

# Supporting students to decide between degree apprenticeships and traditional university degrees

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**Discuss: What challenges have you faced when helping students to consider degree apprenticeships?**



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# What are Degree Apprenticeships?

- A job with training for a specific career
- Fully funded with a salary from day one
- An opportunity to study towards a full degree award and an apprenticeship standard to give students a range of valuable professional qualifications
- Involves at least 6 hours per week of **'off-the-job' training** (which is study time for the degree)
- Allows students to graduate debt free with several years of highly relevant work experience

# Degree Apprenticeships at the University of Exeter



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- Civil Engineering (BEng)
- Digital and Technology Solutions (BSc)
- Financial Services Professional (BSc Applied Finance)

# Degree Apprenticeships at Queen Mary



- Applied Finance (BSc)
- Digital and Technology Solutions - Data Analyst (BSc)
- Digital and Technology Solutions - Software Engineer (BSc)

# Myth versus reality



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- Degree apprenticeships are for people that can't get through a 'normal', full-time degree.
- Full-time degree students get better support, including an academic mentor.
- To do a degree apprenticeship, you need to live near the university.
- Degree apprenticeships don't offer the full university experience
- Degree apprentices don't learn as much.
- Degree apprenticeships are rigorous and require excellent time management skills.
- Degree apprenticeships offer as much support, including an academic and employer mentor.
- Not necessarily! We work with employers all over the country and learning is flexible.
- Apprenticeships offer residential periods on campus and access to all facilities.
- Degree apprentices learn a lot *and* gain vital experience.

# What are the benefits of degree apprenticeships?

## Pros

- Work Experience
- Flexible learning
- Receive full degree
- Additional Accreditation
- No Debt
- Career Prospects
- Employment benefits

## Cons

- Managing both work and study
- Working year, as opposed to academic year
- Work life balance.
- Degree takes longer than a full-time degree.
- Flexible learning

# Finding a Degree Apprenticeship

1. University websites
2. Apprenticeship search sites  
[www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)  
[www.ucas.com/apprenticeships](http://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships)
3. Employer websites

## Application process

- Application process varies
- Very competitive process
  
- Grade requirements
- CV, cover letter, assessment centres, interview



# Support from the University of Exeter



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- **Degree Apprenticeships team:**
- <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/degreeapprenticeships/>
  
- **School and College Engagement Team:**
- Deliver in-school talks on Degree Apprenticeships (<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/teachers/>)
  
- **Discover University:**  
<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/discoveruniversity/>



# Support from QMUL



- Degree apprenticeships team.  
degreeapprenticeships@qmul.ac.uk
- Employer introductions
- Insight from previous apprentices (QR code).
- Teachers conference (Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June)
- <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/outreach/teachers/teachers-conference>



**Questions?**