

RELOCATING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

Your options and points to consider

Relocation for apprentices is on the rise, with many employers realising that in order to attract the widest pool of talent to their businesses, they may need to recruit from beyond their local area. This guide sets out some of the options for anyone considering relocation through an apprenticeship.

Can I relocate as an apprentice?

Absolutely! You can move to a new place to undertake an apprenticeship in the same way you could for any other type of job. Relocating doesn't have to be an obstacle, even if it feels daunting at first. But it's important that you do your research and plan your move thoroughly.

Do all apprenticeships come with accommodation?

It's unusual for an employer to offer accommodation to apprentices, but not unheard of. There are some larger organisations who offer on-site accommodation to their apprentices in the first year, whilst other employers may provide assistance to link you up with other apprentices joining the company who may also be looking for shared accommodation.

What support might employers offer?

Some employers will offer support with relocation, but most apprentices will need to take responsibility for it themselves. Some employers may offer financial assistance towards the cost of accommodation, others may offer different types of packages, such as covering your travel expenses to visit home once a month. If the support available isn't obvious, you may need to ask your employer at interview if they offer any assistance with relocation.

WHAT ARE THE OPTIONS?

There are lots of different types of accommodation, including:

- Renting on your own or with friends or colleagues
- Living with family or family friends in the area.
- A house-share with fellow apprentices. If your employer is taking on several and you're not the only one relocating, your employer may organise a new starters group to help connect you.
- University accommodation if you are doing a degree apprenticeship.



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What should I consider when choosing accommodation?

- **Convenience - getting to and from work:** Look at an online map and put in the postcode of your workplace / training provider and the accommodation you're considering. Lots of online maps show travel options and times.
- **Safety:** Accommodation that's secure and in a safe area. Visit the area, but also do some online research. The website <https://www.checkmystreet.co.uk/> lets you put in a postcode and find out lots about the area, including local shops, crime information and even broadband speed.
- **Cost:** Somewhere you can afford with your apprenticeship salary. Have a look online for budget planners that could help you work out your finances, for example <https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>
- **Living arrangements:** Do you want to live alone or to share with others?

 **RESEARCH** 

Will my employer or training provider help me with relocation costs?

Some employers may offer relocation expenses, but this isn't a given. You could do some research on what is offered on employer websites when you are looking for a role, for example by reading case studies from other apprentices they have employed.

It may come up in your interview, or when you receive your job offer, as they will want to know how you feel about relocation if you live far from the role. If not, don't be afraid to ask. You don't have to make it overtly about money, simply asking 'Do you offer any help towards the move?' should be enough.

How can I make friends?

It can feel daunting moving to a new area, especially if you don't know anyone. Here are some ways you could make new friends:

- ✓ Get to know your housemates (if you have some).
- ✓ Meet up with your colleagues - some employers will run sports / common interest groups.
- ✓ Join a local sports team.
- ✓ Join local online groups for your area to find out about local events.
- ✓ Ask your training provider if they arrange any groups or socials.



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How do I manage in a new area?

- Make sure you know your local area, particularly bus routes, road names and have some local taxi numbers saved on your phone.
- Always make sure your phone is charged when you go out in case you need an online map.
- Practise your journey to work and to your training provider so that you feel confident on your first day.
- Locate important shops and services, like chemists, supermarkets and cash points.
- Download local apps, e.g. for public transport or medical services.
- Give yourself time to settle in. It can take a while to get used to an area and it will be different for everyone.

What do I need to do next if I'm thinking of relocating?

- Talk to your parents / carers about what they think and what support they could offer you if you relocate.
- Think about who you know in the area(s) where there are interesting apprenticeship opportunities, and talk to them about whether they could help with accommodation or support once you're there.

- Talk to your teachers or careers adviser at school. They should be able to give you some advice and encouragement.
- Do lots of research online and read about other apprentices who have relocated. Listen to their words of advice about what went well, and what they wished they'd done differently.

