Degree Apprenticeships
An insight into Degree Apprenticeships by Chloe Baker and Kimberley Draper
Intros: Chloe

Frontend Software Engineer working at the National Oceanography Centre (NOC)

Recently completed a degree apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions (Software Engineer)
Intros: Kim

Lecturer in Digital Business
Programme leader in Digital Technology Solutions
Professional Degree Apprenticeship

University of Winchester
DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS
What is a Degree Apprenticeship?

An opportunity to enter full-time employment, with a hands-on perspective, whilst studying for a degree and getting paid a salary.

A combination which is proving to be popular for future talent across the industry.

A degree apprenticeship can span across multiple disciplines from Digital Technology Solutions Professional, Project Manager, Engineering, Data Science etc.

Degree apprenticeships are not limited to only undergraduate, there are additional postgraduate apprenticeships to further your education.
Degree Apprenticeship Statistics UK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Over 3,000,000 apprenticeships since 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Apprenticeships account for 33.5% of starts in 22/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25,100 apprenticeships were in Information &amp; Communication Technology in 22/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14% of STEM degree apprenticeships are completed by Females</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the beginning...
Where I heard about degree apprenticeships

Presentations

Government Website

Employer Websites:
- IBM
- BAE Systems
- Fujitsu
- CGI
Why did I choose a degree apprenticeship?

- Money!
- No debt
- 2-4-1
- Employed upon leaving uni

Work experience
Level 6 Apprenticeship
University Degree
My experience over the 3 years
Timeline

- AirSensa 2019
- Uni 2020
- Huler 2021
- Redundancy 2023
- NOC 2023
What **support** did I have?

- Employer
- Lecturers
- Careers Advisors
- Academic Skills Advisors
- Friends
What worried me before I started?

- Being the only girl
- Lack of experience
- Assessments
- Workload
What worried me before I started?

- **Being the only girl**
  - 4 other girls (and more in the year below)
  - Became friends with everyone
  - Never discriminated against

- Lack of experience
- Assessments
- Workload
What worried me before I started?

- Lack of experience
  - Taught everything!
  - Others will feel the same
- Being the only girl
- Assessments
- Workload
What worried me before I started?

- Being the only girl
- Lack of experience
- Assessments:
  - Start at 1,000 words and work your way up
  - Exams, presentations and essays
- Workload
What worried me before I started?

- Being the only girl
- Lack of experience
- Assessments

Workload
- Off the job training
- Limited amount of reading and ‘homework’
EVERYTHING has prepared you for this

EPA and Synoptic Project
End Point Assessment

- 30-minute presentation
- Talk about your dissertation
- Asked questions from examiners and your mentor/manager
- Need to have completed OTJ and EPA Mapping Document
Synoptic Project

8,000 – 10,000-word essay

Some pathways include an artifact

Your artifact must be relevant to your job, but you do get a choice

Given a dissertation supervisor

6 months to complete both
Final thoughts
Things I wished I had known

- Ask for feedback, then ask again
- I wasn’t at uni to learn to code
- University modules DO relate to your workplace
- A 10,000-word dissertation is not as scary as it sounds
- Still enjoy the social aspect and nightlife
- You can change employers
Questions

A guide to higher and degree apprenticeships:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5ccc5ec5ed915d50c1c4ac89/The_complete_guide_to_higher_and_degree_apprenticeships.pdf

List of employers: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships