Degree Apprenticeships in Electronics: Factsheet for Employers (Updated February 2020)

Apprenticeships are work-based training programmes, which allow people of all ages, from school leavers to experienced workers, to work and learn at the same time by combining technical training with workplace assessment. Apprenticeships have been around for a long time but degree apprenticeships are a recent innovation in England.

What is a Degree Apprenticeship?

Degree Apprenticeships offer students the opportunity to achieve a full bachelor's (Level 6) or master's (Level 7) degree by combining full-time work with part-time study through a training provider or a university. Apprentices are employed throughout their programme, spending part of their time at university and the rest with their employer.

How do they work?

In a nutshell: degree apprentices are full-time employed members of staff who work for your company while studying towards a university-awarded honours degree.

- Apprentices must spend at least 20% of their time undertaking off-the-job training, which will be agreed by the employer and the university. This is the equivalent of a day per week, either for block or day release study at university or college, or to study online. The duration is between 3 to 6 years.
- Eligibility: either new recruits or existing employees. There is no age limit.
- **Larger employers**: companies with an annual payroll of £3m+, and therefore paying the Apprenticeship Levy, will be able to fund up to 100% of a degree apprentice's tuition costs from their Levy contribution.
- **Smaller employers**: SMEs can claim 90% of the tuition costs from the Government, leaving them to pay only 10% themselves.

For the Electronics sector, there are two specific options: one at Level 6 and one at Level 7.

Embedded Electronic Systems Design and Development Engineer (Degree): the industry-specific Apprenticeship Standard at Level 6

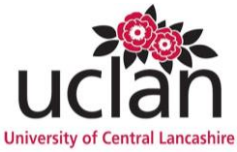
Experienced practitioners have developed the Embedded Systems Standard to meet the needs of employers in the Electronics sector.

Apprentices will achieve a thorough grounding in the basic principles of modern electrical and electronic engineering by learning to design and develop circuits, devices and systems for a range of industries. They will combine knowledge of electronics and electronic principles with expertise in the end use of the final product.

The duration of this Level 6 apprenticeship is 36 months+ and will result in a BEng degree, which will be recognised by the Institution of Engineering & Technology (IET). The IET is the organisation that will arrange for the End Point Assessment of the apprentice's competency and the conclusion of the programme.

Employers may set their own entry requirements, typically including an A-level or equivalent in Maths and one other STEM-based subject.

Universities who are currently delivering degree programmes using the Level 6 Standard include…



Electronic Systems Principal Engineer: the industry-specific post-graduate Apprenticeship Standard at Level 7

The Standard, at Level 7, was approved for delivery in July 2019 by the Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education with a funding allocation of £14,000, for the occupation of 'Electronic Systems Principal Engineer'.

It was developed with a group of major employers and is aimed at post-graduate engineers, with Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) aligned with the competencies required by the Engineering Council for professional registration as a Chartered Engineer. We envisage that universities will offer programmes based on their MSc Electronic Engineering courses.

The University of the West of England is the first to deliver a degree programme using the Level 7 Standard

UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

Like to find out more?

Contact a university. Each of the universities listed above has apprenticeship engagement team, to help employers find out about degree apprenticeships, provide advice about programmes and even help connect with potential apprentices.

More generally, if would like to learn more then these are useful websites:

- Higher and Degree apprenticeships: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-and-degree-apprenticeships
- The Institute for Apprenticeships: instituteforapprenticeships.org
- End Point Assessments: https://www.theiet.org/career/routes-to-engineering/apprenticeships/introducing-apprenticeships/benefits-for-employers/end-point-assessment/

Or contact the UKESF: info@ukesf.org