Degree Apprenticeships in Electronics: Factsheet for Employers (February 2019)

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.

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 degrees programmes using the Standard include…

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