SCIENCE Apprenticeships

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TEACHER & CAREER ADVISOR RESOURCES

STEM LEARNING

csr group scientific training

Science Council

Where to look & how to apply

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When advising students searching for science apprenticeships, there are several resources and online platforms you can direct them to. Below are some ways that interested students can find and apply for science apprenticeships:

Government Apprenticeship Website: The official government website for apprenticeships in England, www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk, is a valuable resource. Students can search for apprenticeships by location, industry, and level. Use keywords related to science, such as laboratory science, biotechnology, or pharmaceuticals, to narrow down their search.

Training Provider Websites: Many training providers, such as private providers, colleges, & universities, offer apprenticeship programs in science-related fields. Visit their websites with your students and search for opportunities specific to their desired scientific disciplines.

Company Websites: Encourage students to explore the websites of companies & organisations operating in the science sector. Many of them offer apprenticeship programs & provide details on how to apply. Check their careers or apprenticeship sections for current vacancies & application instructions & review them with your students.

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS) Vacancy Matching Service: The NAS provides a vacancy matching service that connects potential apprentices with employers offering apprenticeships. Highlight their website (www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) and ask students to create an account to access the service & search for science apprenticeship opportunities.

Networking and Industry Events: Make sure your students attend careers fairs, industry conferences, & networking events related to the science field. Engage with employers, apprenticeship providers, & industry professionals to learn about available opportunities and make connections that can help you in your search. Look out for National Apprentice Week - usually ear-ly February each year (https://www.ucas.com/explore/search/apprenticeships?query=).

Online Job Portals: Review popular online job portals & search for science apprenticeships with your students. Websites like Indeed (www.indeed.co.uk), Totaljobs (www.totaljobs.com), and Reed (www.reed.co.uk) often have apprenticeship listings. Use relevant keywords to narrow down their search results.

UCAS: UCAS have recently developed a vacancies service that includes apprenticeship opportunities allowing students to see a full range of course types within their search results & geograph-ic locations (https://www.ucas.com/).

Contact Employers: If there are specific companies or organisations that your students are interested in working for, consider reaching out to them directly.

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Once a student finds an apprenticeship opportunity that interests them, help them to follow the application instructions provided by the employer or training provider. This may involve submitting an online application form, uploading a CV and possibly attending interviews or assessment activities.

Remember to help tailor their application materials to highlight each individuals relevant skills, academic achievements, and enthusiasm for the scientific field. Emphasise any relevant work experience, academic projects, or extracurricular activities that demonstrate their passion and suitability for the apprenticeship and a role with the employer.

Keep in mind that apprenticeships may have specific application deadlines, so it's important to apply in a timely manner. Be proactive and persistent in your search, and consider applying for multiple opportunities to increase the chances of securing an apprenticeship.

Teachers and Careers advisors can find valuable support resources on the government apprenticeship website. This includes activities for students at different levels and short lesson plans that can help them find the right opportunities.

Qualifications required for students to join an apprenticeship program can vary depending on the employer and the specific apprenticeship on offer.

Educational Qualifications: Typically, level 3 science apprenticeships require a minimum of five GCSE's (or equivalent) at grade 4 or above, including English, Mathematics, and Science subjects, such as Physics, Chemistry, or Biology.

A-levels or Equivalent: For higher level science apprenticeships, at level 5 or 6 employers and training providers will require candidates to have A-levels or equivalent qualifications. Relevant subjects can include Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, or Applied Science.

BTEC or Vocational Qualifications: Most science apprenticeships will accept BTEC qualifications or other vocational qualifications instead or alongside traditional academic qualifications. BTEC's in science or related subjects can be particularly relevant and these commonly make up the academic component in level 3 programs.

English & Maths: It is no longer a requirement for apprentices to obtain English and maths qualifications as part of their apprenticeship if they do not have these qualifications when they start their programs. Some employers will still ask training provider to offer these for those who have not already achieved them.

Functional skills are practical skills in English and maths that are essential for work and everyday life. They focus on the practical appli-cation of these subjects in real-life situations. Appren-tices are expected to achieve a minimum level of functional skills in English and Maths, at level 2, which is equivalent to a GCSE grade C/4 or above.

Apprenticeships are de-signed to provide a combi-nation of practical on-the-job training and classroom learning, and developing English and maths skills is considered fundamental for the successful completion of an apprenticeship also enhancing employability prospects.