



Keep informed on your journey through education, training and work

## Amazing Apprenticeships

**Amazing Apprenticeships** is a leading organisation in the education sector, working with schools, colleges and employers, tackling misconceptions and promoting the benefits of apprenticeships and technical education.



Visit their website for news updates, resources for apprentices and parents, events and much more!

### The Apprenticeship Quiz 2024

How much do you know about apprenticeships?

Test your knowledge with our fun quiz and learn a little more about what roles are available, when to apply, when companies advertise and what they might be looking for.



### This Is My Story - Amazing Apprenticeships

This film follows the stories of apprentices with learning and physical differences, disabilities and health conditions.

## Funding rules summary of changes for apprenticeships

The **summary of changes** explains the specific funding rules that have changed from 1 August 2023.

## Disability Rights UK free online event

To register contact: [events@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:events@disabilityrightsuk.org)

# Sharing Information on Disability: Creating more inclusive workplaces

Have you ever pondered whether to share information on your impairments or health conditions with education providers, training providers or employers? What did you decide?

Disability Rights UK, in collaboration with the Disabled Apprentice Network (DAN), is excited to invite you to an online event where we will launch our report on "Sharing Information on Disability", hear the experiences of Disabled people and reflect on our rights and how organisations can create more inclusive cultures.

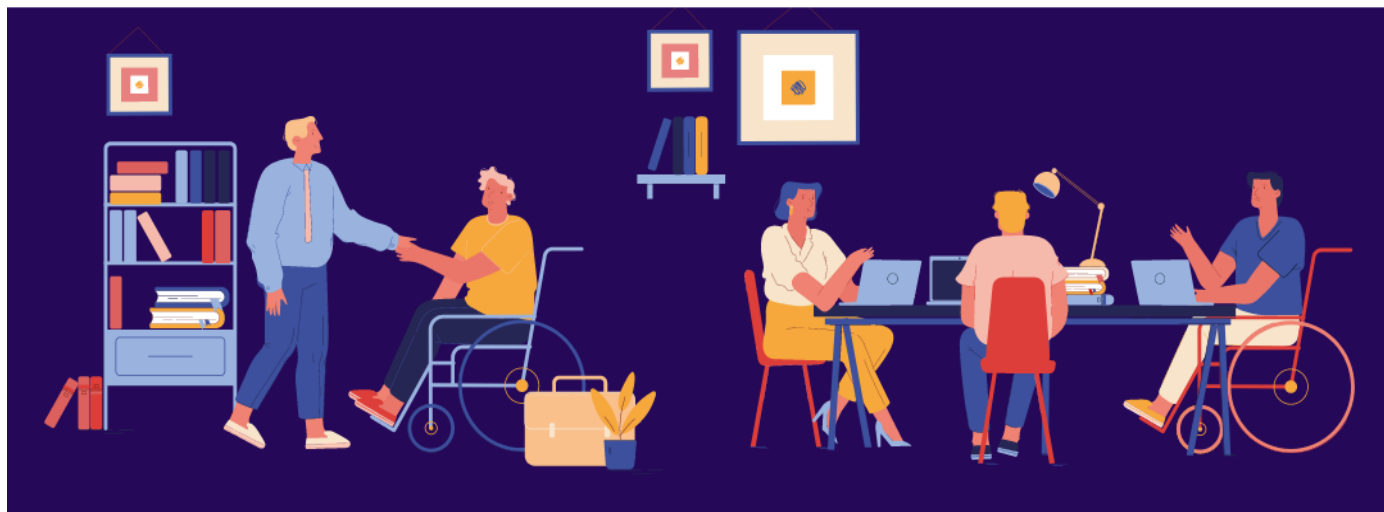
## Event Details

**Date: Thursday 18th April**

**Time: 5:00 - 6:15pm**

**Platform: Online, Zoom**

To register for the event, please email us at [events@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:events@disabilityrightsuk.org) - do include any specific access needs you might have. After registering, you will receive a Zoom link to join the event.



