



## Lewis Wigham

Engineering Apprentice

Employer: Altec Engineering  
Studied: NVQ Engineering  
School: Staindrop Academy

“The classroom side of things prepares you for the workplace, where you shadow experienced members of staff before you gradually build up your skills so that you can work alone.”



## Jordan Garrick

Aerospace Engineering Apprentice

Employer: Babcock International  
Studied: Aerospace Engineering  
School: Northfield

“Having access to several complete aircraft in a hangar rather than just components in a classroom was brilliant preparation for what I do at RAF Leeming.”

## Want to know more about apprenticeships?

If you would like further information on an apprenticeship please go to [hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/apprenticeships](http://hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/apprenticeships) or contact Employer Services on 01429 404073 or e-mail [apprenticeships@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk)

# #HCLiFE

FOR APPRENTICESHIPS AT HARTLEPOOL COLLEGE  
AND FIND OUT WHY WE'RE **SECOND BEST** IN THE COUNTRY

**Become an Apprentice**  
A quick guide to the benefits of apprenticeships - entry requirements, levels, salaries and application information.

this is the **LiFE**

#HCLiFE

Hartlepool College  
of Further Education

## Introduction

**An apprenticeship is an exciting and appealing prospect. It allows you to train and develop with an employer in your chosen field whilst gaining nationally recognised qualifications and being paid for it.**

**Apprenticeships are a competitive field and with this guide we aim to outline the information needed to help you start to consider applying for one of the many vacancies.**



Source:  
\*University education - Is this the best route into employment?  
AAT and CEBR Feb 2013

\*\*As at October 2018

## What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is working in a real job while gaining a nationally recognised qualification which allows you to earn while you learn.

Apprenticeships take between one and five years to complete and cover a wide range of industries and occupations, from engineering to accountancy, public services to health care and many others.

**Apprenticeships are also available up to degree level and beyond.**

## What are the benefits of an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a paid job with study.

Apprentices will:

- work alongside experienced staff;
- gain a nationally recognised qualification;
- earn a wage and get holiday pay;
- train in the skills employers want;
- increase your future earning potential - apprentices enjoy marked salary increases when they complete their training, and those completing a higher apprenticeship could see increased earnings of an estimated £150,000 over their lifetime;\*
- Learn at a pace suited to the individual with the support of a mentor.

## Entry Requirements

Apprenticeships are available to anyone over the age of 16 living in England. There are different entry requirements depending on the sector and job.

## Apprenticeship Levels

There are various levels of apprenticeship that can be applied for, depending on current skills and qualifications.

Apprenticeships are equivalent to the following levels:

Name	Level	Equivalent educational level
Intermediate	2	5 GCSE passes at grades A* to C
Advanced	3	2 A level passes
Higher	4, 5, 6 & 7	Foundation degree and above
Degree	6 & 7	Bachelor's or Master's degree

All apprenticeships include on the job and off the job training, leading to industry recognised standards or qualifications. Some apprenticeships require an assessment at the end of the programme to assess the apprentice's competence in their job role.

## Salaries

Apprentices are paid during their apprenticeship. The minimum wage for apprentices is £3.70\*\* per hour. This rate applies to apprentices aged 16 to 18 and those aged 19 or over who are in their first year. They must be paid at least the minimum wage rate for their age if they're an apprentice aged 19 or over and have completed their first year.

Many employers pay more than this dependent on the sector, region and level. For example, some higher apprenticeships can pay as much as £300-£500 per week.

An apprentice must be paid for their normal working hours (minimum 30 hrs per week), and any training that's part of the apprenticeship (usually one day per week).

## Holidays

Apprentices get at least 20 days paid holiday per year, plus bank holidays.

## Applying for an Apprenticeship

At any one time there are up to 28,000 apprenticeship vacancies available on the 'Find an apprenticeship' site.

Visit **gov.uk** and search 'Find an apprenticeship'. You can search by keyword (job role, occupation type or apprenticeship level) and by location.

Once the right job comes up, you can simply register on the website and follow the step by step instructions to apply for the role.

## What to do if unsuccessful

Apprenticeships are competitive and the number of applicants far outweigh the number of vacancies. If an application is unsuccessful future vacancies can still be applied for. In the meantime, a full-time course at Hartlepool College in a chosen field will develop skills and increase employability.