



INSTITUTE OF THE
MOTOR INDUSTRY

THERE'S **MORE** TO MOTOR



Apprenticeship
Central

AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIPS

WHAT IS AN AUTOMOTIVE APPRENTICESHIP?

An automotive apprenticeship allows you to earn a salary while gaining recognised qualifications and real industry experience. You are employed by a company, complete structured training alongside your job, and build skills that employers value.

Apprenticeships are available across far more roles than many people realise. They broadly fall into three areas:

BUSINESS & CUSTOMER-FOCUSED

If you enjoy:

- Working with people
- Organisation
- Communication
- Teamwork

Examples:

- Customer Service Practitioner/Specialist
- Business Administrator
- Supply Chain Practitioner
- Assistant Accountant
- HR Support

Future roles:

- Team Leader
- Operations or Office Manager
- HR Advisor or Manager
- Service Manager
- Account Manager

TECHNICAL AND HANDS-ON

If you enjoy:

- Practical work
- Fixing things
- Problem-solving
- Working with tools

Examples:

- Autocare Technician
- Motor Vehicle Service & Maintenance Technician
- Vehicle Damage Panel, Paint or MET Technician
- Accident Repair Technician (multi-skilled)
- Heavy Vehicle Technician
- Automotive Glazing Technician

Future roles:

- Senior or Master Technician
- Vehicle Damage Assessor
- Workshop Controller

DIGITAL, CREATIVE & PROFESSIONAL

If you enjoy:

- Creativity
- Technology
- Digital tools
- Planning
- Leadership

Examples:

- Content Creator
- Digital Marketer
- IT Support or Data Technician
- Associate Project Manager
- Team Leader/Supervisor

Future roles:

- Marketing or Content Manager
- Digital Specialist
- Project Manager
- Data Analyst
- Senior Leader

APPRENTICESHIP QUALIFICATION LEVELS

Apprenticeships are offered at different levels depending on the role and your experience:

- Level 2: Entry-level (GCSE equivalent)
- Level 3: Advanced (A-level equivalent)
- Level 4–5: Higher apprenticeships
- Level 6–7: Degree and postgraduate-level apprenticeships

Progression is built into the system, meaning you can start at one level and continue developing your career over time, including moving into degree-level study while working.



WHAT YOUR WEEK MIGHT LOOK LIKE

Most apprentices:

- Work 30–40 hours per week
- Spend around 80% of time in the job and 20% in learning
- Learn through a mix of practical work, assignments, and assessments

You are treated as an employee, gaining confidence, routine, and responsibility early on.

WHAT TRAINING LOOKS LIKE

Training delivery varies, so it's important to check what suits you:

- Local college
- Independent training provider
- Employer-led academy

Training may include:

- Day release (e.g.: one day per week at college)
- Block release (staying at a training centre for set periods)
- Remote or blended learning

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Requirements vary by role and employer, but most apprenticeships require:

- Age 16+ with no upper age limit
- Right to work in the UK
- Residency requirements
- Maths and English (GCSEs or Functional Skills completed during the apprenticeship)

Employers also look for motivation, reliability, curiosity, and willingness to learn.

HOW APPRENTICES ARE SELECTED

Apprenticeships can be competitive. Selection may include:

- Online application or CV
- Interview or assessment day
- Demonstrating interest in the role and industry

Applying early and to multiple opportunities increases your chances.

MONEY MATTERS

- You are paid a salary from day one
- No tuition fees, training is funded
- Pay usually increases as skills develop
- You may need to budget for travel, tools, or equipment (often supported by employers)

SUPPORT & WELLBEING

As an apprentice, you're supported by:

- Your employer and workplace mentor
- A training provider or assessor
- Pastoral and learning support throughout the programme

If something isn't working, there are systems in place to help.

LIFE AFTER AN APPRENTICESHIP

Completing an apprenticeship can lead to:

- Permanent employment
- Promotion and leadership roles
- Degree-level apprenticeships
- Further study or career changes later on

Apprenticeships open doors rather than close them.

IS THIS ROUTE RIGHT FOR YOU?

Apprenticeships suit people who:

- Learn best by doing
- Want to earn while learning
- Are ready for the responsibility of work

They may feel challenging if you prefer classroom-only learning or more flexible schedules — and that's okay. There's no rush or wrong decision. The right choice is the one that works for you right now.