed so you're at the right level

At the end of your apprenticeship, you'll achieve the equivalent education level.

For example, if you complete a level 3 apprenticeship, you'll achieve the equivalent of an A level.

INTERMEDIATE

Level:

2

Equivalent
education level:

GCSE

ADVANCED

Level:

3

Equivalent
education level:

A Level

HIGHER

Level:

4, 5, 6 and 7

Equivalent
education level:

Foundation degree
and above

DEGREE

Level:

6 and 7

Equivalent
education level:

Bachelor's or
master's degree

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