



Keep informed on your journey through education, training and work

Find the latest apprenticeship opportunities on the UCAS website!

Looking for apprenticeships? We can match you to potential employers.

Interested in an apprenticeship? Find out everything you need to know.

Considered an apprenticeship? An undergraduate degree isn't the only option – discover more about apprenticeships, and you could learn and earn at the same time.

Every year, over 60,000 students with physical and/or mental health conditions and learning differences apply through UCAS to study at a university or college in the UK, and access a range of support to help them succeed with their studies, day-to-day activities, travel, and lifestyle.

- Visit the [**UCAS website-apprenticeships**](#)
- Apprenticeship Search: [**Explore | UCAS**](#)
- UCAS Hub: [**Hub | UCAS**](#)
- Apprenticeship Match (Talent Finder) [**Talent Finder | Business, Apprenticeships | UCAS**](#)

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) scheme aims to ensure everyone has the support and adjustments they need to succeed during their studies.

Visit [**UCAS DSA**](#) for more information

Never be put off by any assumptions about your impairment as most courses (and professions) can be made accessible with the appropriate support – the Equality Act 2010 gives employers a duty to make 'reasonable adjustments' to

make sure disabled people aren't at a disadvantage.

[Read more about what the Equality Act 2010 means for disabled students on the Disability Rights UK website.](#)

The National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP)

There are some important differences in the support you get at school or college, and what you might be able to expect in higher education. The National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP) has created a **guide** to help you understand more about the differences in the language and terminology used, and the support you may be able to receive.

Free webinars during National Apprenticeship Week

Disability Rights UK has partnered with Amazing Apprenticeships and the BBC to present two webinars during National Apprenticeship Week.

Monday 5th February at 1pm.

Amazing Apprenticeships and Disability Rights UK

Join this webinar on the first day of National Apprenticeship Week 2024 to hear from Disabled apprentices, and those with learning differences, sharing what works when it comes to supporting apprentices with additional needs.

Link to join the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NJ7A5IIYThmOSxyluHpJ-Q#/registration

Tuesday 6th February 17:30-18:30

Disabled Apprentice Lived Experience Panel

As part of National Apprenticeship Week, the BBC and Disability Rights UK are partnering to present a disabled apprentice 'lived experience panel'.

Hosted by disabled apprentices across the UK, as well as across different sectors and industries, they will tell their stories of early careers and how they've come to their various apprenticeship schemes.

This session is an opportunity to celebrate the success within the community of disabled apprentices, spotlight the networks there to support them, and highlight resources available to disabled people newly entering, or re-entering, the workforce.

This session will also explore the challenges that people have faced, in education and the workplace, and the barriers and solutions that disabled people still encounter every day.

This webinar is your opportunity to ask questions about what it's like to join an apprenticeship as a disabled person and learn about the various means of support you can get.

Link to join the webinar: **<https://bbc.zoom.us/j/93475038489>**

Your stories

Get Ahead shares the unique talents and stories of young people who are doing apprenticeships, traineeships, supported internships, work experience or have done something special they want to share.

You too can get involved! Send your story to Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

My Christmases, by Murray

Christmas for me is like a wall of home I kind of have to build. A mechanism of defence protecting me from all that floods my senses.

Please though, understand that I am only speaking with my experience and I know that Christmas is seen to be exciting and magical for other people.

It may help some to hear how my Christmases are and always have been:

My Christmases are ones where I try to block out the furious panic of everything around me. I kind of then just have to try to kind of get through the sensory storm that overwhelms me. Lights that stun my eyes, noises I yearn to control and pressure of panic-exuding people. This intensity takes me on a trip to another uncomfortable world, until the day has passed, and I can start to feel a normal calm in the air and my anxiety lessens.

It is true that the terrific excitement of those around me fill my senses ambiguously with true desperate yearning to join in and be really lovingly engaged with all that Christmas brings and holds. I am yearning to be able to open gifts and enjoy each colourful individual surprise that each one holds and express the same lively joy that my siblings show on their faces.

The ripples of fantastic, glorious celebrations give me hope, however. Hope that one day I can participate in them too.

This Is My Story - Amazing Apprenticeships

This brand-new film (with British Sign Language interpretation) follows the inspirational stories of apprentices with learning and physical differences, disabilities and health conditions.



Connie – Student at Oakwood Specialist College.

What I do at my work placement

For my work experience placement on Wednesday afternoons, I work within the Sales Administration Department for Taylor Wimpey, one of the largest home construction companies in the United Kingdom.

My duties whilst at work experience include filing office paperwork into the correct folders, photocopying and completing administration tasks assigned to me by Emma, who is my Line Manager.



What I have learnt at my work experience placement

I have become more independent and not so reliant on support from my Teacher or Learning Support Assistant whilst at work experience.

It has given me the confidence to ask for help and assistance from my work colleagues when I am unsure how to complete a task.

I have learnt new office administration skills, and improved how I communicate and how I build relationships with others.

I can now work independently and unsupervised when I fully understand my task for the day. Last week I even proactively reached out to my Line Manager Emma to allocate me some more tasks, as I had completed all of the ones I had been given.

What I like about it.

I have really enjoyed my work experience placement at Taylor Wimpey and have felt included in the workplace by my colleagues and made to feel part of the team. I feel that I have grown in confidence, and I am now able to talk to new people without feeling anxious or concerned.



What I would like to do after my work experience placement finishes.

I would like to carry on working one day a week in paid employment with Taylor Wimpey, whilst continuing my studies within Further Education.

What do I like to do in my free time.

In my spare time I enjoy painting and creating pieces of art. I also like to ride and look after Eric, who is my horse.

Disabled Apprentice Network



Are you doing an apprenticeship or recently finished your apprenticeship, then join us and become part of our leadership group.

The Disabled Apprentice Network (DAN) brings together Disabled apprentices and those who have finished their apprenticeship.

The Network is a lively and friendly forum for Disabled apprentices, to share their experiences and to offer views and proposals on what could improve apprenticeships for Disabled people.

Watch DAN members talk about their apprenticeships on the **DAN video** and on Tik Tok **@DisRightsUK**

To join the group contact: **rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Association of Apprentices (AoA)

The Disabled Apprentice Network has a platform on the **Association of Apprentices** website. To join, register with AoA and go to AoA Connect or use this **Link to DAN**

Helpline for students, apprentices and trainees

Disability Rights UK runs a **Disabled Students Helpline** which offers information and advice to disabled students, apprentices and trainees by phone and email on a range of topics including:

- applying to college, university and apprenticeships
- telling people about your disability
- financial assistance
- adjustments for disabled students and apprentices
- rights in post -16 education and training under the Equality Act 2010
- how to resolve any disagreements.

The helpline supports disabled students, apprentices, parents and carers and professionals supporting disabled students aged over 16 in England.

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: **students@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Information on student finance and funding from DR UK

Listen to our Education Officer Rundip Thind speak about student finance and funding on Tik Tok **@DisRightsUK** and our podcast.



You can listen to the podcast to find out more about our work on this website.

Contact Us



Email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org



Twitter: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://twitter.com/GetAheadDRUK)



Instagram: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://www.instagram.com/GetAheadDRUK)



Videos: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GetAheadDRUK)



Tik Tok: [@DisRightsUK](https://www.tiktok.com/@DisRightsUK)

Get Ahead

[Get Ahead webpage](#)



[DR UK website](#)

We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

[**Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org**](mailto:Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

For a text-only or large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: [**getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org**](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [**Get Ahead webpage**](#)

To join the Get Ahead mailing list, go to the [**Get Ahead webpage**](#)

Disability Rights UK

We are Disabled people leading change, and the voice of young Disabled people has to be central to that change.

DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK

Edition 48
April 2023 - April 2024

A guide to benefits and services
for all disabled people, their families,
carers and advisers

