

**FURTHER  
INFORMATION**

**FOR PARENTS  
AND CARERS**

Read on to find out how  
your child can get a head  
start in their career  
while still at school

# WHAT IS A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP?

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a brand new, innovative way for pupils to learn at secondary school. Completing a Foundation Apprenticeship will give young people the opportunity to gain valuable work experience and industry recognised qualifications as part of their timetable. This an exciting opportunity for our young people to get a feel for a career before they have left school.



# WHY HAVE FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS BEEN INTRODUCED?

Foundation Apprenticeships have been introduced by the Scottish Government and Skills Development Scotland to help tackle youth unemployment in Scotland. The overall aim of the initiative is to equip young people with the knowledge, skills and experience to prepare them for the world of work, and help to broaden their options when they leave school.

Many employers feel that young people could be better prepared when entering the world of work, therefore building strong links between employers and education will ensure employers have the opportunity to play a more active role in developing the young workforce and shaping the next generation of talent.

# WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE IN AYRSHIRE?

At Ayrshire College we are offering young people an exciting opportunity to achieve industry qualifications and work experience in the following:

- Engineering – Kilmarnock campus
- Software Design – Ayr campus
- Social Services (Children and Young People) – Kilwinning campus

Young people can apply for these courses at any of our Ayrshire College campuses. Their application should be discussed with their guidance teacher to make sure any travel time can be accommodated within their timetable. Transport costs are covered by the College.

# WHO ARE FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS FOR?

Foundation Apprenticeships are a work-based learning opportunity for secondary school pupils. The courses take place over 2 years from S5 to the end of S6, and are completed as part of their school timetable alongside other Higher and National 5 subjects.

Foundation Apprenticeships are a way for young people to get a feel for a career without having to leave school, whilst gaining vocational qualifications and essential work experience.

## HOW DOES A FOUNDATION

## APPRENTICESHIP WORK?

A Foundation Apprenticeship will be part of a young person's S5 and S6 options and choices and timetabled into their school week. They will spend two afternoons a week at college, some time with an employer (varies depending on course) and the rest of the time completing their other school subjects.

## WILL STUDYING A FOUNDATION

## APPRENTICESHIP AFFECT

## OTHER SCHOOL STUDIES?

The College and school will work closely together to ensure that the young person is capable of completing the course requirements and is supported at all times. A Foundation Apprenticeship is the same level of learning as a higher, so their guidance teacher should be confident they are able to do this. A Foundation Apprenticeship will be one of their options and choices and be part of their timetable.

# HOW IS THE WORK

# PLACEMENT ORGANISED?

Foundation Apprenticeships have been designed by industry and work experience is an integral part of the programme. The work experience will vary depending on the course, however the majority of this will take place in the second year with varying input from employers in year one.

Ayrshire College is responsible for organising work placements and we aim to get local employers involved, however some travel may be required. Travel expenses to and from college and the workplace are paid for. All employers are vetted by the College to ensure they are suitable and meet learner requirements. The College will monitor placement activity to provide support and guidance.



# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP?

Get a head start on a career path

Gain essential work experience

Learn important transferrable skills that can be used in any industry

Build on personal development

Increase opportunities for employment

Gain industry recognised vocational qualifications while still at school

Earn a qualification that is the same level of learning as a higher

Progress to College, University or Employment

Fast track entry onto a Modern Apprenticeship

Gain parts of a Modern Apprenticeship whilst still at school

# WHAT DO EMPLOYERS SAY ABOUT FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIPS?

“ Microtech Digital are delighted to be working in partnership with Ayrshire College and the Foundation Apprenticeships programme. As a local company, it is important that we are committed to ensuring our young people have the opportunity to gain essential work experience that will help them kick start their career. This is an exciting and valuable opportunity for young people in our communities. ”

- Martin Duffy, Head of Microtech Digital,

“ I hope that in the future, some of the brightest and best social service workers will be able to say they started their career with a Foundation Apprenticeship.”

- Anna Fowlie, CEO, Scottish Social Services Council

“ It is important to demonstrate to students what engineering actually looks like in the work environment and hopefully inspire engineers of the future.”

- Simon Foster, Engineering Director at Spirit AeroSystems

# WHAT BENEFITS DO THE COLLEGE LECTURING TEAM SEE?

Sarah Taylor, Engineering Lecturer, commented that:

“**Completing a Foundation Apprenticeship is an experience that will make sure our young people have the best possible start in their career. Often young people gain qualifications but have no practical work experience in a real life working environment. Employers need our young people to be qualified and have work experience. With a Foundation Apprenticeship you get the best of both worlds, they can gain an industry recognised qualification, work experience and also continue with their school studies.**”

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 IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MODERN APPRENTICESHIP (MA) AND A FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP (FA)?

The main difference is that a Foundation Apprenticeship is studied while still at school alongside other subjects. A Modern Apprenticeship is completed when a young person leaves school. It is up to each individual to find a company that are recruiting Modern Apprenticeships. The general structure is that the apprentice would attend college for part of the week and then spend the remainder of their week in the workplace. This gives young people the opportunity to gain qualifications whilst earning a salary.



# WHAT ARE THE PROGRESSION

# PATHWAYS AFTER A FOUNDATION

# APPRENTICESHIP?

## SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

- Employment
- Modern Apprenticeship in IT and Telecommunications
- Support your CV or applications to College and University
- College HNC route

## SOCIAL SERVICES (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

- Employment
- Modern Apprenticeship in Social Services Children and Young People (SVQ L3)
- Support your CV or applications to College and University
- HNC in Childhood Practice

## ENGINEERING

- Employment
- Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering
- Support your CV or applications to College and University
- College HNC route

# WHO CAN I SPEAK TO FOR MORE INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE?

If you need any further help you can contact Kirsty Taylor at Ayrshire College on **01294 559000 ext. 5387** or email [kirsty.taylor@ayrshire.ac.uk](mailto:kirsty.taylor@ayrshire.ac.uk). You can also speak to the schools guidance staff or Skills Development Scotland (SDS) careers coach in school.

## Further information about Foundation Apprenticeships can be found:

- Course information booklet
- [www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships/apprenticeship.scot/foundation](http://www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships/apprenticeship.scot/foundation)
- Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA)  
-[www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71722.html](http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/71722.html)
- Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)  
-The SCQF is Scotland's national qualifications framework

## Education Scotland:

[www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/thecurriculum/dyw/seniorphasespathways/foundationapprenticeships.asp](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningandteaching/thecurriculum/dyw/seniorphasespathways/foundationapprenticeships.asp)

# PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

**Fraser Wallace, an S5 pupil at Greenwood Academy, tells us about his experience in the course so far.**

**Fraser has been studying the Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering since August this year.**

## ***Why did you decide to study a Foundation Apprenticeship?***

Doing the course works well with me being at school. I don't have to limit 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 also prefer to learn by being in the workshop and practicing 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 practical with Sarah (Lecturer, Engineering), at the moment we are learning about subject such as wiring electric boards. On Thursday it is more theory based such as 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 practice 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 pick up a bus pass from my school reception which gets me to the Irvine campus for the course and then back to school. The bus gets me to the campus in plenty of time. I am taking three Highers along with the Foundation Apprenticeship. I was hoping to take a fourth Higher but when I saw the option to take Engineering, I thought this was a great opportunity that I wouldn't get again. 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 who 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 course through his 5th and 6th year of school. Completing the course will give him a head start when applying for a job, Modern Apprenticeship, College course or a University course.**

# Ayrshire College



For more information contact:

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