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
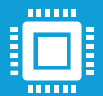Apprenticeship

University of Winchester

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

Over 3,000,000 apprenticeships since 2015

Higher Apprenticeships account for 33.5% of starts in 22/23

25,100 apprenticeships were in Information & Communication Technology in 22/23

14% of STEM degree apprenticeships are completed by Females

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

Work experience

Level 6 Apprenticeship

University Degree

Employed upon leaving uni

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?

Being the only girl

Lack of experience

- Taught everything!
- Others will feel the same

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'

EPA and Synoptic Project

EVERYTHING has prepared you for this

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

o Ask for feedback, then ask again

o I wasn't at uni to learn to code

o University modules DO relate to your workplace

o A 10,000-word dissertation is not as scary as it sounds

o Still enjoy the social aspect and nightlife

o 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