

Employer Incentives for Apprenticeships in 2026

(Employers can apply for all incentives that they are eligible for)



*Employers pay the Levy if they have an annual pay bill of more than £3 million.

HOW EMPLOYER INCENTIVES WORK TOGETHER

Employers can now benefit from a range of financial incentives and support measures designed to reduce cost, support recruitment, and build long-term talent pipelines through apprenticeships.

Youth Employment Incentives

Government-backed schemes support employers to recruit young people aged 18–24, including those on Universal Credit. These initiatives can help employers:

- Access a wider talent pool
- Support individuals into the workplace
- Create a pathway into apprenticeships

Progression into Degree Apprenticeships

Entry-level roles and early careers programmes can be used to progress individuals into degree apprenticeships. This enables employers to:

- Develop skills over time
- Align training with business needs
- Build a sustainable workforce pipeline

Apprenticeship Incentives

Employers recruiting apprentices can benefit from:

- £1,000 Young Apprentice Payment - for 16–18s, or 19–24 with EHCP or is a care leaver
- £2,000 Non-Levy Hiring Incentive (from October 2026) - for SMEs recruiting new apprentices aged 16–24
- 100% Government Funding for Training Costs (from August 2026) - for non-levy employers recruiting apprentices under 25

These incentives help reduce financial barriers and support both recruitment and retention.

Talk to one of our Apprenticeship Consultants

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