



# Apprenticeships Suffolk



# EMPLOYER GUIDE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Our service - Apprenticeships Suffolk</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Apprenticeship overview</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Apprenticeships Qualifications</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Benefits to having an apprentice</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Funding Support</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5% contribution</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Pre Apprenticeship Support</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Programmes and Schemes</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Training Providers</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Inclusive Apprenticeships</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Success Stories</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Links &amp; Downloads</b>	<b>15</b>



# Apprenticeships Suffolk

## OUR SERVICE

Apprenticeships Suffolk is an impartial and completely free service being offered by Suffolk County Council as part of their strategic aim to increase the quality and quantity of apprenticeships within the county, thereby supporting business and economic growth.

This projects aim is to support Suffolk's district and borough councils to deliver a 1-year project to engage and support individuals 16+ break down barriers to gain meaningful employment, providing 121 support with coaching and job searching or signpost into other skills-based opportunities and actively promote Apprenticeship opportunities to support employment in Suffolk.

**Visit our website:**

<https://apprenticeshipssuffolk.org/>

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# APPRENTICESHIP OVERVIEW

- Apprenticeships are a combination of working and studying. An apprentice is an employee, working alongside experienced staff gaining job-specific skills.
- An apprenticeship is for anyone aged 16+.
- They range from Level 2 all the way up to Level 7.
- There are over 800 apprenticeship standards approved for delivery

## Employer Requirements

### Wage:

Currently **National Minimum**

**Wage for an apprentice is £8.00**

(correct as of April 2026).

This is just a minimum sometimes an employer may wish to pay more than this, it also increases every April. [Click here for further information on this.](#)

### Off the job training

All apprentices must spend a **minimum of 6 hours per week** completing **paid mandatory off-the-job training**, for the purpose of achieving the **knowledge, skills and behaviours** set out in the approved apprenticeship standard. These 6 hours of off the job training must take place within the **apprentices normal working hours**.

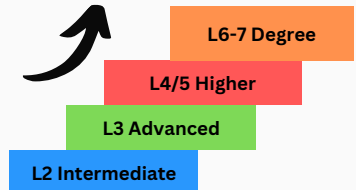
As an employer it's your responsible to allow the apprentice to have their protected off the job training. This can be flexible and doesn't have to one day of the week in the work place. For example training can take place: **Online, in the workplace, at a College, University or Training Centre.**

### Different level's:

As an employer you need to be aware of the different levels to offer potential apprentices.

There are four types of apprenticeships:

- Intermediate (level 2)
- Advanced (level 3)
- Higher (levels 4 -5)
- Degree (levels 6-7)



# APPRENTICESHIP QUALIFICATIONS

There are currently over 800 apprenticeship standards that have been approved for delivery

THERE ARE OVER 172  
LEVEL 2  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

THERE ARE OVER 131  
LEVEL 4  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

THERE ARE OVER 128  
LEVEL 6  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

THERE ARE OVER 288  
LEVEL 3  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

THERE ARE OVER 53  
LEVEL 5  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

THERE ARE OVER 85  
LEVEL 7  
APPRENTICESHIPS  
STANDARDS

YOU CAN OFFER AN APPRENTICESHIP IN:

Agriculture

Construction

Education

Manufacturing &  
Engineering

Finance & Accounting

Hospitality & Food

IT & Technology

Business Admin

Hair & Beauty

Retail

Transport

Health Care

Fitness & Leisure

# ***BENEFITS OF HAVING AN APPRENTICE FOR YOUR BUSINESS***

**“What are the benefits to your business for employing an apprentice?”**

**Align training to your business needs**

**Introducing fresh talent and ideas to your business**

**Recruiting new staff and upskilling current staff**

**Boost staff loyalty and motivation**

**Allows your business to source future managers and leaders**

**Estimated yearly gain for employers is between £2,500 to £18,000 per apprentice during their training period.**



# FUNDING SUPPORT

## Employer contribution & funding rules:

- If your apprentice falls into the 21+ category, you will be required to pay the 5% apprenticeship contribution.
- **Click here** to view the Apprenticeship Funding rules and guidance for employers.
- If you wish to apply for a Levy Transfer to cover the 5% costs, please visit - **Levy Transfer**
- **Click here** for further information on the Apprenticeships care leavers' bursary



## Access to Apprenticeships:

Access to Apprenticeships is a grant designed to remove barriers that may be preventing aspiring apprentices finding an employer. We are offering two different styles of packages to support your apprentice during their apprenticeship journey. The decision on choosing your package should be openly discussed with your apprentice and taking their needs into consideration.

**Package 1:** Additional Equipment Can be used to provide equipment for the apprentice that is not already mandatory to provide to perform their job role.

**Package 2:** Wage Enhancement Can be used to assist with enhancing the apprentices wage for the first 12 weeks of their apprenticeship and can also be used as a reimbursement of travel costs/expenses.

