

Apprenticeships

There are three levels of apprenticeship available, what level you start at would depend on your current qualifications and the opportunities available in the sector you are interested in.

Intermediate Apprenticeship (Level 2; equivalent to five good GCSE passes): provides you with the skills and qualifications for your chosen career and allows entry (if desired) to an Advanced Apprenticeship. To be accepted you will need to be enthusiastic, keen to learn and have a reasonable standard of education (at least two/three GCSE passes).

Advanced Apprenticeship (Level 3; equivalent to two A-level passes): to start this programme, some industries will require five or more GCSEs and some may want more, whereas other employers do not specify any formal qualifications. Some may ask for previous experience in the industry or for you to have completed an Intermediate Apprenticeship. This will ensure that you have the skills and qualifications needed for their career and allows entry (if desired) to a Higher Apprenticeship or degree level qualification.

Higher Apprenticeship (Level 4/5/6/7; equivalent to a Foundation Degree and above): Entry requirements can include at least five GCSEs grades A – C, and Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, NVQ/SVQ Level 3, or a BTEC National. Some will expect or require applicants to have subjects related to the particular apprenticeship to start this programme. You should have a Level 3 qualification (A-Levels, Advanced Diploma or International Baccalaureate) or have completed an Advanced Apprenticeship.

Degree (Level 6/7); (equivalent to a Bachelor's or Master's degree) Entry requirements can include at least five GCSEs grades A - C, and Level 3 qualifications, including A levels, NVQ/SVQ Level 3, or a BTEC National. Some will expect or require applicants to have subjects related to the particular apprenticeship.

Further information about apprenticeships can be found using: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.

When to Apply:

For Year 11's just completing their GCSE's, pupils are not able to start an apprenticeship until after the last Friday in June or their 16th birthday whichever falls later. The majority of apprenticeship vacancies for this age range start appearing in the Spring during that GCSE year. Some vacancies may be advertised beforehand so it's important to register for alerts by signing up for an account on: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship.

Other places to look for apprenticeships are:

<https://www.bedford.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies>

<https://www.mkcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies/>

<https://www.bedford.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-vacancies> - Bedford Borough Council Jobs Hub E-Bulletin – sign up for apprenticeship vacancies

Or simply by writing to companies directly.

If you are considering applying for an apprenticeship and would like further information or support please either contact Faye Gadsby, your Careers Adviser: faye.gadsby@bedford.gov.uk or Mrs Ashby, Head of Careers, or Mrs Riding, Careers Coordinator in school.