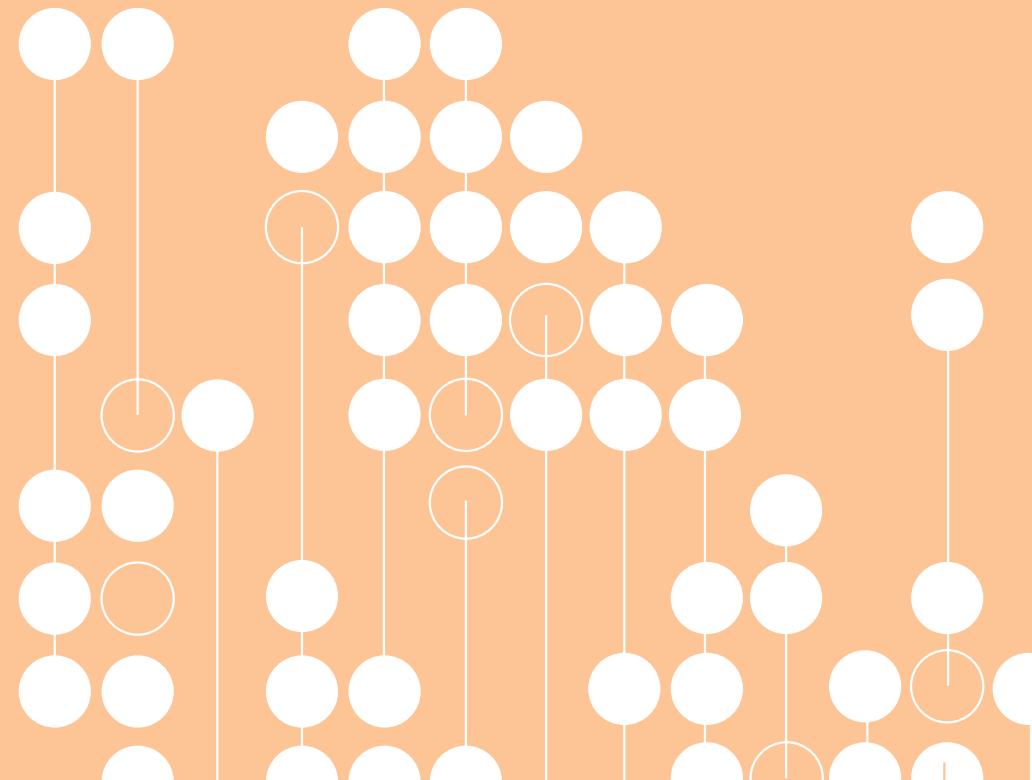


Develop your child's career potential

A parents' guide to data, AI, digital
and tech apprenticeships

January 2026








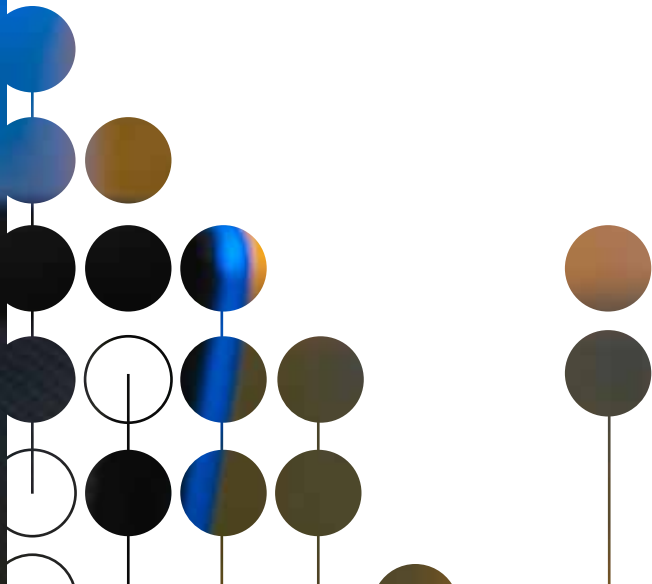


We are QA

Apprenticeships England

The UK's leading tech skills provider

-  Included in the Top 50 Training Providers from 2019 to 2024
-  70% of our apprentices feel more confident and better prepared for work life than most people their age
-  Awarded Grade 2 'Good' by Ofsted
-  90% of QA apprentices went straight into fulltime jobs after completing their apprenticeships
-  Award-winning learning system which combines cutting edge technology, engaging content, compelling design, and on-demand tutor support




We specialise in data, AI, digital and tech

Discover your potential in the data, digital and tech industries with a QA apprenticeship, mastering the skills that employers are seeking today. With an apprenticeship, you can earn while you learn and access a world of possibilities.

