

HIGHER APPRENTICESHIP - MINERAL PRODUCTS TECHNICIAN MPA MASONRY & PRECAST CONCRETE TECHNOLOGY

FAQs

1. How long is the Apprenticeship?

The duration of the apprenticeship is 28 months, which comprises of 24 months practical period with an employer and the University of Derby and 4 months' independent End Point Assessment (EPA).

2. Is there Government Funding available?

The apprenticeship is funded by the Government apprenticeship levy for apprentices working in England for a minimum of 51% of the apprenticeship. Apprentices working outside of England are not covered by the Levy and employers would have to fully fund the students.

3. How much funding is available for the apprenticeship?

The Government funding for the apprenticeship for those working (and studying) in England is currently set at £16,000.

4. Can companies that do not pay into the Levy still send apprentices onto the course?

Yes any company can enrol an apprentice onto the course if they pay 5% of the funding. In this case £800.

5. What qualifications are required to start the apprenticeship?

There is no formal qualification required to start the apprenticeship. However, candidates should note that this is a Level 5 university course and therefore all applicants should be able to demonstrate an appropriate level of academic attainment. Apprentices must have achieved a Level 2 qualification in English and Maths before they go through to End Point Assessment.

6. When does the apprenticeship start?

The start of the apprenticeship coincides with the start of the University term which is in September.

7. What is the requirement for apprentices to attend the University of Derby in person?

Apprentices will attend 8 compulsory tutorials at the University throughout each year. These are usually held on a Friday and Saturday.

8. What are the requirements of the employer with regards to the apprenticeship?

The funding rules state that each apprentice must spend a minimum of 20% of their working time 'off the job' i.e. away from their normal daily duties. This could include working on their studies, participating in training, undertaking work

experience, etc. Note that all university work must be completed within normal working hours.

The apprentice and their manager/facilitator must also attend a Tripartite Review with the University every 12 weeks, to discuss progress etc.

9. What qualifications will the apprentice receive?

At the end of the programme apprentices will achieve a University Diploma; a Safety, Health and Environment level 4 qualification (SHE 4); and a Level 5 Apprenticeship. Apprentices may have the opportunity to progress to BSc in Minerals Management.

10. How is the apprenticeship assessed?

The apprentice must complete a number of Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours (KSBs) assessments throughout the two years of the practical period of the apprenticeship. These are split up into 'core' and 'pathway' KSBs.

At the start of the course the apprentice along with their manager must fill in a 'skills scan' to determine how many of the KSBs they may have already achieved within the industry before they start the apprenticeship (although most apprentices will have little or no knowledge of the industry). This will be followed up with an interview with the Programme Leader at the University.

The KSBs can be found here [Mineral products technician / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#). To demonstrate the achievement of these KSBs the apprentice will develop a Portfolio of Evidence throughout the apprenticeship.

In order to achieve their University Diploma the apprentice will complete a number of assignments and open-book exams throughout the 2-year practical period.

At the end of the practical period at the University the apprentice will go through to End Point Assessment to achieve their apprenticeship. The EPA has two assessment methods for the apprentice to go through, these being:

- A professional discussion based around their Portfolio of Evidence
- A Technical Health and Safety report, presentation and questioning

11. How do I enrol?

Companies in the concrete masonry and precast sector will be advertising the apprenticeships they have available. Potential apprentices need to apply through these companies as there is no direct enrolment to the University of Derby - apprentices need to be employed to access the apprenticeship.

Once the applicant has been successful their employer will send their names to the University and the university will start the enrolment procedure