

# What is an Apprenticeship?

**An Apprenticeship provides you with the opportunity to earn whilst you learn, whilst working towards a nationally recognised qualification.**

You will be employed by an employer, providing you with the opportunity to put into practice what you are being taught by the College. This will help you succeed in your job and develop your career. You will have a mentor to support you at work and an assessor from the College who will guide you towards completing your qualifications.

You can become an apprentice once you are 16 years old and have completed your GCSEs at school. There is no upper age limit to becoming an apprentice.

Many companies see an Apprenticeship as a real achievement as it shows you have balanced education with employment.

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## Levels of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training. Merrist Wood College offers two levels of Apprenticeships:

- **Intermediate Level Apprenticeships**

This is where apprentices work towards work-based learning qualifications such as a Level 2 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills (e.g. Maths and English) and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge-based qualification.

- **Advanced Level Apprenticeships**

This is where apprentices work towards work-based learning such as a Level 3 Competence Qualification, Functional Skills (e.g. Maths and English) and, in most cases, a relevant knowledge based qualification.



## How long does an Apprenticeship take?

There's no set time to complete an Apprenticeship as they vary widely in content and size. The length of time taken will depend on the sector chosen, the ability of the individual apprentice, and the employer's requirements. Apprenticeships typically take between one and two years to complete, depending on the type of framework, so it's important that you're committed enough to see it through.

## Am I Eligible?

There may be different entry requirements depending on the Apprenticeship and the industry sector you work in. You just need to be living in the UK and not taking part in full-time education.

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**For further information on Apprenticeships please contact our Advice and Guidance Team on Tel: 01483 88 40 40 or email: [mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk](mailto:mwinfo@guildford.ac.uk)**

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