Our programmes offer apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships that focus on the most sought after tech skills, ranging from Level 3 all the way up to Level 6.

Apprenticeship myths debunked

 **Apprenticeships are for those who don't do well at school.**

- ✓ Apprenticeships are simply an alternative route into skilled employment.
- ✓ Some tech employers prefer apprenticeships as the industry evolves quickly.

 **Apprentices don't earn very much money.**

- ✓ Apprenticeships pay at the very least the apprenticeship minimum wage and as of April 2025 this is £7.55 per hour for 16–18-year olds; This is £10 per hour for 18-20 year olds and for 21 and over it is £12.21 per hour.
- ✓ QA's apprenticeship vacancies pay on average between £15,000 and £18,000, with some starting as high as £25,000 - £30,000 and are often increased after the first year of training.
- ✓ The average size of student debt post degree is £40,000 - £50,000.




 **Apprenticeships are just for young people leaving school**

- ✓ The average age of apprentices has been increasing over the years and the average age of a QA apprentice is now 32.
- ✓ A large number of employers use apprenticeships to upskill their existing employees.



What is an apprenticeship and how does it work?

Get a head-start in the world of work

-  An apprenticeship is a modern, hands-on way to train for an exciting new career in tech.
-  It's a paid full-time job - the apprentice will work with an employee, have a line manager, take home a salary at the end of the month and have access to employee benefits.
-  They'll have a structured training programme with QA, an industry recognised qualification, a personal tutor and a dedicated team member to buddy with your child through every step in the process from application to job offer and first day at work.

01

Application stage. Your child uploads their CV to one of the many new opportunities added every month.

02

If they are a good match good match, a career adviser calls, and helps create a personal profile.

03

There is lots of support all the way. From profile preparation to interview readiness.

04




Yes! The job offer is in and the apprenticeship confirmed.

Apprentices are supported every step of the way

Coach Support

- Hourly 1:1 coaching sessions, every 6 weeks.
- Guidance sessions on application of learning, objective setting and stretch learning.
- Timely, marking and feedback on submissions and portfolio.

Digital Learning Team

-  Multiple coaches. Real time instant support
-  First time assignment submission 24 hours
-  Response to a query within 4 hours

Apprenticeship training designed around you



Our award-winning approach to training is based on the principles of Discover, Practice, Apply, a flexible three step process which enables every apprentice to learn at their own pace, in their own time, with individual support every step of the way.



Your child is assigned a dedicated skills coach with hourly one to one sessions every six weeks.

Coaching and guidance sessions for course topics are delivered by expert tutors and your child has access to all the online learning needed to complete their apprenticeship training on time.



In addition, the digital learning team offer instant learning support and respond to 75% of queries within a minute, via online chat.

Feedback on assignments and submissions is timely and there are regular check-ins ensure all is well.



As a result, QA apprentices are more engaged, gain skills quicker and 97% of all learners complete their training on time, or ahead of time.

Apprenticeship programmes

You'll need 5 GCSEs at Grade C/4 or above – 2 of which must be Maths & English at Grade D/3 or above.

Level 3

Microsoft Azure Cloud Support Specialist

Learn how to solve problems and get to the root of issues, using Azure Cloud software.

Future job prospects:

- IT Infrastructure Technician
- Desktop Support Engineer

Cloud Network Specialist

Specialising in cloud, you'll help solve problems, fix issues and help people to use technology well within a professional environment.

