

Buxton and Leek College

Business Apprenticeships Manager for Apprenticeships:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOa2yaRglrs&t=57s>

Former Apprentice (Catering):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHlo6piJVc>

Beauty Apprenticeships:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=csSUDjYzXKw>

Engineering Apprenticeships:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfLsEPP2pDs>

What is the average starting pay for someone who starts and then completes an apprenticeship with your college?

The minimum wage is £4.15 per hour but many employers do pay more. This is specific to each employer and industry.

Where are you located?

We have one campus located in Buxton (Derbyshire) at the famous Devonshire Dome and one campus located in Leek (Staffordshire) which is are centre for Arts and Engineering.

What grades would I need to get into your college?

For an apprenticeship you need to ensure you have a pass at L2 Maths and English. If you have fallen just short of this we will be able to help you through our Functional Skills programme.

Can I enter an apprenticeship without having the required grades for my uni course?

This depends on what course. Typically coming straight from GCSE's you will do a Level 2 or 3 Apprenticeship as you will need to build up the skills and knowledge of the industry and workplace. For higher level degrees we can assist through our partner organisation, UoD.

As well as gaining qualifications, what else do you think would help an applicant stand out?

An applicant that has show the drive and motivation to seek what apprenticeship employment they are looking for is good, as is good personal skills i.e polite, well mannered, can hold a good face to face conversation

Does your institution provide any work experience/taster sessions/virtual open days which students can access before they apply?

We would normally provide taster sessions and currently are working towards providing a virtual taster or VIP tour to do a small taster session. We currently do Virtual Open Days with the next one taking place in Mid-January. You can register for an appointment slot here:

<https://www.blc.ac.uk/virtual-information-evening-2/>

You can also find information and videos about the college from the events launch pages here:

<https://www.blc.ac.uk/about-blc/virtual-open-day/>

Are there apprenticeships for everything? E.g. architecture and photography.

There are over 1600 different apprenticeship standards, so most things are covered. Unfortunately we do not cover all of these at BLC.

What courses do you offer and when do your courses start? How long are the courses?

We offer apprenticeship courses in – Business Admin Level 3, Customer Service Level 2, Customer Service Specialist Level 3, Commis Chef Level 2, Chef De Partie Level 3, Hospitality Team Member Level 2, Hospitality Team Leader Level 3, Team Leader/Supervisor Level 3, Hair Professional Level 2, Hair Professional Level 3, Beauty Therapist Level 2, Beauty Therapist Level 3, Carpentry and Joinery Level 2, Advanced Carpentry and Joinery Level 3, Engineering Level 2-3, Motor Vehicle Auto Technician Level 2-3, Early Years Practitioner Level 2, Early Years Practitioner Level 3, Teaching Assistant Level 3.

Courses range in length depending on the course and level with the minimum practical period being 12 months. Following the practical period there is an end point assessment which can take 1-3 months to complete.

You can start an apprenticeship in the workplace at any time as long as you have been interviewed by the team and have an employer we have spoken with and are in the process of contracting with i.e setting up the apprenticeship agreements that need to be put in place. You will then be inducted into college at the next start point. We have apprenticeship start points at roughly 8 week intervals throughout the year. If you come onto program part way through a year you will not miss out on the units covered previously as these will be taught to you at the next relevant point.

What are the benefits of apprenticeships?

Earning and Learning. On the job experience. Can put what is being taught directly into practice in the workplace. Gain people skills better. Many apprentices continue within their employer after completing.

What is the likelihood of being offered a job after completion of an apprenticeship?

This varies by employer and sector and is hard to put a % on but the likelihood is high, providing that you have made a good impact with the employer during your course. Hard work gets rewarded.

How many GCSEs do I need and what are the average entry requirements for an apprenticeship?

As mentioned before, Maths and English are key, at a Level 2 pass (C's or 4's, or better). If you are just short of this we can assist also.

What is the pay like for an apprentice? What is the pay like once you have qualified?

The minimum wage for an apprentice is £4.15 per hour if they are 16-18 or in their first year, although most employers do pay more. Following this apprenticeship follow the same minimum wage requirements as any other role as set out by the government.

Once you have completed the course, earning do vary by job and sector but those who have become qualified and have the experience can certainly expect to have an advantage.

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/benefits-apprenticeship>

How many hours do you spend working and how many hours do you spend training/learning?

The minimum numbers of hours per week an apprentice must work is 30, however, 20% of this must be 'Off the job training'. This will either be in college or designated study time within the workplace. This time is still paid for by your employer at your hourly rate.

What is the dress code?

Again, this varies by course, role and sector. Chefs will wear Chef Whites, Beauty Therapists will wear uniforms, Carpenters will wear something warm.....

Can I get a joinery apprenticeship?

Yes. We offer Level 2 and Level 3 Carpentry and Joinery, with Sit and Bench options.

Is it competitive to get an apprenticeship, what would make the ideal candidate?

It certainly can be competitive for some roles. An ideal candidate is someone who is eager to learn and work and is passionate about the subject area.

Are all of your courses Level 2/3 courses or do you also do Higher Level or Degree Apprenticeships?

At BLC we focus on Level 2/3 Apprenticeships but our partner organisation, UoD have a wide range of Higher and Degree Level Apprenticeships.

What is the easiest and most effective way to apply for apprenticeships?

Visit our website and apply online - <https://www.blc.ac.uk/apply-now/>

BLC WEBSITE GIVES LOTS OF APPRENTICESHIP INFO -

<https://www.blc.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprenticeship-journey/>