ACCESS  
To  
APPRENTICESHIP

# Do I need to pay the 5% Apprenticeship Contribution?



Do you have an annual wage bill of over £3million?

Yes

No

This means you pay into the apprenticeship levy and are exempt from paying the 5% contribution unless you run out of levy funds

Is the apprentice aged 16-21?

Yes

No

Do you have over 51 staff on your payroll?

You will need pay the 5% contribution cost to the apprenticeship

Yes

No

You will need pay the 5% contribution cost to the apprenticeship

You are exempt from paying the 5% employer contribution cost towards the apprenticeship



# PRE APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT

## Writing your job description

### Step 1: What are you looking for?

Give some narrative about your business and the position you are recruiting into.

### Step 2: Job role

Identify daily duties of the job role, taking into consideration what other duties you would like to incorporate.

### Step 4: Your commitment

Things to consider:

- The hours
- The salary
- Holiday entitlements Benefits
- Uniform Parking
- Free Tea/coffee/beverages

### Step 3: The apprenticeship qualification

Apprenticeships Suffolk will help to correlate these duties to an appropriate apprenticeship standard.

### Step 5: Recruitment

You have identified the apprenticeship opportunity and ready to recruit for your role.



## Offering Work Experience

As an employer, offering work experience for an individual can help them find out if a career is right for them. It can develop or re-fresh individuals skills and help them gain confidence, supporting them to move closer to employment.

If you are a business, looking to support young people in work, Jobcentre Plus can support this, [click here](#) to find out more.

# PROGRAMMES & SCHEMES FOR EMPLOYERS

## Disability Confident

The Disability Confident scheme helps employers recruit and retain great people, and to:

- Challenge attitudes and increase understanding of disability
- Draw from the widest possible pool of talent
- Secure high-quality staff who are skilled, loyal and hard working
- Improve employee morale and commitment by demonstrating fair treatment
- [Click here](#) for further information and how to become a disability confident employer.



## Amazing Apprentice - Genie Programme

The Genie Programme will empower motivated, engaged professionals to learn about the many challenges faced by disadvantaged and diverse applicants. It will help you to grow both personally and professionally and, with this knowledge, to affect real positive change in how your organisation attracts, supports and develops diverse talent.

[Click here](#) to find out more further on how you can apply



## Help to Grow Campaign

Help to grow is a scheme set up by the government to see what business support and advice is available to help you start, grow and succeed.

[Click here](#) for further information and support

**HELP TO  
GROW**

# Training Providers

Below is local Training Providers, click on the providers logo to see what training they deliver:



When looking to recruit an apprentice, its important to find out about the training provider local to you and the way they deliver their learning...

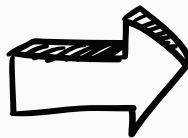
# ***Inclusive Apprenticeships***

**Inclusive apprenticeships are designed to break down barriers and create employment opportunities for people with cognitive, physical, mental health and sensory disabilities.**

## **Inclusive apprenticeships provide:**

- An alternative and flexible approach to mainstream education, which is tailored towards the individuals career path
- A supportive environment for learners to develop the skills and experience needed to succeed in their chosen careers
- The hours and duration of the apprenticeship can be adjusted to accommodate the individuals needs
- Any additional support to help the individual succeed

Our **inclusive apprenticeship logo** is used to identify all inclusive opportunities that are available.



# OUR SUCCESS STORIES



"The advantages of taking on apprentices is developing your own labour and making sure they learn the correct way without cutting corners" - **R J Dean Plasterers**

"We were keen to recruit locally and wanted to formalise the development of our new recruit by offering a full Apprenticeship leading to qualifications. We couldn't have achieved this without the substantial support provided by the team at Apprenticeships Suffolk." - **Amazing Graphics**

"The Apprenticeships Suffolk team have been along every step of the way to help us navigate the enrolment of our apprentices and for a helping hand whenever we have a query." - **Friel Marketing**

"The Apprenticeships Suffolk Team provided dedicated support to our apprentice- giving them the opportunity to ask an impartial observer and act as a mediator when things became unclear. Without this valuable resource, I believe that our apprentice may well have chosen to abandon her training and it would have been highly unlikely that we would have taken on our second apprentice" - **ABC Childcare**



# LINKS & DOWNLOADS

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[EMPLOYING AN APPRENTICE](#)

[APPRENTICESHIP SERVICE](#)

[FINDING A TRAINING PROVIDER](#)

[HIGHER LEVEL APPRENTICESHIPS](#)

[APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING RULES](#)

[BUSINESS FINANCE SUPPORT](#)

[CITB APPRENTICEHIP GRANT](#)

[LEVY TRANSFER](#)

[FLEXI-JOB APPRENTICESHIPS](#)

[KEY POINTS FOR EMPLOYERS](#)

[MYTH-BUSTING DISABILITY CONFIDENT](#)

[KICKSTART SCHEME](#)

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# Apprenticeships Suffolk



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Apprenticeships in Suffolk



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