Future job prospects:

- First or Second line Helpdesk Support
- Technical Support Analyst

Junior Developer

Learn to build and test software applications on the web, mobile or desktop using coding knowledge.

Future job prospects:

- Junior App Developer
- Junior Programmer
- Junior Software Developer

AI & Digital Support

Learn how to leverage AI, Microsoft Copilot, and a variety of digital skills to support and advise users across different business software and Generative AI applications. You'll gain hands-on experience in enhancing digital transformation and increasing AI literacy within an organisation.

Future job prospects:

- AI Adoption Specialist
- AI Support Specialist
- Applications and Online Service Executive
- Digital Applications Specialist

Multi-Channel Marketer

Learn how to harness your creative skills to influence customer's behaviour.

Future job prospects:

- Digital Marketing Technologist
- Social Media Executive
- Content Coordinator
- Digital Marketing Executive

Data Essentials

Learn how to source, format and present data securely, analyse structured and unstructured data to support business outcomes, and how to apply legal and ethical principles when manipulating data.

Future job prospects:

- Data Technician
- Junior Data Analyst
- Data Support Analyst
- Junior Information Analyst

AWS Cloud Support Specialist

Specialise in the fundamentals of cloud computing and gain the practical skills needed to perform your day-to-day duties as an IT support specialist.

Future job prospects:

- Cloud Technician
- Help Desk Support
- IT Support Analyst
- Data Centre Support Technician
- Cyber/Security Support

You'll need a Level 3 IT Apprenticeship or an A-level in a STEM subject (plus successful completion of our Aptitude test) or a BTEC Diploma in a STEM subject (plus successful completion of our Aptitude test).

Level 4

DevOps Engineer

Learn how to accelerate and simplify development cycles by combining the practices of software development and technical operations.

Future job prospects:

- Automation Engineer
- Platform Engineer
- Infrastructure Engineer

Data Analyst

Learn how to collect, organise and study raw data and translate it into understandable language..

Future job prospects:

- Data Manager
- Data Scientist
- Data Engineer

Network Engineer

Learn how to design, install and maintain communication networks.

Future job prospects:

- Network Designer
- Network Technician
- Systems Engineer

Software Engineer

Learn how to build and test high-quality code across front end, logic and database layers.

Future job prospects:

- Web Developer
- Applications Developer
- Software Developer

Cyber Security Engineer

Learn how to fight cybercrime, protect systems and use logic to keep ahead of cyber criminals.

Future job prospects:

- Information Security Officer
- Cyber Operations Manager
- Information Security Architect

Project Manager

Learn how to plan, manage, and deliver projects efficiently, ensuring goals are met on time and within budget. Develop key skills in leadership, organisation, and risk management to drive success across various industries.

Future job prospects:

- Project Coordinator
- Junior Project Manager
- Risk Manager
- Operations Coordinator

Cyber Security Risk Analyst

Gain the skills and knowledge to safeguard systems, information, personal data and people from attacks and unauthorised access.

Future job prospects:

- Cyber Security Analyst
- Cyber Risk Analyst
- Intelligence Researcher
- Cyber Security Specialist
- Governance & Compliance Analyst

AI & Automation Specialist

Develop the capability to deploy intelligent AI solutions to streamline workflows, eliminate repetitive tasks, and unlock actionable insights – grounded in ethical AI and automation.

Future job prospects:

- AI Integration Specialist
- Automation Engineer
- AI Business Analyst

Level 4 (continued)

Business Analyst

Learn how to analyse data and investigate information systems solutions in order to find trends, answer questions, and draw conclusions to improve operational efficiency.

Future job prospects:

- Business Architect
- Business Systems Analyst
- Enterprise Analyst
- Management Consultant
- Process Analyst

Cyber Defender and Responder

Learn how to use investigation techniques and analytics skills to defend against and respond to cyber incidents within the network environment.

