

# Lesson plan

## Apprenticeships



**40**  
Minutes

**14-16**  
Age

**KS4:L4**  
PSHE

### Learning outcome(s)

#### By the end of the lesson students will:

- Describe what an apprenticeship is
- Explain the pros and cons of apprenticeships
- Detail the different levels of apprenticeships
- Understand how to research apprenticeships

### Summary of the lesson

A short video introduces students to apprenticeships. Through a group discussion they learn about the pros and cons of apprenticeships. In small groups they research apprenticeships on the apprenticeships search site.

#### Classroom requirements

- Interactive whiteboard
- Accompanying PowerPoint slides (choose correct country for your location)
- Computer/device for every 2-3 students
- Paper and pens per group

#### Suitable for students aged

14-16

#### Time required to complete tasks

40 mins max

#### Gatsby Benchmarks covered



#### Learning area in the CDI Career Development Framework

Explore possibilities / See the big picture

#### Programme of Study for PSHE Education

KS4:L4

#### Skills Builder Universal Framework



# Lesson activities

## 1. Introduction

Students watch a video which introduces them to apprenticeships. Show the appropriate video for the country your students live in.

**Time  
Required**

**5  
Min**

### Resources

England:  
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/understanding-apprenticeships/>  
Scotland (choose an appropriate video for your students from this selection):  
[www.apprenticeships.scot/apprenticeships/stories/](http://www.apprenticeships.scot/apprenticeships/stories/)  
Wales:  
<https://careerswales.gov.wales/apprenticeships/what-is-an-apprenticeship>

## 2. Pros and cons exercise

In groups of four, ask students to discuss and write down the pros and cons of apprenticeships.

Each group to feedback their discussion (try to avoid repetition), which the teacher writes as two lists on the whiteboard. The teacher can highlight any points the students don't identify from the points listed below:

### Pros

- Earn at least the minimum wage (£4.81 per hour from April 2022 for an apprentice under the age of 19 - NB rates change every April)
- Work towards a qualification which can be up to degree level
- Qualification paid for by the employer, so no debt for you to pay off

**Time  
Required**

**10  
Min**

### Resources

Paper and pens per group



## 2. Pros and cons exercise (continued)

- Variety of roles in a wide range of sectors eg practical, technology, law, healthcare, engineering and office based work
- Gain work experience and work based skills, both valued by future employers
- Potential for an offer of employment from your employer on completion of the apprenticeship
- Make friends with other apprentices
- Test out career ideas
- Boost your confidence

### Cons

- Not an easy option; can be difficult to balance work and study
- Can be competitive to secure a place on some apprenticeships
- You need to know what job you want to do at an early age
- You may have to live away from home, but not in a student environment (missing out on the university campus experience)
- You won't have a lot of annual leave; you may have to work when your friends are on holiday

## 3. Apprenticeship levels

Explain apprenticeship levels to the students with support from PowerPoint Slide 2: there are different levels or types of apprenticeship which students can apply for.

**Time  
Required**

**3**  
Min

### Resources

PowerPoint Slide 2

## 4. Which level or type is right for me?

Students work in groups of 2/3 and are given one of the case studies, on PowerPoint Slide 3, to discuss. They must decide which level of apprenticeship their case study student could consider. Each group to feedback their discussion to the class.

Learning points include:

- Students may apply for apprenticeships at the same level as the qualifications they are currently working towards
- Apprenticeships offer different skills and experiences to the equivalent level school qualification
- Distance from home needs to be considered when applying for apprenticeships

**Time  
Required**

**20**  
Min

### Resources

PowerPoint Slide 3

Computer/device per group



## 4. Which level or type is right for me? (continued)

- Students should find out about progression opportunities for apprenticeships they are considering - will the apprenticeship provide the experience and qualifications they seek, or are other steps required?
- Apprentices must be paid minimum wage or more
- Entry requirements give the minimum grades and experience required; some applicants will have more than this, whilst others will not. Students need to understand the difference between essential and desirable requirements
- There isn't one national deadline for vacancies; they are available all year round

## 5. Logging into Morrisby.com

Display PowerPoint slide 4 which shows students how to find apprenticeship information in their Morrisby account, if they have one. Encourage those who are interested in apprenticeships to find out more following the lesson. This information is career specific, and includes suggestions based on their profile.

Note: students who don't have a Morrisby account can be encouraged to return to the apprenticeship search website to find out more about apprenticeships. The UCAS website also includes comprehensive information about apprenticeships in different areas of the UK.

Time  
Required

2  
Min

Resources

PowerPoint Slide 4

## Differentiation

Students may require extra support to understand the apprenticeship job description and related information on the apprenticeships search website.



## Extension activities

Students could choose one or two careers that interest them, then investigate if apprenticeships are a possible route to those careers. To do this login to their Morrisby account (if they have one) to access information about apprenticeships or use the apprenticeship search website again. Students with a Morrisby account can add this activity as a goal to their Morrisby Action Plan.

