

Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

An **apprenticeship** is a full-time job where an employee undertakes off-the-job training paid for by the employer. A **degree apprenticeship** is an apprenticeship where the employee is studying at undergraduate or postgraduate level (Levels 6 or 7 respectively) as part of their apprenticeship. This is a subset of **higher apprenticeships**, which are available at Levels 4 to 7 and include other apprenticeships at Level 6 and 7 that don't lead to a degree upon completion.

This guide explores characteristics of those starting all apprenticeships in 2016-17 and compares them to those entering other forms of education and training. The full guide is at <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/degree-apprenticeships/>.

Please note: when referring to 'degree apprenticeships' in this guide, data will also include other apprenticeships at Levels 6 or 7 where a higher education award is not gained upon completion.

Key findings

Degree apprenticeships

Compared with other levels of apprenticeships and higher education generally there were relatively few degree apprentices in 2016-17, but the number of starts is growing.

In 2016-17 there were 2,580 degree apprentices registered in higher education, of which 1,750 started their apprenticeship that year.

Age

There was a **roughly equal number** of young and mature entrants undertaking degree apprenticeships, with young students (entrants under 21) more likely to be going into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) apprenticeships.

Gender

There were **more males** entering degree apprenticeships than females, but relative to similar higher education courses there is a slightly lower proportion of males.

Ethnicity

Apprenticeships at all levels had **lower proportions** of entrants from minority ethnic groups, than entrants to similar higher education courses.

Disability

Apprenticeships have a **lower proportion** of entrants with a declared disability than entrants to higher education.

Student region of domicile

The **North West** and **North East of England** have the highest proportion of the working age population entering degree apprenticeships, with London having the lowest density.

Educational disadvantage

30 per cent of degree apprenticeship entrants come from areas underrepresented in higher education, **slightly higher** than the proportion entering similar full-time higher education courses (26 per cent).

More information

Find more information on how the OfS supports apprenticeships at:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/skills-and-employment/degree-apprenticeships/>.

Contact us

If you have any feedback or queries please contact Mark Gittoes, Head of Profession for Statistics, at qapt@officeforstudents.org.uk.