

# FOUNDATION APPRENTICESHIP



## Information for Parents & Guardians

### What is it?

A Foundation Apprenticeship is a new type of apprenticeship that helps young people get qualified through work experience and work-based learning. They take it as one of their S5 subject choices and work towards a qualification over 1 or 2 years. It's the same qualification level as a Higher, but unlike other subjects, a Foundation Apprenticeship takes students out of the classroom and gets them working on real projects with a real business. They spend time at school and get training with an employer and with a local learning provider.

Earlier exposure to the world of work will help your child develop the skills, experience and competence they'll need when they leave school.

Foundation Apprenticeships provide qualifications which are at the same level of learning as a Higher (SCQF Level 6). There are three key components to a Foundation Apprenticeship:

- Developing knowledge
- Gaining skills
- Demonstrating competence in the workplace.

This means time out of school working with the College, and with a local employer. Foundation Apprenticeships are linked to key sectors of the Scottish economy where there is evidence of employer demand. In other words, where there will be jobs in the future.

Upon completion of a Foundation Apprenticeship young people are better prepared to progress into a job, including entry into a related Modern or Graduate Apprenticeship or to go on to further or higher learning.

### Key Features

- **Get an industry-recognised qualification:** your child works towards a qualification at the same level as a Higher
- **Get experience:** your child gets to realise what it's like to work in a real job while still at school
- **Widely recognised:** a qualification that's recognised and accepted by many of Scotland's colleges and universities
- **Complements their school learning:** it's an integrated part of their school timetable and so fits alongside their other subject choices
- **Designed by employers:** so you can be sure that their Foundation Apprenticeship is helping them develop skills and knowledge that employers are looking for
- **Focused on growth industries:** Foundation Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of growth industries that offer strong career prospects for your child for the future.

### Benefits

- **Helps your child get a job or an Apprenticeship** with skills and experience employers need
- **Make their CV stand out:** They could enter the jobs market: their practical experience, work-readiness and new skills can give them an advantage over other candidates
- **Gain accelerated entry to a Modern Apprenticeship,** if it's in the same subject area as their Foundation Apprenticeship and go on to a Graduate Apprenticeship, working for an employer while studying for a degree
- **Build confidence:** armed with new skills, industry-recognised qualification and a track record of practical experience, your child will have excellent options on completing a Foundation Apprenticeship
- **Enhance their potential:** your child could go on to study for a degree or a diploma: Scottish universities and colleges view the Foundation Apprenticeship as the equivalent of a Higher.
- **Encourage your child do something different** that could really make a difference to their career

## Who is it for?

Foundation Apprenticeships are for pupils making decisions about which subjects they'll study in S5 and S6. In general they are suited to pupils who:

- Are capable of working at SCQF Level 6 – the same level as a Higher
- Want to try an alternative way to learn, not just in the classroom
- Have an interest in developing greater awareness of a specific industry with an aspiration of pursuing a career in that area.

FAs have the opportunity to enable a broad range of young people to gain an SCQF level 6 qualifications through a work based learning approach and access a range of positive post-school destinations and pathways to a future career.

Foundation Apprenticeships are available in a range of industries that have excellent job prospects. The subjects on offer at West Lothian College are:

- Accountancy
- Civil Engineering
- Engineering
- Food & Drink Technologies
- Hardware Systems and Support
- Scientific Technologies
- Social Services Children and Young People
- Social Services and Healthcare
- Software Development

## How does my young person get involved?

To find out more, or if you have any questions, you can speak to your young person's school, or email us on [FoundationApprenticeships@west-lothian.ac.uk](mailto:FoundationApprenticeships@west-lothian.ac.uk)

You can apply for a Foundation Apprenticeship through our website by selecting the chosen Foundation Apprenticeship course, and clicking apply now.



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