

GETTING HELP

Hopefully this booklet has given you an insight into the training and qualifications you could do once you have completed your Apprenticeship training.

If you would like to find more information on Higher Education the websites on the previous page will be a good starting point.

Consider some of the following when doing your research:

- * What qualifications do I need to have to get on to a particular Higher Education course?
- * How much will the course cost and how do I pay for the course?
- * Which Higher Education Institution should I choose?
- * Can I get some work experience in the job I'm considering before committing to the training?
- * How and when do I apply?

Making the decision to apply to Higher Education could be a life changing event. However, if you want to make sure you consider all the options and choose the right course, consider getting some help.

Connexions Northumberland provides confidential and impartial Information, Advice and Guidance to young people aged 13–19 years of age. You can arrange to see a personal adviser who can help you explore all your options and make sure the choice you make is the right one for you. Telephone your nearest centre and arrange an appointment.

Connexions Centres

Main Centres

Ashington Connexions Centre
Tel: 01670 811040

Hexham Connexions Centre
Tel: 01434 607097

Blyth Connexions Centre
Tel: 01670 798180

Part-Time Centres

Alnwick Connexions Centre
Tel: 01665 605982

Cramlington Connexions Centre
Tel: 01670 735653

Bedlington Connexions Centre
Tel: 01670 823267

Morpeth Connexions Centre
Tel: 01670 511666

Berwick Connexions Centre
Tel: 01289 331823

Prudhoe Connexions Centre
Tel: 01661 834620

You can also get information and advice from Connexions Direct by phoning Tel: 080 800 13 2 19 or visiting their web site at: www.connexions-direct.com.

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PROGRESS TO SUCCESS IN CONSTRUCTION

Progression routes for apprentices in Northumberland

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WHAT IS PROGRESS TO SUCCESS?

This booklet is for Apprentices, Advanced Apprentices and people studying vocational qualifications.

You decided that work and training was better for you than full-time education. By now you should have a good idea about the world of work and the types of jobs people do in your industry. You will have improved your own skills and knowledge and gained loads of experience that employers will really value. Completing your Apprenticeship will be a great achievement, but it doesn't have to be the end of your learning. Have you thought about what you could do once your Apprenticeship is over?

You could increase your skills by further training and study.

This booklet will look at the opportunities available to you locally, to increase your qualification level in Construction. It will explain some of the benefits you may gain by doing this, provide information on who offers qualifications locally and who can help you explore your options in more detail.

Qualifications at Level 4 or above are classed as Higher Education

Higher Education can be studied at universities, colleges, in the work place or by distance learning.



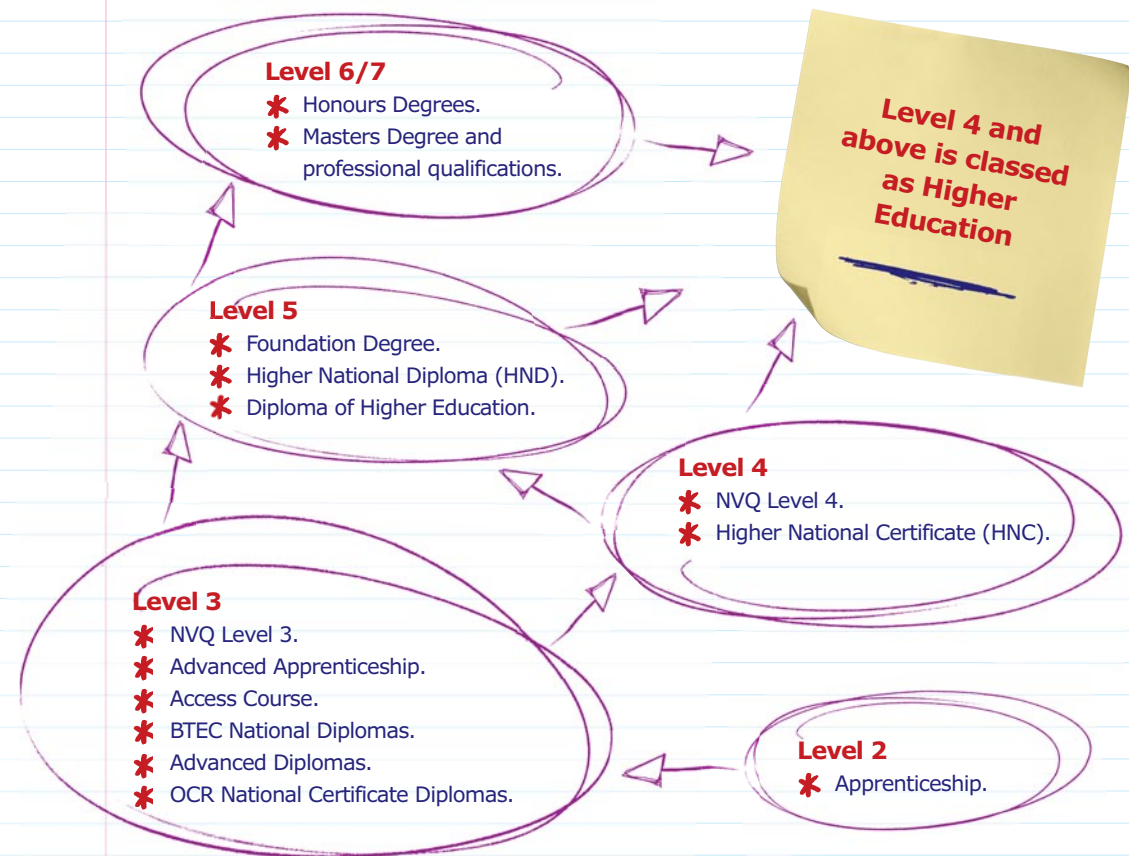
What can you do after your Apprenticeship?

