

For member volunteers supporting a careers fair

APPRENTICESHIPS

School students are asking more questions about apprenticeships. These handy hints can support your conversations at careers fairs and help you signpost students to find out more. Apprenticeships offer an attractive option as students can **"earn while they learn"**.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Full-time paid employment	Need to apply to individual companies, and applications may be open at different times of year
May lead to continued employment after the apprenticeship	Start and end of apprenticeships varies, not necessarily in line with an academic year
Covers a broad educational range from equivalent to GCSE level up to Degree level	May miss out on the 'uni' experience

APPRENTICESHIP Levels in the UK

Depending on previous experience and qualifications, there are different levels of apprenticeships, and these correspond to different educational levels in the UK



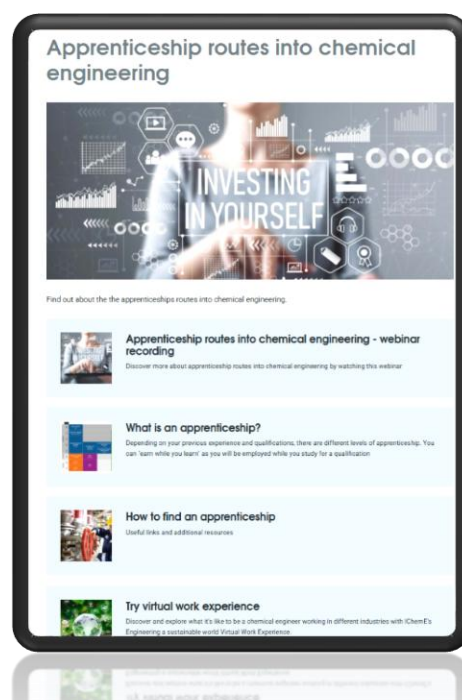
Apprenticeships are usually full-time paid employment. There are advanced, higher and degree apprenticeships in chemical engineering. Actual apprenticeship job titles may be called something like - process or plant engineer rather than chemical engineer.

How studying takes place varies; attending a college on set days each week or in blocks of weeks, completing study online or meeting with a trainer.

DiscoverChemEng online:

- Watch a webinar and hear from apprentices
- Links to UK government apprenticeship websites, for engineer and technician roles
- 14 to 18-year-olds exploring careers options can explore virtual work experience (VWEX). A QR code for accessing VWEX is printed on the DiscoverChemEng bookmarks, postcards and careers leaflets for members to order

Signpost school students to more information on the www.icheme.org/discoverchemeng website:



- Students need to do their research about apprenticeships – when? where? pay? study? how to apply?
- Application may be through UK government apprenticeship websites, or directly to employers
- Guide students to talk to their careers advisor at school or college