Future job prospects:

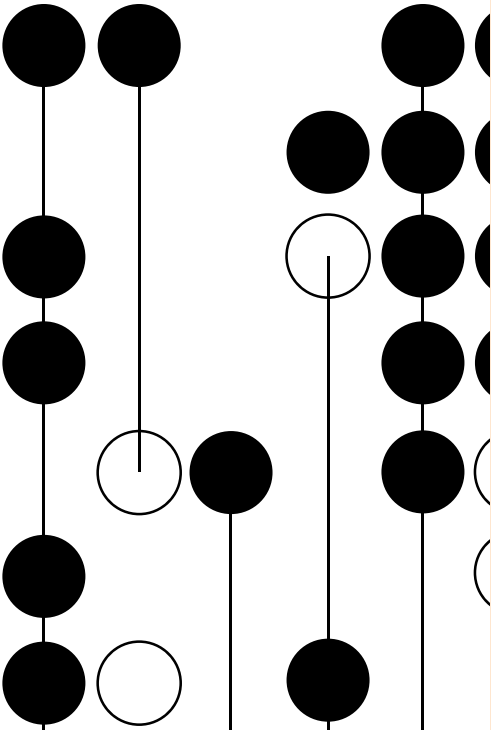
- Cyber Security Analyst
- Forensics & Incident Response Analyst
- Incident Response Centre (IRC) Analyst
- Network Operations Centre (NOC) Security Analyst

Digital Product Manager

Understand the user experience and design process, run research and discovery to develop products that deliver, and learn how to measure and improve the success of products.

Future job prospects:

- Digital Product Manager Associate
- Junior Product Manager



Level 5

Data Engineer

Learn how to skilfully architect, administer, and transform data into actionable insights tailored for consumption by Data Scientists, Data Analysts and Business Intelligence professionals.

Future job prospects:

- Automation Engineer
- Platform Engineer
- Infrastructure Engineer

Databricks Engineer

Learn to gain a strong foundation in advanced technical skills on the Databricks Data Intelligence Platform. This training will boost your ability to drive growth from data insights by designing, developing, and managing complex data systems.

You'll be equipped to obtain better insights faster, develop efficient data pipelines, and optimise costs for your organisation. This comprehensive learning experience will empower you to drive data-driven decision-making and innovation.

Future job prospects:

- Data Engineer
- ETL Developer
- Data Architect

Degree apprenticeship programmes

BSc (Hons) Digital and Technology Solutions Degree

Take your tech skills and knowledge to the next level by specialising in 1 of the following 4 areas: Network Engineer, Software Engineer, IT Consultant or Data Analyst.

Future job prospects:

- IT Consultant
- IT Project Manager
- Systems Designer
- Database Specialist

BSc (Hons) Project Management

Strengthen your project team’s critical thinking, AI literacy, and ethical leadership by applying tools and frameworks to live projects. Gain APM-aligned qualifications with a clear path to chartered status.

Future job prospects:

- Project Support Officer
- Project Manager
- Programme Manager
- Change Manager
- Business Analyst (with project focus)
- Construction or Engineering Project Manager
- Sustainability or ESG Project Manager

AI Engineer

Learn how to help businesses embrace AI-driven transformation by developing the skills to design, build, and deploy Generative AI and Machine Learning solutions.

Future job prospects:

- AI Engineer
- ML Engineer
- ML Operations (MLOps) Engineer
- Data Engineer
- Data Scientist



Our apprentice trailblazers



Keren Owusu-Afriyie

Digital Technology Solutions Degree Apprentice
NatWest

“The key thing I’ve learnt is that you’re always going to be growing, developing, learning something new. And you never know what challenges are going to come from the next stage.”



Oli Gallagher

Data Analyst Apprentice
United Utilities

“The biggest advantage of doing an apprenticeship for me has been learning while earning.

Apprenticeships allow you to experience the job you aspire to have, showing you can succeed in that role in the future.”



Paige West

Digital Marketing Apprentice
MKM Building Supplies

“Usually people in my family would have gone off to college and then university, but with the availability of apprenticeships now, I was able to get qualifications that I could have gone to university to do, but I was also able to work at the same time.”

Choose from hundreds of employers

From edgy start-ups and medium-sized enterprises to big household names...



Want to find out more?



qa.com/apprenticeships/become-an-apprentice