Honours Degree

The most common type of qualification in Higher Education. Normally based on one or two subjects.
3+ years full-time.
5+ years plus part-time.
After this you could do a Masters Degree or PHD.

Foundation Degree

A type of degree that includes academic and work-based learning. Can be studied full or part-time. Many Foundation Degrees allow you to complete an extra year and convert this to an Honours Degree.



HND – Higher National Diploma

A Higher Education qualification which involves completing practical vocational training that prepares the student for a career in a particular area. You could top up this qualification to an Honours Degree.

Access Course

A set of courses offered at local colleges that allow adults (19+) to gain the qualifications needed to enter university. They can be studied full-time or part-time. Northumbria University run local courses and encourage people on Access Courses to apply for Higher Education if they meet the entry requirements.

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CONSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH EAST

What's out there for me?

- * The construction industry in Northumberland employs 6,000 people, that's about 6% of the workforce. (Although this doesn't include self-employed people and trainees.)
- * Employment in construction in the North East is expected to grow by 5% between 2009 and 2013 despite the economic downturn. The greatest increase is expected in the number of construction managers.
- * Most construction companies in the North East are small businesses employing fewer than 5 staff, although there are also a few larger companies in the area.

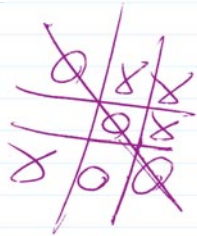
Information from Labour Market Intelligence 2009-2013, Construction Skills Network North East and Annual Business Inquiry, Office for National Statistics. Annual Business Inquiry, Crown Copyright, reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

In the North East the largest construction sector is repair and maintenance of existing buildings. Growth is expected in the infrastructure (roads, railways and utilities), public housing and industrial sectors.

What employers say they want

Employers in the North East are looking for:

- * project management skills.
- * technical and specialist skills.
- * literacy and numeracy.
- * knowledge of health and safety.
- * heritage skills (e.g. work on pre 1919 buildings).



Construction workers will increasingly need new skills in areas such as the installation of energy efficient technologies. Modern methods of construction, such as offsite manufacturing, will also mean that workers will need to adapt their skills.

Why should you consider further training & qualifications?

Employers pay higher wages to people with skills and qualifications that:

- * Take longer to learn.
- * Are in short supply.
- * Are specialised.
- * Are important to their business.



Gaining skills and qualifications that employers need is a good investment of your time.

In the table below you will see some examples of jobs at different levels and the average pay for each job. Generally speaking it shows that the higher your level of qualification, the more employers are willing to pay you.

Occupational Area	Average Annual Pay (for UK)	Level of Qualification
Construction managers	£46,239	Level 4
Architects	£43,332	Level 4
Plumber	£26,844	Level 3
Scaffolder	£30,554	Level 3
Bricklayers	£24,554	Level 2
Labourers	£19,120	Level 1

From 2008 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), Office for National Statistics, Crown copyright. Reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO.

These pay scales are average across the UK in 2008. Different employers and regions may offer different rates of pay.

Gaining more qualifications isn't just about better wages. Research has shown that people with higher level qualifications, especially those gained at university will:

- * Gain more promotions at work.
- * Be less likely to be unemployed.

Get a debt free degree?

If you are thinking about higher education, look out for companies who will sponsor you to do a degree while employing you. In this way you will have no student debt. Examples include Inspire scholarships from Construction Skills and Balfour Beatty's trainee scheme. See page 7 for website addresses.

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CASE STUDIES

Though often considered a traditionally male dominated area of work, more and more girls are finding employment in the construction industry. Rachel is in her 2nd year of a painting and decorating apprenticeship. She is learning on the job and also attends college.

"The hours are good and I get to learn lots from the men I am working with. It can be messy, especially if you are papering or working outside, but you have to go with the attitude that it washes off."



After leaving school Cory started on a training programme with Northumberland Adult Learning Services (NALS). He has already completed his Level 1 in joinery and will very shortly be completing his Level 2. After that he will need to find an employer to complete the Advanced Apprenticeship to become fully qualified as a joiner.

"At the moment I'm really focussed on finding an employer, but there are so many opportunities in construction once you have some qualifications. Who knows where I may be in a few years' time?"

Want more information on what's out there?

Construction Websites

www.bconstructive.co.uk

Construction careers website

www.constructionskills.net

The Sector Skills Council for Construction

www.summitskills.org.uk

The Sector Skills Council for Building Services Engineering

www.goodday.org.uk

Careers in building services website

Universities, Colleges & Training Providers

www.northumbria.ac.uk

Northumbria University

www.newcastle.ac.uk

The University of Newcastle

www.sunderland.ac.uk

The University of Sunderland

www.northland.ac.uk

Northumberland College

www.ncl-coll.ac.uk

Newcastle College

www.tynemet.ac.uk

Tyne Metropolitan College

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Northumberland Adult Learning Services (Click on Education and Learning in the menu)

www.necc.co.uk

North East Chamber of Commerce

www.bbcl.co.uk/recruitment/information.html

Information about Balfour Beatty's trainee scheme

Higher Education Information

www.aimhighernorthumberland.co.uk

General information on Higher Education

www.ucas.com

The site for applying to full-time Higher Education

www.foundationdegree.org.uk

Information on Foundation Degrees

www.studentfinanceengland.co.uk

Information on grants, loans and fees for Higher Education

For all local course information in Northumberland and Tyne and Wear check out:
www.my-steps.co.uk

