



FOUNDATION
APPRENTICESHIP

INFORMATION

FOR EMPLOYERS

Read on to find out
how you can get involved

WHAT IS A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP?

Foundation Apprenticeships are a work-based learning opportunity for S5 school pupils. The course enables them to get a feel for a career, gain a vocational qualification, and gain work experience, while remaining in school. The course takes place over two years, S5 to S6, and is completed alongside Higher and National 5 subjects.



WHY HAVE FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS BEEN INTRODUCED?

Foundation Apprenticeships have been introduced by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland to help tackle Scotland's problem of youth unemployment.

Their aim is to foster stronger links between employers and education, helping to ensure that local employers have the opportunity to play a more active role in developing the young workforce and shaping the next generation of talent. Foundation Apprenticeships equip young people with the knowledge, skills, and experience to prepare them for the world of work.



HOW DOES A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP WORK?

Foundation Apprenticeships are part of the S5 pupils' school timetable. Pupils attend college on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons (times and attendance varies by course) in Year 1. Work-related experience varies by course, with the majority of it taking place in Year 2 of the course.

Depending on the Foundation Apprenticeship, generally the second year of the course is a work placement within a company. Delivery and assessment of the relevant NPA/NC/PEO will be in Year 1 whilst the work-based competence units will be delivered and assessed in the workplace in Year 2.

WHY BECOME INVOLVED WITH FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS?

There are many benefits to employers engaging with school pupils:

- Raise your business profile
- Enhance your reputation in the eyes of the community and customers
- Transform the life of a young person
- Increase the employability of a young person
- Access to young talent, creativity and innovation
- Exposure to potential future employees, which will save you time in your recruitment process
- Continue to develop and grow as a business

WHAT LEVEL OF ENGAGEMENT CAN I CONTRIBUTE?

You can get involved in various ways, for example:

SITE VISITS

INDUSTRY TALKS

INDUSTRY CHALLENGE PROJECTS SET
FOR PUPILS

MENTORING SUPPORT

WORK PLACEMENTS

INTERVIEW TECHNIQUES



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS TO A PUPIL STUDYING A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP?

Pupils gain a head start in their career by experiencing a working environment and gaining an industry recognised qualification.

Benefits:

EXPOSURE TO EMPLOYERS

INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

FAST TRACK ENTRY INTO A MODERN
APPRENTICESHIP

PROGRESSION TO FURTHER COLLEGE COURSES
OR UNIVERSITY

DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE

WHAT DO OUR COLLEGE TEAM THINK?

Sarah Taylor, Engineering Lecturer, commented that:

“ The Foundation Apprenticeship allows school pupils to undergo elements of Modern Apprenticeship training in Engineering whilst maintaining the benefits of completing National 5’s and Highers at school. This adds to the employability of the pupils and gives them additional skills and knowledge most school leavers would not have. Hopefully, the course will encourage them to pursue a career in an engineering discipline. ”

Nicola Crangle, Engineering Lecturer stated that:

“ This is an exciting and valuable opportunity for our young people to kick-start their career! Completing a Foundation Apprenticeship will open up so many opportunities and possibilities for them. I think the concept of completing this qualification, gaining work experience, and still being able to get additional school qualifications will ensure they are able to broaden their options. I hope that as many young people as possible are able to take advantage of this brilliant opportunity. ”

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

If you are interested in becoming involved in our Foundation Apprenticeship courses, please get in contact.

Telephone: **01294 559000 ext.5387**

Email: dyw@ayrshire.ac.uk

Further information about Foundation Apprenticeships can be found:

- Course information booklet
- Contact Ayrshire College: dyw@ayrshire.ac.uk
- www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships
- Skills Development Scotland
- www.apprenticeship.scot/foundation
- Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA)
- www.sqa.org.uk
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)
- www.scqf.org.uk
- Education Scotland
- www.educationscotland.gov.uk

PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

Fraser Wallace, an S5 pupil at Greenwood Academy, tells us about his experience in the course so far. He has been studying the Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering since August 2016.

Why did you decide to study a Foundation Apprenticeship?

Doing the course works well with me being at school. I don't have to keep my options to just my Highers, I can do a college course at the same time.

It also means I can reduce the amount of time it will take me to get the job I want.

Why did you choose the Foundation Apprenticeship in engineering?

Engineering is a massive sector and has something for everyone. There will always be a need and demand for engineers, which is appealing. I prefer to learn by being in the workshop and practising what we are learning. I am very excited to get to work with a company, it's a brilliant idea. They will get to meet me and know my name before I have even applied for a job.

Did you have any experience in engineering before you started the course?

I did my work experience at General Electric, which was brilliant. I also help my dad fixing things around the house. He works offshore in engineering. I knew I wanted to do engineering before I started the course, but I thought it would be good to try it out before I commit.

What do you do in the course?

I spend two afternoons a week at college. On Tuesday it's a practical class with my engineering lecturer, Sarah. At the moment we are wiring electric boards. On Thursday is more theory based covering topics like safety, engineering processes and things like the reactions of metal when we are working with it. Next semester we are starting Computer Aided Design (CAD) work.

What do you like best about the course?

Doing the practical work and especially getting to try it yourself. It's a great feeling knowing that you are trusted to practise a task independently. I really like the course content as well, it's very interesting.

What has been the most challenging aspect of the course so far?

I haven't found anything in the course too difficult at the moment.

How does it work with your school studies?

I picked up a bus pass from my school reception which gets me to the Irvine campus for the course and then back to the school. The bus gets me to the campus in plenty of time. I am taking 3 Highers along with the Foundation Apprenticeship. I was going to take a fourth Higher, but when I saw the option to take Engineering I thought it wasn't an opportunity I was going to get again at school. I needed to take it this year.

My parents at first were hesitant but they know this is what I want to do. They support me 100%.

How does it differ from being at school?

It's a different style of teaching at college, you are treated more like an adult. It's nice to have a feeling of independence.

How did you hear about Foundation Apprenticeships?

Through my guidance teacher, he knew I wanted to do engineering so gave me information about the course. I researched what the course was and then went to the Foundation Apprenticeship information session at Ayrshire College in April. This helped answer any questions that my parents and I had.

What was the process of applying?

I completed an application form and then went for an interview. I took the aptitude test and passed, it was quite basic maths.

What do you want to do when you finish school?

I would like to be an Aeronautical Engineer. Most of these companies recruit through college and apprenticeship programs. I knew someone that was an apprentice at General Electric and they put him through university.

Why would you like to be an engineer?

There are always problems in the world to solve. I won't be working on the same problem everyday either. There will always be new challenges.

Fraser will continue the Foundation Apprenticeship in engineering through his 5th and 6th year of school. Completing the course will give him a head start when applying for a job, Modern Apprenticeship, or a full-time college or university course.

Ayrshire College



For more information contact:
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