



Apprenticeships in Youth Work England/Wales/Northern Ireland

The apprentice programme in Youth work has been developed as a high quality programme forming steps on the ladder to a youth work career.

There are two stages of Apprenticeship in Youth Work:

- **Apprenticeship/foundation Modern Apprenticeship (minimum age 16).**
The Apprenticeship is designed for people who have recently become active as youth workers. They are working in a paid position within an organisation, community or project, in an assisting or supporting role in the personal development of individual young people or groups.
- **Advanced Apprenticeship/Modern Apprenticeship (minimum age 18).**
The Advanced Apprenticeship is intended for people in a paid position, who have responsibility for determining the direction of their own work and providing guidance and support for other paid or unpaid workers a qualified youth support workers.

Those who successfully complete either Apprenticeship will be able to undertake the role of Youth Support Worker as recognised by the joint negotiating Committee (JNC) for Youth and Community Workers. JNC sets conditions of employment and pay scales for Youth and Community workers and it currently distinguishes between those who have completed the VRQ or NVQ at level 2 and level 3.

Entry Requirements

Although there are no 'national' entry requirements, candidates must be able to demonstrate the ability to achieve at least level 1 Communication skills, and Advanced Apprenticeship candidates level 2 by the end of their Apprenticeship. There must be a record of this ability being assessed before the apprentice starts on the framework.

Evidence of working with children and/or young people would be recommended for entry to Apprenticeship and is an expectation for Advanced Apprenticeship applicants. Direct entry to Advanced would normally require a period of previous experience in a role with a level of responsibility and completion of certificate of a level 2 VRQ/NVQ or equivalent.

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What is required and included?

Work based learning with an employer to be paid either a wage if employed, or an allowance. The apprenticeship will include a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ), Key skills and a 'knowledge based element or technical certificate as listed below.

Competence Based Element	Knowledge Based Element	Key Skills/Foundation Skills Essential Skills/Wales Essential Skills/ NI
NVQ		Foundation Skills – English 1.1 Mathematics 1.1
Apprenticeship – Youth Work level 2	City & Guilds Certificate in supporting Youth Work level 2 ABC Certificate in Youth Work level 2	Communication – level 1 Application of Number – level 1
Advanced Apprenticeship – Youth Work level 3	City & Guilds Certificate in supporting Youth Work level 3 ABC Diploma in Youth Work level 3	Communication – level 2 Application of Number – level 2

How long does the apprenticeship take to complete?

For the level two framework* - one year.

For the level three framework* - two years

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Please note that frameworks are called slightly different things in the three nations and this is reflected particularly in the sections such as Key Skills which are called Key Skills in England and Wales, and Essential Skills Northern Ireland in Northern Ireland. (In England and Wales these are changing to Functional Skills and Essential Skills respectively).

Career progression after completing this apprenticeship
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Roles within the Youth Workforce are many and varied. The straightforward route would be to become a professional Youth Worker following a foundation degree/ honours degree (approved for professional status). A number of ex apprentices are following this route. Other related work in community development, learning delivery (e.g. learning support, learner support, teaching, training , assessing), Connexions/Careers, youth offending teams, learning mentoring and coaching, youth health advisors, community sports officer and many more
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Apprentices must be willing to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check (these are mandatory for all those working with young people under the age of 18 and those working with vulnerable adults).

For more information or for details of Apprenticeships in Scotland please contact:

Lifelong Learning UK Information and Advice Service

advice@lluk.org

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