

7 questions to ask at university open days about Degree apprenticeships

Open days are a fantastic opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships. Asking these questions could help you to explore alternatives to full-time university to help you make an informed decision in the future.

	Questions to ask	Why should you ask this?
1	Is your university offering or planning to offer Degree apprenticeships?	Not all universities are offering Degree apprenticeships yet, but many do and will be able to tell you about the brilliant employers that they are working with and the range of exciting programmes that are emerging.
2	Which employers are you working with currently, what kind of apprenticeship vacancies do they have and when do they advertise?	This will give you an idea of which employers to research further and the number of vacancies they might be offering. Finding out about the date to apply is important as many employers with large programmes now focus on the opening date, rather than the closing date.
3	What is your university apprenticeship application process? Do you require a personal statement as well as the apprenticeship application?	Once you have secured your apprenticeship with the employer, many universities will require their degree apprentices to also submit a personal statement as part of their application to university. Knowing this in advance can be helpful so that you are aware of what to expect.
4	Does your careers service provide support with apprenticeship applications?	Many university careers services will provide applicants for their Degree apprenticeship programmes with support and guidance about the recruitment process.
5	What kind of delivery models are you offering?	Degree apprenticeship programmes are completely different to full-time university. You could attend day-release, online learning, block release or a blend of all of these. Ask about the different models available for each programme to get a feel for how it will work.
6	How much contact will the university have with the employer and apprentice?	The best apprenticeship programmes will insist on regular contact between the university, apprentice and their employer. This should lead to the best possible results for the apprentice as there will be a coherent understanding of what both the job and course demands of them.
7	How many Degree apprentices do you have currently? What are they saying about the programme?	This will give you a good idea about the work/life balance and will provide you with real-time feedback about how much they are enjoying the programme. Ask the university if any of their Degree apprenticeship students are available for a chat or have recorded any case studies that you can view.