

# Apprenticeship Learner Facts

What you need to know.

## Apprenticeship Learner Facts Guide

Making informed choices is an important step in building a successful career in dentistry. This guide is here to support you, help explain what apprenticeships are, how to apply, what to expect, and how this pathway can help you grow in confidence, skills, and experience.

Whether you're just starting out or looking to progress, this guide will help you take your next step with confidence.

Start your journey toward an exciting future today!

# Thinking of starting an apprenticeship?

Our guide on what you need to do to get started



Yes

Do you need help writing your CV?

No

Are you a current employee and wanting to start an apprenticeship with your employer?

Yes



Visit our [Employer FAQ Hub](#) which should answer your employer's questions or email us on [hello@tempdent.co.uk](mailto:hello@tempdent.co.uk) to get started.

Do you know what apprenticeship you would like to enrol on?

Yes



Great news! Check our [live vacancies](#).

No

Do you know what an apprenticeship is?

Yes



You won't always need a CV, however it is good practice to put one together. [Read our CV writing tips](#).

No



Visit our [Apprenticeship Resource Hub](#) on our website. You'll find career tools, interview tips and vacancies.

Are you under 18?  
If so, would your parents/carer like more information about apprenticeships?

Yes



Check out the [Parent Information](#) page on our website.

No

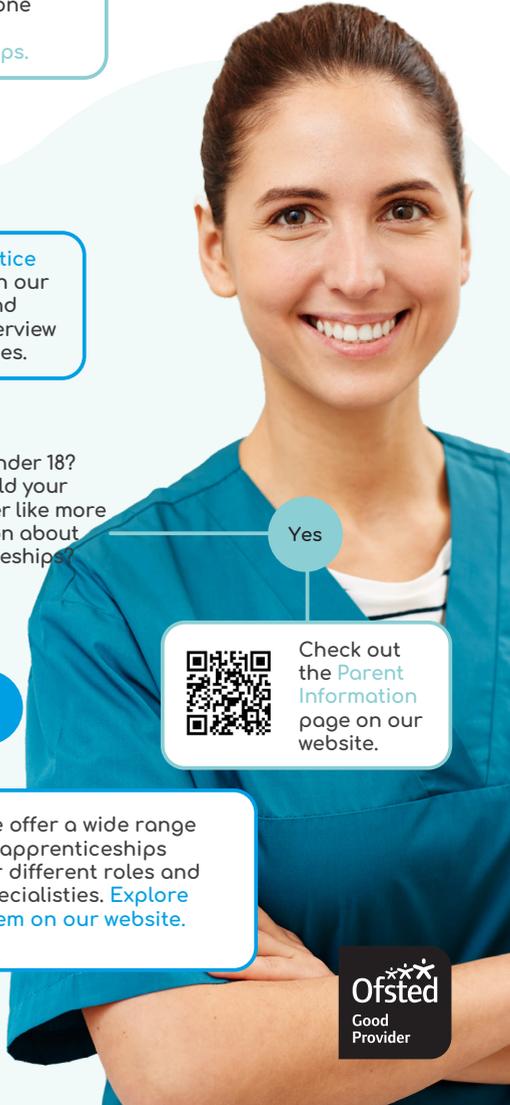


We offer a wide range of apprenticeships for different roles and specialities. [Explore them on our website](#).

No



Discover everything you need to know in our [Apprenticeship FAQ Hub](#).



## Contents

### Going places

- What is an apprenticeship? 2

### It pays to work hard

- Will I get paid? 3
- Will I pay tax? 3
- Am I entitled to holiday pay? 3

### Working out

- How many hours a week will I work? 4
- Will I require to have vaccinations? 4

### The value of education

- How do they compare? 5
- University vs. apprenticeships 6

### Moving up in the world

- Am I eligible for an apprenticeship? 7
- Choosing an employer 8
- How do I choose an employer? 9

### Contact us 10

## What is an apprenticeship?

As an apprentice, you will be earning a salary whilst gaining a nationally recognised qualification. The training you receive will be practical and directly related to the career pathway you are interested in. Designed by employers working closely with training providers, you will benefit from working with our Personal Tutors and experienced staff.

