QA DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS
QA Apprenticeships have started over 7,000 careers through our award-winning apprenticeship programmes. Now we’re building Degree Apprenticeships into our model of success. QA’s Digital and Technology Degree Apprenticeships offer a low-risk way to bring bright talent and industry skills to your business, and to achieve your strategic goals. Degree Apprenticeships offer a programme of flexible graduate-level learning built around your business needs. The programme has been designed in collaboration with the Tech Partnership and in association with the University of Roehampton.

QA Apprenticeships is part of QA Ltd, the UK’s leading IT and professional training provider. Each year QA offers more than 1,500 courses, delivering half-a-million training days at 20 learning centres throughout the UK. A Degree Apprenticeship with QA isn’t just an apprenticeship. It’s the beginning of a life-long learning relationship.

**BUSINESS BENEFITS**

- **Talent retention**
  
  Develop a long term career plan for your existing talent

- **New talent acquisition**
  
  ‘Grow your own Graduate’

- **Corporate social responsibility**
  
  Attract local graduate calibre talent to your business

- **Leading edge training**
  
  Specially designed to provide the future IT skills needed in the workplace, as well as the broader academic understanding offered by a degree

- **Return on investment**
  
  Funded training delivered by the new government Trailblazer initiative

**WHY CHOOSE QA APPRENTICESHIPS?**

- **Award winning Ofsted Grade 1 ‘Outstanding’ apprenticeships provider**

- **Tech Partnership Industry Gold accredited Degree Apprenticeship provider**

- **Over 7,000 apprentices have completed our apprenticeship programmes since 2009**

- **QA is already the largest UK provider of higher apprenticeships in IT – where apprentices complete a Level 4 qualification equivalent to the first year of a degree**
“We want to change the model for degrees in the UK”
STRUCTURE

QA’s Degree Apprenticeship programme structure is flexible. An apprentice can join a Level 3 programme after their GCSEs. Then they can move through to a Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship programme (foundation degree level) and finally onto the BSc Degree Apprenticeship programme at Level 5 and 6.

Alternatively, if they are eligible, an apprentice, can go straight onto our Degree Apprenticeship programme combining Levels 4 - 6 as a single programme studied over a 4 year period.
QA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ROEHAMPTON

The BSc (Hons) Digital and Technology Solutions Degree is delivered in partnership with the University of Roehampton.

Roehampton is ranked as the best modern university in London in the 2015 Sunday Times University League Table. It has also been ranked in the Research Excellence Framework (2014) as the most research-intensive modern UK university, with particular strengths in technical education research, among other research areas.

The programme is delivered through a blended learning model, combining online learning with face-to-face workshops at QA’s city centre training locations.
DEVELOP YOUR FUTURE SENIOR IT PROFESSIONALS AND LEADERS

The QA Degree Apprenticeship programme is designed to provide you with your next generation of technology professionals and managers.

By combining real practical work experience in conjunction with relevant degree content, we provide a programme of education and training designed to meet the skills needs of employers both now and in the future.

Our degree programmes give apprentices the required skills for a wide variety of IT roles including:

- Software Engineer
- Web and Mobile Developer
- Systems Analyst
- Network Engineer
- Systems Administrator
- DevOps Engineer
- Data Analyst
- Data Scientist
- BI Developer
Leading edge training from QA and the University of Roehampton

- Talent retention
- ‘Grow your own Graduate’
- Leading edge training from QA and the University of Roehampton
- Up to 66%, or £18,000, of training is government funded
Flexible start times [spring, summer, autumn and winter]

QA’s delivery model fits around the apprentice’s work schedule

Work-based support through QA Technical Skills Coaches, plus social learning

On average, the apprentice takes four years to complete the full degree programme

Two-day intensive lab workshops [two per term]

One hour of video content each week, plus core reading and self-study
## Software Engineer

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<th>Award</th>
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<td>Level</td>
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<td>Web Application Development</td>
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<td>Test Driven Development</td>
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## Network Engineer

