

BiKBBI Futures:

Apprenticeships: Apprentice Frequently Asked Questions

Apprenticeships: Apprentice FAQs

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is an on-the-job training programme that develops an employees' competence in the key skills they need to perform in their job role.

The training is designed to be flexible and meet the needs of the individual, building on their strengths and identifying any areas for improvement.

The apprenticeship programme that the training provider delivers may involve 1:1 discussion, practical demonstration, assignment work, on the job assessments, online learning, as well as formal, taught sessions and workshops.

Apprenticeships are increasingly recognised as the gold standard for work-based training and include qualifications that have been co-developed with employers and employer bodies, to ensure their relevance to the sector and to help to address the UK's skills shortage areas.

Below are a number of FAQ's that are designed to support your understanding of the scheme. More information can be found on the .gov website.

What is the Fitted Furniture Installer apprenticeship?

The Fitted Furniture Installer apprenticeship is specific to the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom market. The apprenticeship Standard itself is the first of its kind, providing a relevant training specifically for this sector.

For the very first time, our industry can benefit from a fit-for-purpose qualification that teaches the foundation knowledge required for a fulfilling career in fitting kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms.

What does the Fitted Furniture Installer apprenticeship cover?

The Fitted Furniture Installer apprenticeship offers an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in preparing and installing a wide range of furniture for various settings such as kitchens, bathrooms and bedrooms.

As an apprentice, you'll get to engage directly with customers and work on diverse projects.

The apprenticeship includes mandatory and optional units to provide flexibility and depth in your training.

Mandatory duties involve:

- Safe transportation and handling of installation materials and equipment.
- Preparation of the location and furniture components for assembly.
- Use of power tools and hand tools for assembly, with an understanding of their specific functions.
- Assembling and installing furniture on location according to the specifications.
- Post-installation tasks such as reinstating the location, maintaining customer relations, and carrying out rectification or rework if needed.

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Optional duties include skills like:

- Applying adhesives to components (Gluing)
- Cutting out areas in work surfaces for appliances (Cut Outs)
- Positioning and securing components (Cramping)
- Sanding wooden worktops and trims
- Applying edging tape to laminate worktops (Veneers & Laminates)
- Using and maintaining jigs and templates
- Cutting and joining components on site (Joints)
- Preparing and assembling components to specification (Fittings)
- First fitting mechanical or electrical components to furniture (Electrical / Mechanical Fittings)
- Finishing composite worktops

Overall, this apprenticeship is a comprehensive programme that prepares you to become a skilled Fitted Furniture Installer. You'll gain knowledge and skills from measuring and marking materials, operating various tools, and assembling furniture to developing customer relationships and performing remedial tasks.

How is the achievement of the apprenticeship recognised?

The apprentice will achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 apprenticeship as a Fitted Furniture Installer – equivalent to five GCSE's A-C.

What grades are needed to do the apprenticeship?

There are no entry requirements for this apprenticeship, although in order to achieve this apprenticeship, apprentices will need to gain level 1 in English and Maths (equivalent to GCSE grade D-G / 1-3).

How much will I earn as an apprentice?

Apprenticeship minimum wage is £5.28 per hour but many employers will pay more than this. The wages are usually based on your age and those minimum wages are as follows:

Under 18	£ 5.28
18-20	£ 7.49
21-22	£10.18
23 and over	£10.42

The wages for any role will be clearly stated in the job description.

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Who will pay for my apprenticeship training?

Your employer and the government will cover the full costs of your training. Throughout your apprenticeship you will have no responsibility to pay for anything apart from any food and refreshments and your travel costs to and from work. All necessary equipment and uniform will be provided by your employer.

What are the responsibilities of my employer?

Your employer will be responsible for providing on-the-job training and support, paying your wages, and ensuring that you receive the necessary training within your job. They will also support you in achieving your apprenticeship qualification and meeting the required standards.

How long does the Fitted Furniture Installer apprenticeship usually last?

The Fitted Interiors apprenticeship typically takes between 18 and 24 months to complete.

Do I need to sign an agreement with my employer?

Yes, you will need to sign an apprenticeship agreement with your employer and your training provider, which outlines the details of the apprenticeship, including the expected duration, the training that will be provided, and pay. The training provider will arrange this document and go through it with you and your employer.