At Tempdent, we've been running Dental Nurse apprenticeships for nearly 20 years and with some of the highest success rates in the industry. We can help you get started in your career in the Dental profession.

My assessor has been brilliant over the past 2 years, I genuinely couldn't have passed without her support. I would 100% recommend Tempdent for anyone looking into dental nursing.

Lucy, Apprentice



## Will I get paid?

Yes. As an apprentice you're entitled to the National Minimum Wage, which is currently £7.55 per hour for apprentices\* under 19 and those aged 19 or over in their first year.

You must be paid at least the minimum wage rate for your age if you're an apprentice aged 19 or over and have completed your first year. The below shows rates for the National Living Wage and the National Minimum Wage. The rates change every April.

\*National Minimum Wage for apprentices as of 1st April 2025. The Government has announced from 1st April 2026, the National Living Wage will rise by 4.1% from £12.21 to £12.71.

	21 and over	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2025	£12.21	£10	£7.55	£7.55
April 2026	£12.71	£10.85	£8	£8

## Will I pay tax?

Yes. If your salary is above the tax threshold, then your employer will deduct it as part of their employers' PAYE process along your National Insurance. If you are under 25 then you are not required to make a Class 1 secondary National Insurance contribution.

## Am I entitled to holiday pay?

Yes. Apprentices are entitled to the same conditions as other employees. You are entitled to not only holiday pay, but you are also entitled to sickness pay and any specific benefits that your employer offers to their workforce in general. These benefits vary from employer to employer.

## How many hours a week will I work?

Governmental regulations are in place to protect workers aged under 18 and these apply to apprentices, for example:

### Apprentices under 18:

- Must not exceed 40 hours a week
- Must not exceed 8 hours a day
- Must be given at least 12 hours off between shifts
- Must have at least two consecutive days off a week

## Will I require to have vaccinations?

Yes. To work as a Trainee Dental Nurse, all practises require that you are vaccinated against Hepatitis B.

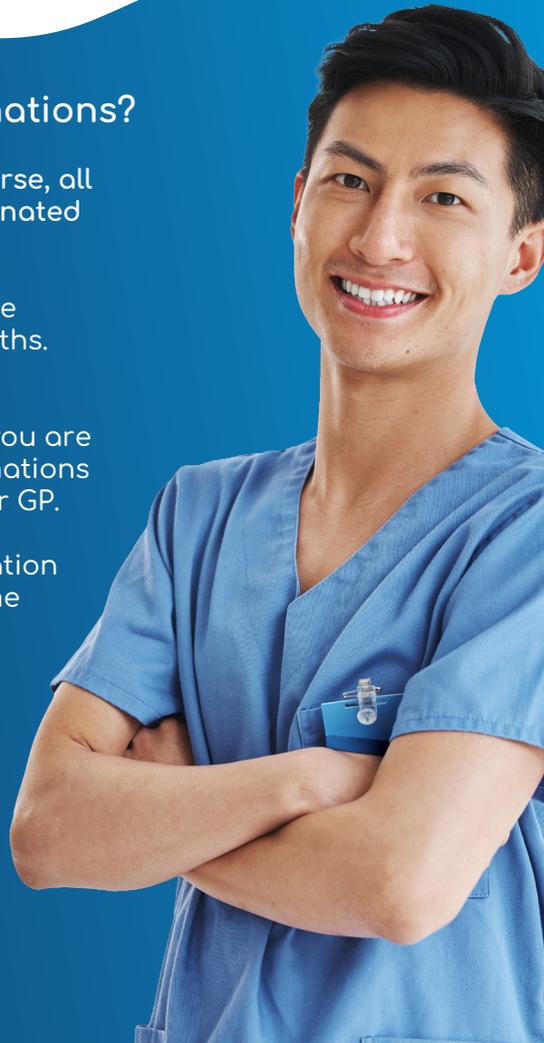
This typically involves receiving three injections over a period of four months.

