

Employer Fact Sheet for Funding in England

From 1st August 2026

(Levy employers with an annual paybill of £3 million or more)

Apprenticeships

Apprentice minimum wage to be paid to learner. This is a minimum only, and employers can pay more if they wish. Please note after the first year this can change dependent on the age of the apprentice, and please be aware that minimum rates can change annually from 1st April. Always see the GOV UK for current rates: [National Minimum Wage and National Living Wage rates - GOV.UK](#)

Apprenticeships typically last 13-18 months for L2, and 18-21 months for L3 and L4 depending on prior experience, including End Point Assessment.

If you employ an apprentice of any age:

As a levy employer you will pay the total cost of the apprenticeship funding through your apprenticeship service account from your levy funding.

If you have insufficient funds in your apprenticeship service account to cover the costs of enrolling your apprentice for the whole duration of programme, the funding will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and the government will fund 100% of the remaining total or an apprentice aged 16-24. For apprentices 25 and above the government will fund 75% of the remaining total, but you will be expected to pay a 25% contribution for the remaining price.

Incentive Payments*:

YOUTH JOBS GRANT: £3000

- This is not just for apprentices, but for any staff member.
- The young person must be aged 18–24 when employed.
- They must have been claiming UC, unemployed and looking for work for at least 6 months.
- First payment is £1800 paid after 6 weeks employment.
- Second payment is £1200 after 18 weeks employment.
- To apply, employers must complete an online application and meet all criteria: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/youth-jobs-grant>

YOUNG APPRENTICE PAYMENT: £1000

- This is paid in two instalments, £500 after the first 90 days on programme and £500 after 365 days on programme. The payment will take approximately 2 months to come through after eligibility is confirmed.
- The learner must be aged 16–18 or 16–24 with an active EHCP.

**All incentive payments are subject to terms and conditions, including eligibility requirements.*