

University of Liverpool Apprenticeships



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We talk to Claire Hough, Apprenticeship Co-ordinator and Tailah Edwards-Feenie, Alumni Engagement Apprentice about what it's like to be part of the Apprenticeship Programme at University of Liverpool. Claire is enthusiastic about the opportunities Apprenticeships bring: "The most rewarding part of my role is to help someone grow in their career. It's very satisfying, particularly when they begin on a Pre-apprenticeship and work their way through an apprenticeship to become a full time employee. Kane Murphy is a case in point. He is a Student Experience Administrator in the School of Physical Sciences. One of his roles is to reach out and engage prospective students, at events and in schools, and let them know what life is like studying at University."

The Employer Perspective:

Claire Hough, Apprenticeship Co-ordinator

Q. How has your organisation benefitted from recruiting apprentices?

Claire: Apprenticeships bring new talent to teams across the University that support the delivery of leading Higher Education and state of the art research across the many different departments in the University of Liverpool. It forms an integral part of our recruitment process and feeds into our 2026 strategy that supports and develops staff across the University.

The education and research sector is dynamic, so apprenticeships play a key part in succession planning for us. We are pro-active in predicting and identifying what skills our future workforce needs across all our departments to keep ahead of the game. Our vision embraces our diversity and civic engagement agenda. It provides a practical and pragmatic way of supporting employees to fill skills gaps across a large organisation. We have a dedicated apprenticeship website, with more details, that is worth visiting.



Claire Hough

Q. What advice would you give to potential apprentices wanting to join your business?

Claire: Firstly, I'd say come and join our University we have a wide variety of roles with great career opportunities and are one of the biggest employers on Merseyside. Our apprenticeship programme has won national awards and we provide excellent training. You'll need three GCSEs at A* to C (or level 4 equivalent) as a minimum for us to consider you. It's also important to remember that when you are invited for an interview it's not the same as interviewing to be a student. While there is training incorporated into your apprenticeship, you need to think of it more as a job interview. In reality, you are being employed by University of Liverpool. We want you to be enthusiastic and understand what the University of Liverpool is about. Do some research, we'll be impressed and it'll improve your chances of getting the apprenticeship you're looking for.

Q. What advice would you give to other businesses who are thinking about recruiting apprentices?

Claire: I would make sure that the apprenticeship vacancies are very visible. Provide supporting information such as previous case studies if you have them. We find the more information you supply up front the more comfortable applicants are and the better their quality. We also found that providing up-front information increased the number of applicants. Candidates were more likely to apply when up-front information was supplied.



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The Apprentice Perspective:

Taliah Edwards-Feenie, Alumni Engagement Apprentice Co-ordinator



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Q. How did you find out about your apprenticeship?

" I first became aware of apprenticeships through career fairs at school. I thought it would be a great head start, however my plans changed. Prior to my apprenticeship, I was on a traineeship in childcare, but this came to end after six months. The nursery was very short of resources. I am happy things turned out this way. I did not enjoy childcare as much as I imagined. After weeks of looking for other opportunities, a family member that had visited Knowsley Community College saw there was an apprenticeship at the University that might be of interest to me. I knew I wanted to do something new, preferably working instead of going back into education, so this opportunity was perfect. "



Taliah Edwards-Feenie

Q. What's being an Apprentice like?

" Being an apprentice has prepared me for the working world at a very early stage. There is so much information and so many experiences I could have missed out on if I'd gone to college instead. I have met so many people and made so many connections that will really benefit me after the apprenticeship. Since starting the apprenticeship, I have been able to attend events, meetings, and conferences that have developed my personal and professional skills. If you find the right employer, I think being an apprentice is an amazing experience. I have enjoyed being independent and earning my own money, but also enjoyed still having the learning side to it. I've been able to talk to my peers about topics I'm working on and have been getting an unbelievable amount of support. "

Q. What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about becoming an apprentice?

" Give it a go, see what it's like and actually experience it. Do not jump to conclusions and make up scenarios of what it might be like. If it turns out that it's not right for you, then at least you know for sure. However, there are so many different roles and companies that take on apprentices, so do some searching, look for apprenticeship networks on social media and ask questions. "



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