

Unlock the Power of Apprenticeships for Your Business

Grow talent. Reduce costs. Invest in your future workforce.



**Bournemouth
& Poole College**

July 2026

Unlock the Power of Apprenticeships for Your Business

Hiring an apprentice isn't just good for young people - it's a smart, strategic move for your business.

Apprentices bring fresh ideas, energy, and skills tailored to your organisation, while government support keeps your costs low.

Key Considerations for Employers

Review recruitment and training pipelines to take advantage of early careers funding.

Consider combining the Youth Jobs Grant with apprenticeship incentives for maximum financial support.

Plan for the payment timeline, as the first instalment may take several months to arrive.

Manage your Apprenticeship Service levy account to ensure you maximise government funding to reduce likelihood of levy shortfalls causing 25% employer contributions.

- No employer National Insurance contributions for apprentices under 25 if they meet certain criteria
- Use of the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices, if eligible
- 100% training costs covered for eligible under-25s (non-levy)
- £1,000 payment for each eligible apprentice under-25
- From 1st October 2026, non-levy paying employers (typically SMEs) may be eligible to get an incentive of up to £2,000 when recruiting new apprentices aged 16 to 24
- New offer of Apprenticeship Units to help develop your employee's personal development and training. These units are shorter courses and can be completed over a period of 16 weeks or less
- £3,000 grant from DWP, new Youth Jobs Grant for SME hiring 18-24-year olds that have previously been on universal credits for over 6 months if eligible.



Payment	Age eligibility	Schedule
£1,000 additional payment for hiring apprentices.	16 to 18 (19 to 24 with EHCP or care leavers).	We pay this in two equal instalments, at day 90 and one year after apprenticeship started (or day 242 if apprenticeship under 12 months). Paid via the college.
£2,000 new SME hiring incentive (from 1st October 2026).	16 to 24 new employees. Non-levy employer. Apprentice on PAYE scheme and is added to the employer's AS account with correct start month. HMRC will also verify. Apprenticeship Agreement must show practical start date from 1st October.	We pay this in two equal instalments at day 90 and day 365 (or day 242 if apprenticeship under 12 months). Paid via the college.

Interactions with Other Schemes

£3,000 new Universal Credit hiring incentive Youth Jobs Grant for SME (June 2026)	18 to 24, if you hire a new apprentice that has been on universal credit for over 6 months	We pay this into two instalments of roughly equal amounts at month 1 and month 3 (to be confirmed). Paid via DWP and HMRC.
The Universal Credit hiring incentive is paid directly to employers by the Department for Work and Pensions. For the other incentives and payments above, the apprenticeship training provider claims them on behalf of the employer and then passes them on.		

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