Hear from some of our apprentices...

Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

“For me I knew I wanted to go into the world of work rather than continue on in higher education full time. But I also wanted to continue to gain a qualification, so I had something transferable and some structure.”

Did you always know you wanted to do an apprenticeship?

“Not at all, when I was younger I dreamed of going to University and receiving a degree. I can still receive a degree, just without the debt of Student Loan. I’m learning whilst I receive a generous salary alongside tons of experience I wouldn’t have got at University.”

What does a typical day look like for you?

“I come into the office anytime between 8:30 – 9:00 – our working day is 9:00 – 5:30. I am currently working in our product department (destinations) and I look after Spain and Tenerife. Every day we have a team huddle at about 9:30 about what the aims for the day are and what we have going on etc… and then you really plan your own day. I could sometimes be in meetings about pricing strategies for my destinations or meetings with hoteliers overseas to look at how well the hotel is doing and whether we (as a company) should still be using them. There isn’t really a ‘typical day’ and from day one you are given real responsibilities and you have to be in charge of your own time management.”
Do you have any tips for students considering becoming an apprentice?

“Do what is best for you! I attended a sixth form that made it seem as though University was the only way to become successful. That is definitely not the case; I learn in other ways that just sitting in a classroom. I enjoy learning whilst I practise and a range of learning interventions. Have a think of how you best learn, what are your interests regarding potential careers and what the best path may be to reach your goals before committing to anything.”

What’s the best thing about your job?

“I enjoy all of it! I am very lucky to have such a supportive team who continue to motivate me to do and be better. I also have access to a lot of learning opportunities which enable me to develop in my role and prepare for future progression.”

Where do you see yourself in 5 years’ time?

“In a permanent role in one of the departments I had a placement in on my Apprenticeship, having completed further Studies post-apprenticeship.”

What’s your top tip for anyone thinking about applying for an apprenticeship?

“Go for it – what is there to lose?! An apprenticeship is a great way to get your foot on the career ladder. You will be gaining experience, whilst receiving qualifications, whilst receiving a salary! Apprenticeships can lead to many more opportunities; it is limitless what you will be able to do in the future!”

What should learners try and get out of the Apprenticeship Show?

“Ask Questions about anything and everything – No question is a silly question.”

“Focus on what interests you, try and talk to all stalls that have apprenticeships in your area of interests and grab leaflets/information packs to look back on after the event. Go into the event with an open mind, I never imagined I’d work in an office… but here I am, and dare I say it… I enjoy it! Your future is down to you, embrace it!”

These hints and tips were provided by apprentices from the following organisations: