

# 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

Arnwick 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](http://www.connexions-direct.com).



# PROGRESS TO SUCCESS IN ENGINEERING

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 Engineering. 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.



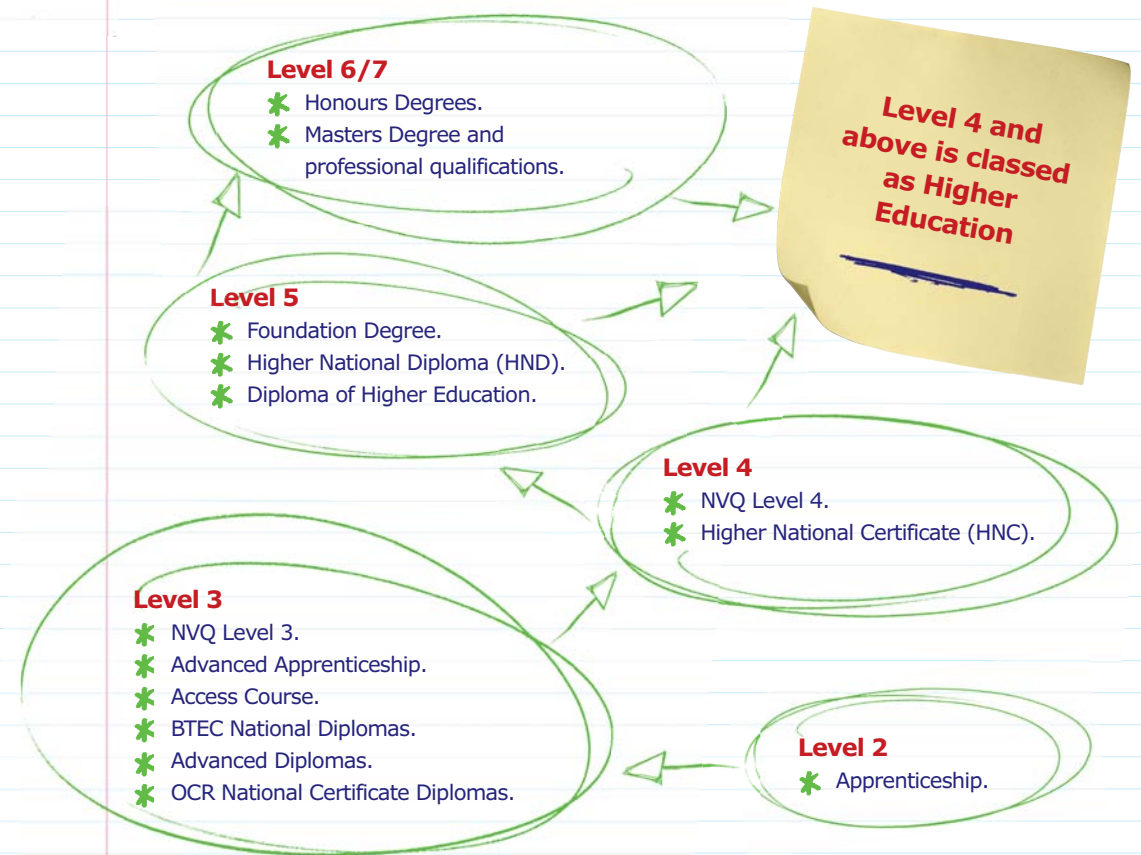
## What can you do after your Apprenticeship?

### 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 part or full-time  
Many Foundation Degrees allow you to complete an extra year and convert this to an Honours Degree



### Level 3

- \* NVQ Level 3.
- \* Advanced Apprenticeship.
- \* Access Course.
- \* BTEC National Diplomas.
- \* Advanced Diplomas.
- \* OCR National Certificate Diplomas.

### 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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# ENGINEERING IN THE NORTH EAST

## What's out there for me?

- \* The engineering sector employs over 65,000 people in the North East of England, that's about 5% of the workforce.
- \* 50% of employers did not think they could recruit enough engineers and technicians when asked in 2007.
- \* Nearly 8 out of 10 employers planned to recruit graduates in 2007.

Information from Institute of Engineering and Technology  
Engineering and Technology Skills and Demand in Industry. 2007

The engineering sector is made up of lots of different types of engineering. In Northumberland the main areas are:

- \* Manufacturing Engineering
- \* Electrical Engineering
- \* Pharmaceutical Engineering
- \* Civil Engineering



## What employers say they want

The most reported skills shortages are:

- \* Technical and practical engineering skills
- \* Management skills
- \* Communication skills

Engineering covers a wide range of jobs and not all engineers work for specialist companies. It is difficult to get an accurate picture about what employers want, but research shows there is a trend towards employing people with higher levels of qualifications.

**British Engines Limited Newcastle**  
"We really value the hands-on skills that young people gain on their Apprenticeships. Those that go on to gain Higher Education qualifications have the theoretical knowledge and practical experience that is needed in this industry. Many of our top management started their careers as Apprentices."

## 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
Engineering Craft	£15,500 – £24,500 plus	Level 2 or above
Engineering Technician	£18,000 – £30,000 plus	Level 3 or above
Incorporated or Chartered Engineer	£26,000 – £56,000 plus	Level 4 or above

These pay scales are average across the UK in 2008. Different employers and regions may offer different rates of pay. Engineers are found in many different industries, so it can be difficult to be exact with average pay scales.

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

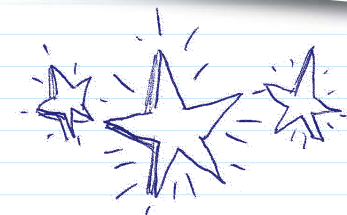
- \* Gain more promotions at work.
- \* Be less likely to be unemployed.

### There are three levels of professional engineering registration:

- \* Engineering Technicians (Eng Tech)
- \* Incorporated Engineers (IEng)
- \* Chartered Engineers (CEng)

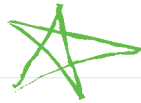


Check out the  
engenuity website  
[www.engenuity.org.uk](http://www.engenuity.org.uk)  
for a full explanation  
of these levels.



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# CASE STUDIES



Thomas is currently studying NVQ Level 2 Electrical Engineering and a BTEC National Diploma in Engineering at Northumberland College. He hopes to move onto an Advanced Apprenticeship including NVQ Level 3 with an employer, after completing this course.

**"I have looked at the career options in engineering, in the future I would like to study electronic engineering at university".**



Jade got in touch with TDR Training after she left school. They helped her find an employer; British Engines Limited who she still works for now. After completing her Advanced Apprenticeship Jade was given the chance of doing a degree by British Engines.

**"Recently I started a BSc (Hons) Mechanical Engineering at Northumbria University. This course is sponsored by my company, they give me a day off work each week so I can attend university and they pay the course fees".**

Gaining some work experience in engineering before going to university has really helped Jade. It has made her confident that this is the right choice of course at university for her, something that is much harder to do when you don't have a good understanding of the industry.

**"The qualifications and experience I am getting now will help me have a great career in the future".**

## Want more information on what's out there?

### Engineering websites

**www.enginuity.org.uk**

This site tells you all about engineering and technology careers

**www.semta.org.uk**

The Sector Skills Council for Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies

**www.futuremorph.org**

This website is designed to show you where studying Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths can take you

**www.apprentices.co.uk**

A site for employers and apprentices in engineering

**www.wisecampaign.org.uk**

Women into Science, Engineering and Construction

### 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.necc.co.uk**

North East Chamber of Commerce

**www.tdrtraining.co.uk**

A local training provider for engineering apprenticeships

### Higher Education Information

**www.aimhighernorthumberland.co.uk**

General information on Higher Education

**www.ucas.com**

The official site for applying to Higher Education

**www.iwant2b.org.uk**

Create your own career route

**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.northumberland.1419.org.uk**