The cost is usually £50 per injection, amounting to a total of £150, which you are responsible for covering. The vaccinations are generally available through your GP.

We recommend starting the vaccination process as soon as possible, as some practices may not consider apprenticeships for interviews unless they have received their first injection.



Find out more about the Hepatitis B vaccination requirement on our Apprentice Resource Hub



Choosing what to do next after you finish school can be difficult. How does university compare to an apprenticeship? Read on and find out what's right for you.

Each scheme has been designed specifically to prepare and enhance you for the particular sector.

## How do they compare?

Schemes have been divided into four tiers - Intermediate (Level 2), Advanced (Level 3), Higher (Level 4/5) and Degree (Level 6/7).

	Level	Equivalent
Intermediate	2	5 x GCSE passes
Advanced	3	2 x A Level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 and 7	Foundation Degree and above
Degree	6 and 7	Bachelors/Masters Degree

My whole experience with Tempdent was so smooth and stress free! Everything was easy to follow which helped me massively.

Katie T, Apprentice



## University vs. Apprenticeship

### University

- Undergraduate degrees last between 3 - 4 years
- Tend to focus on individual, academic study
- Over 130 universities in the UK, and thousands of courses on offer
- Courses vary from vocational, such as Nursing or Architecture, to more general subjects like English and Geography
- Opportunity to do a placement, (or year in industry) to get professional experience
- Tuition fees are up to £9,250 per annum in England

### Apprenticeship

- Duration depends on the level of the scheme, lasting anywhere between 1 - 5 years
- Specific focus on on-the-job training
- Apprentices develop practical skills, alongside qualifications
- Schemes available in 1,500 different job roles
- No tuition fees. Costs are covered by the employer (with Government funding)
- Salary paid for the duration of the programme

## Am I eligible for an apprenticeship?

There are a number of entry requirements to consider when applying for an apprenticeship:

### Checklist

- A learner can only start their apprenticeship after the last Friday in June of the academic year in which they have their 16th birthday.
- They are not enrolled on another apprenticeship, or another DfE funded FE/HE programme, at the same time as any new Apprenticeship they start.
- An apprentice must not use a student loan to pay for their apprenticeship (where an individual transfers to an apprenticeship from a full-time further education or higher education course, and this course has been funded through a student loan, this loan must be terminated).
- Spend at least 50% of their working hours in England over the duration of the apprenticeship.
- Have the right to work in England.
- A citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) (including other countries determined within the EEA or those with bilateral agreements), or have the right of abode in the UK, and have been ordinarily resident in the EEA (including other countries determined within the EEA or those with bilateral agreements), for at least the previous three years on the first day of learning.
- Employers may ask for two or more GCSE grades (A - C) or equivalent. For some intermediate apprenticeships, however, no formal qualifications are required. If you don't have GCSEs in English and maths you'll usually be required to take a basic numeracy and literacy test.

## How do I choose an employer?

You will need to consider:

**Work environment** – An apprenticeship takes time to complete. Choose an employer with a work environment that energises you, somewhere you'll enjoy spending your time.

**Pay and benefits** – The UK maintains a minimum wage for apprenticeships and some companies will pay more than this. Some will offer additional holiday or other perks.

**Progression** – Does the company offer progression after the completion of the apprenticeship?

**Reputation** – Working with industry leaders offers you the opportunity to learn from the best. Choose a company that is respected in the field.

**Training pace** – Companies and training providers work together to make sure you get the best possible training experience. Choose a company that aligns with your training needs.

Choosing an employer is a big decision and there are a number of aspects to consider.

You'll need to be as well informed as possible as your first employer can help shape your career path. To find fulfilling work and enjoy your job, you'll need to find a place where you fit and have shared goals and values.

## Apprentice recruitment

At Tempdent, we have a dedicated **Apprentice Recruitment Team** who are on hand to help you find a vacancy at a dental practice to suit your specific requirements.





[Click here to visit our website](#)

020 8371 6700

[hello@tempdent.co.uk](mailto:hello@tempdent.co.uk)

 tempdent