

Factsheet 20

IT & Telecoms

Professional

National Apprenticeship Service

Overview

This Apprenticeship covers work in a broad range of digital technologies that help people use and share information, such as mobile phones, computers, broadband provision, and satellite communications.

The IT industry is predicted to grow at a rate of 2.5% per year. The Telecoms industry however is likely to grow at a lower rate at 0.3% per year, leading to growth of 1.9% per year for the IT and Telecoms industry combined.

The industry is looking for 142,000 new workers over the next three years, so the career prospects are excellent.

The Telecoms industry is one of the fastest changing in the UK as new technologies are being explored and developed. There are 8,500 telecoms manufacturing and services establishments in Great Britain employing 278,000 people, including: 35,000 telecoms professionals. In addition, there are 21,000 Telecoms Engineers and Line repairers/Cable Jointers working outside the IT and Telecoms industry.

Starting salary (once qualified):
£12,000 - £15,000.

What is an Apprenticeship

An Apprenticeship is a mix of real work and learning. Apprentices earn a wage and get experience whilst working towards a number of qualifications. An Apprenticeship follows a Level 2 programme and can lead onto an Advanced Apprenticeship which is a Level 3 programme.

Example Job Roles as an Apprentice

- ICT Operations Technicians
- IT User Support
- Database Assistants and Clerks
- Telecoms Engineers
- Line Repairers and Cable Jointers
- Computer Engineers

Apprenticeship Framework

There are a number of elements to each Apprenticeship and this is called the framework. Each Apprenticeship framework has three main strands:

- competence based element
- technical element
- skills element

The three strands are sometimes accompanied by additional qualifications to give the most relevant skills and knowledge required for the job.

Competence Element

Apprenticeship – Level 2 Diploma in ICT Professional Competence

Advanced – Level 3 Diploma for Apprentice Practitioners

Technical Element

None required for completion of the framework

Skills Element

Apprenticeship –
Application of Number Level 1
Communication Level 1

Advanced –
Application of Number Level 2
Communication Level 2

Other Additional Study

Employment Rights and Responsibilities

Apprenticeships Available

- Apprenticeship (18-24 months) ✓
- Advanced Apprenticeship (24-36 months) ✓
- Higher Apprenticeship ✗

Progression Routes

- Advanced Apprenticeship
- Higher IT NVQ (IT Professional) or other relevant NVQ Levels 4 and 5
- Higher Education
- Degree or HNC/D

Options within the Framework

- Apprentices have the choice of focusing on either telecoms or IT
- Telecoms cover broadband, mobile phones and satellite communications

Already Employed?

Are you currently employed but not working towards qualifications? Speak to your employer about converting to an Apprenticeship and ask them to call 08000 150 600 for more information.

For more Information and to Apply

Visit:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk

If you require further advice or support on Apprenticeships please contact your local Connexions or Careers Advice Service.