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| Compulsory | - Understanding Systems Development  
- Work-Based Portfolio  
- Maths and Algorithms  
- Data Communications and Networking | - Business Strategy  
- Research Methods (10 credits)  
- Work-Based Project (30 credits) | - Dissertation — Major Project (40 credits)  
- Synoptic Project — Developing Technology Strategy |
| Required | - IP-Based Network Switching Systems | - Network Design and Troubleshooting | - Configuring and Managing Apache Servers |
| Optional | Select one from:  
- IT Project Management  
- Management for IT  
- IT Security Principles  
- Service Management  
- Windows Servers | Select two from:  
- Servers, Storage and Visualisation  
- Service Strategy and Continuous Improvement  
- Supporting and Planning for BYOD and BYOA  
- Multivendor Unix Systems  
- Migration to Cloud and Hybrid Infrastructures | Select two from:  
- Data Science  
- Designing and Developing Products for the Internet of Things  
- Planning and Implementing a DevOPS Function  
- Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery  
- Configuring and Managing Apache Servers |
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the entry requirements for all levels?
• Level 3: 5 GCSEs (C and above) or equivalent, including Maths and English for Network Engineer and Data Analyst
  7 GCSEs (C and above) or equivalent, including Maths and English for Software Engineer
• Level 4: Qualifying QA Level 3 and 4 programmes (Software and Web Development or Systems and Networking)
  OR
  Sector relevant A Levels totalling 240 UCAS points (eg 1x A* = 140, 1x A = 120, 1x B = 100 and 1x C = 80)
  OR
  A HNC in Computing
• Level 5: A Foundation Degree in IT

Are Degree Apprenticeships available throughout the UK?
No. Currently Degree Apprenticeships are only available in England.

Am I able to put existing staff on a Degree Apprenticeship?
Yes, subject to eligibility requirements.

What if I don’t have any suitable or eligible candidates?
QA will fully manage the recruitment process, sourcing tech talent from your local community and beyond.

Does the degree apprentice receive a salary?
Yes. Degree apprentices are full-time employees and their employers pay their salaries. Degree apprentices should receive an appropriate employment contract and training salary throughout their study.

What is the cost to the business?
Depending on eligibility and other factors, up to 66% or £18,000 of a Degree Apprenticeship is government-funded.

What are some of the key differences between a Graduate Scheme and Degree Apprenticeships?
• You select the candidates for degree level training.
• Their training is learned and applied to your business straight away. Their skills and knowledge gained in the classroom are significantly augmented by their work experience. They progress through technologies and subject areas at a much faster rate than a full-time university student on an equivalent degree.

How do QA mentor the apprentice through the programme?
Each apprentice is assigned a Skills Coach, and Tutors are also available for support. The Academic Programme Manager is responsible for organising and overseeing the mentoring system on the degree apprenticeship.
**How much time does the Degree Apprenticeship require?**
- Four flexible start terms per year (spring, summer, autumn, winter).
- Each module includes 10 hours of study per week, including video learning, practical exercises, reading and coursework.
- 10 hours of video content per module.
- Each programme level takes the apprentice 15 months on average to complete.

**How does the employer and the apprentice select their course modules?**
Compulsory and required modules are timetabled in advance, and are likely to be repeated at least once a year during the course of the year’s four 10-week terms. Optional modules are subject to availability and interest expressed by apprentice students and their employers.

**How do QA assess the work completed by the apprentice during the programme?**
The marks are moderated internally, then by the University of Roehampton; and finally, the external examiner monitors and makes appropriate recommendations prior to exam boards. All marks are provisional until confirmed by exam boards. Students receive their marks normally within a week following the end of a term.

**Do degree apprentices continue to work when the university is in recess?**
Yes. Degree apprentices are employees and perform duties in accordance with your business needs. You can make arrangements for independent study with your degree apprentice and the University of Roehampton.

**Is there a dissertation?**
Towards the end of this degree programme in Level 6, the apprentice will have a period of specialisation, with a dissertation and project to complete at work.

**What is the pass mark for each level of the degree?**
- 100% - 70% = 1st class
- 69% - 60% = 2:1
- 59% - 50% = 3rd class
- 49% - 40% = unclassified or pass.

**How can businesses or prospective apprentices apply?**
Please contact QA Apprenticeships on 0345 074 7825 or visit apprenticeships.qa.com
Find out more about our full range of IT, Tech and Digital Apprenticeships including Degree Apprenticeships

92% of employers say QA add value to their business

94% of apprentices go onto full time jobs

0345 0747825
apprenticeships.qa.com
employanapprentice@qa.com

or contact your QA Apprenticeships Account Manager