



Looking for
paid work and
qualifications?

Become an Apprentice

What do apprentices enjoy?

A lot of things:

- The money - getting paid while you learn!
- An alternative to 6th form to get qualifications and work experience
- The work environment and the variety of work on offer
- Feeling valued and appreciated in the world of work

“ Choosing an Apprenticeship over going to university after completing my A Levels at Sixth Form in June 2010 is a choice that I haven't regretted making one bit ”

James Ager
Suffolk New College Apprentice 2011

What does an apprenticeship offer?

The opportunity to:

- Gain work experience
- Attain qualifications in the work place rather than at college
- Grow in confidence by being part of an adult working environment
- Achieve an advantage over those of your age who have no work experience
- Earn a salary

What about the longer term?

When an apprenticeship ends:

Many employers are keen to keep their apprentices at the end of their training and try to find suitable posts for them when their apprenticeship ends.

There is no guarantee of a job at the end of the apprenticeship but by completing it your chances of getting another job are very much greater.

Where to find vacancies?

On the web or in person:

- Apply directly to Suffolk New College who will try to match you to vacancies they know about
- Look on the national apprenticeship website: www.apprenticeships.org.uk
- Approach employers who may have vacancies

Interested in knowing more?

Contact:

- Vice Principal, Orville Gardener on 01473 382464

Email: sncapprenticeships@suffolk.ac.uk
Post: Suffolk New College, Ipswich, IP4 1LT

Find out about the experiences of current employers & apprentices at www.suffolk.ac.uk



www.suffolk.ac.uk

What is an apprentice?

Anyone **over the age of 16**, working alongside an experienced employee to **learn specific skills**, but most importantly, an apprentice **earns money** and **receives training** for qualifications.

What work can apprentices do?

A wide variety including:

- Business administration, customer service, accounting
- IT, communications, IT technical support in schools, IT professional
- Vehicle - body and paint operations
Vehicle - maintenance & repair
- Electro-technical, plumbing, construction contracting operations, general maintenance
- Childcare, supporting teaching and learning in schools
- Marketing, digital media, creative industries
- Beauty therapy, hairdressing, catering & hospitality
- Sports & leisure management
- Horticulture

How much do apprentices get paid?

It depends on age:

Age 16-18 - £95 per week

Age over 19 - the national minimum wage (once first 12 months satisfactorily completed)

As your skills develop you may be paid more than these minimum rates.

What qualifications/skills can you get?

You can work towards:

NVQ Level 2 (equivalent to 4 GCSEs at grades A*-C) or NVQ Level 3 (equivalent to 2 A Levels)
Functional Skills - for example English, Maths and ICT (if you do not have the required passes at GCSE)
A work related qualification

How to get qualifications while working?

You can do this in two ways:

- (1) 'on the job' work assessments and
- (2) assignments supervised by Suffolk New College.

Your Suffolk New College training assessor will meet regularly with you to:

- Create a learning/development plan including theory and work experience
- Check your progress on the qualifications you are working towards
- Ensure your work experience supports your NVQ requirements

How long do apprenticeships last?

Between one and four years:

Depending on the level of the apprenticeship, the industry sector and your ability.

