

# Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

Raising awareness of the benefits and tackling misconceptions around apprenticeships.

## Session overview

This session investigates the factors to consider when choosing between a higher or degree apprenticeship or university.

**Gatsby benchmark 7:** Encounters with further and higher education (if student ambassador is used).

## Session resources

\**Computer Room*  
PCs, laptops or tablets  
Internet access  
Whiteboard/Flipchart

## Aim 1

Students to understand what a higher/degree apprenticeship is, and how this differs from a traditional HE course.

## Aim 2

Students learn to separate fact from fiction so they can make an informed decision about whether to choose this route.

## Aim 3

Students achieve a realistic view of what a higher or degree apprenticeship involves.

## Downloadable session files



[Presentation \(ppt\)](#)

[Interactive worksheet](#)

[Word docs](#)

[Extension activity - PPT](#)

[Extension Activity - PDF](#)

[Video](#)

[Evaluation](#)

## Differentiation

Both online and printed activities are available, as well as extension activities for those who require them.

## Key vocabulary

Higher/Degree Apprenticeships  
Work-based learning  
Blended/Block learning  
Soft skills/Standards  
Informed decisions  
National minimum wage  
Student loans/Tuition fees

Content and Timings	Description	Resource
Introduction (2 mins)	Introduce yourself and ambassadors. Safety and Safeguarding Briefing. Explain to students the session learning objectives.	PPT 1-3
Optional starter / engagement activity  (3 mins)	Optional role models activity: Print out copies of worksheet and distribute to students, matching up famous people with the apprenticeship they completed (make clear that these are not higher / degree level apprenticeships though).	Role model worksheet (Word doc)
Apprenticeships Power- Point:  (10-15 minutes)	Begin by explaining what an apprenticeship is by using the three bullet points to highlight the key takeaway points.  Explain how the balance between work and study is divided.  Use this as a visual aid to compare Higher/Degree Apprenticeships with other qualifications in terms of study levels. Point out that they can be studied up to level 7.  Simplify the previous slide by reiterating the levels available.  This slide should raise their awareness of the variety of subjects that can be studied through the Apprenticeship route. Try asking the group what they think can be studied and then surprise them by showing this slide. It also shows at which level they can be studied.	PPT4  PPT 5  PPT 6  PPT 7  PPT 8
Activity: Pros and Cons	Explain the main differences between studying a degree-level course via the traditional route compared to an apprenticeship route. Highlight the fact that the university or government will pick up the bill and pay the tuition fees!  Invite the students to use page 14 to consider their own pros and cons and to write them down for future reference. They can share their views with the class, and, if there is time you can encourage a discussion.	PPT 9  PPT 10 Higher & Degree Apprenticeship Guide page 14

Content and Timings	Description	Resource
<p>Activity: Factors to consider</p>	<p>Talk the group through the benefits of studying a Higher/Degree Apprenticeship and provide a reality check by making sure they understand what other things they need to consider while deciding this this is the route they want to take.</p> <p>Higher/Degree Apprentices will be entitled to a wage – this will rise depending on their age and the level at which they are studying.</p> <p>Get students to identify which factors are most important to them when considering apprenticeships. They can then write their list down and rank in order of importance.</p> <p>Remind the group that not only are there a variety of subjects they can study, but also a range of employers who offer them including large international businesses.</p> <p>Encourage the students to research apprenticeship opportunities by searching for vacancies using the link on the slide. They can then research the standards and write the information into page 24 and 25 of the guide.</p> <p>Use these slides to challenge some of the stereotypes or misinformation that the students have been given previously. Remind the students that they need to make sure they are making decisions based on facts so that they are informed decisions.</p>	<p>PPT 11-12</p> <p>PPT 13</p> <p>PPT 14 Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Guide Page 17</p> <p>PPT 15</p> <p>PPT 16 Higher and Degree Apprenticeship Guide Page 24-25</p> <p>PPT 17-21</p>
<p>Extension Activities Activity: Priority matrix</p>	<p>If you have extra time available or if students have completed their tasks and are keen to access more learning, you can use either of the following activities:</p> <p>Hand out the Prioritising Tasks A3 sheet and the tasks, one between two or three. Have students imagine they were doing an HR apprenticeship. Its 9 o'clock on a Monday and all of these tasks have been handed to them at once. Have the students put the tasks in the boxes which they feel they belong to, ranging from "important and urgent" to "neither important or urgent"...</p> <p><i>Continued below</i></p>	<p>Prioritising matrix activity &amp; scenarios worksheet</p>

Content and Timings	Description	Resource
<p>Or</p> <p>Activity: Apprenticeship Pros and Cons: (15 minutes)</p>	<p>(while they are doing this, go around and ask about why they decided to put certain tasks in the boxes they have chosen). When they are finished, choose a few tasks and have the students vote for which section they put it in. If some groups disagree, get them to explain their logic.</p> <p>To finish, tell the students that being able to prioritise their workload is an essential skill in any job, and is definitely a skill they will be needing to use in the future.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Put students into pairs or small groups and give them the Apprenticeship Pros and Cons worksheet. If using an IT room, students can use the computers to research the apprenticeships listed on the sheet. If in a classroom, physical copies of apprenticeship adverts can be handed out. Have students look through the job adverts for two or three different apprenticeships vacancies and write their pros and cons for each on the worksheet. Depending on timing and group size, students may report back to the rest of the class about what they have found.</p>	<p>Printed apprenticeships adverts or the link on slide 16</p> <p>Apprenticeship pros and cons worksheet</p>
<p>Summarise (2 minutes)</p>	<p>Make sure work is saved and PCs logged off correctly.</p> <p>Safeguarding de-brief.</p> <p>“If any questions or concerns have arisen during this session, just speak to one of us on the way out or speak to your tutor”.</p>	
<p>Further Reading / Suggested Links:</p>	<p>You might also like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">NSSW Higher and Degree Apprenticeships Guide</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UCAS' Guide to Apprenticeships</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Which?: The Complete Guide to Higher and Degree Apprenticeships</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Watch: NSSW Higher and Degree Apprenticeships video</a></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Student Stories</a></p> <p><a href="#">Sites We Like</a></p> <p><a href="#">Qualifications Chart</a></p> <p><a href="#">Find Your Career</a></p> <p><a href="#">Events &amp; Activities</a></p>