# Toucan Diversity's Training Academy



Toucan Diversity Training CIC is a Disabled people-led organisation delivering disability training by Disabled people. They are now piloting their very own Training Academy to enhance potential trainers with the best possible chance to succeed as accredited disability trainers.

This programme gives Disabled people the tools and support they need to succeed in becoming an accredited trainer. **If you're interested, find out more on Toucan Diversity's website.**

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## The British Museum

Exploring Roman Britain (for families)

Saturday 6 April from 8-10am

This event is designed to be more accessible for children and adults who are autistic, learning disabled, or have mental health conditions.



Selected galleries at the Museum (Rooms 40, 41, 46–52, 68, 69, 70–73) will open for two hours, before the Museum opens to the public.

Visitors can explore the galleries and take part in sensory-based activities including object-handling and arts and crafts.

We will be joined by Jackie Bennett, an artist from the national arts charity 'Outside in'.

Tickets can be booked here:

**<https://www.britishmuseum.org/events/relaxed-early-morning-event-exploring-roman-britain>**

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## Art, disability and culture

By Mark Noble

I am a creatively artist from Somerset and an Ambassador for **outsidein.org.uk** which works with artists with disabilities and learning disabilities from around the UK and beyond, and for Creative Portal which works with artists on the same project.

I do believe art has a very important role in Society. It can be good for mental health and well-being - many are matters which affect people's different ways of how they see the world. Art breaks down many barriers and opens doorways to new possibilities. this is the reason why I love being an ambassador - who knows where it can take you to.

As a visual learner and I find it a lot easier to work with visual interpretations of the world around me, Like images and my own paintings. Sometimes this how I interpreted the world.

# 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](mailto:Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)

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## My apprenticeship

By Chantelle

In 2021, I began my Laboratory Scientist (Chemical Science) Degree Apprenticeship at Stepan and the Manchester Metropolitan University. It was in the same year that I received funding from the Royal Society of Chemistry's Inclusion and Diversity Fund to establish a network for disabled scientists, Enable Science.

Whilst Degree Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular, they are still considered a non-traditional route into science. This seems particularly appropriate for me given that my interest in science developed somewhat non-traditionally.

Science never really interested me in school, and I initially did not pursue it post-GCSE. I, however, decided to change degree pathway from Environmental Science to Chemistry when I came to the realisation that I most enjoyed the chemistry components of Environmental Science. This was because I was given the freedom to explore science at my own pace, in a context that captured my interest. In addition, science was now about asking questions and seeking answers, instead of learning facts and theories.

Prior to undertaking my Degree Apprenticeship, I worked within laboratories and began to question my place in science. I encountered toxic workplaces, pressure to ignore work-life balance and sacrifice health, and disability discrimination. I was incredibly lucky that, at this time, I was able to participate in the Royal Society of Chemistry's A Sense of Belonging in the Chemical Sciences focus group. The focus group allowed me to connect with role models that helped me to come to terms with my experiences and to visualise a way forward. Not long after, I became a Degree Apprentice.

This offered an opportunity for support from both my employer and my degree provider, and provided reassurance as the partnership enables both parties to be held accountable to each other. I have also been able to relate the theory I am learning to my work, providing the context to aid my understanding and ignite my interest. In addition, I have been able to expand my network and meet many more role models to inspire me, including my colleagues, my fellow apprentices, my lecturers, and the people I have met through my voluntary work with DAN, Enable Science, and the Chemical Industries Association's ChemTalent Network.

You may wonder why I am sharing this with you. On International Women's Day, I listened to Dr Katie King's keynote speech at the University of Manchester. I was fascinated by Dr King's career. It surprised me to hear of the challenges and subjective failures along the way, which highlighted that success is not an end goal but rather a journey. This resonated with me as a mature student at my third university and working towards my first degree.

I feel that my apprenticeship is allowing me to make up for some of the time I lost due to my disability. I can be financially independent without sacrificing my opportunity to study and find a career that I am passionate about.

Although awareness and uptake of Degree Apprentices is increasing amongst college-leavers, I wanted to highlight that, if like myself, your life journey has left you looking to make a career change or study later in life, Degree Apprenticeships are for you too.

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## Renewal

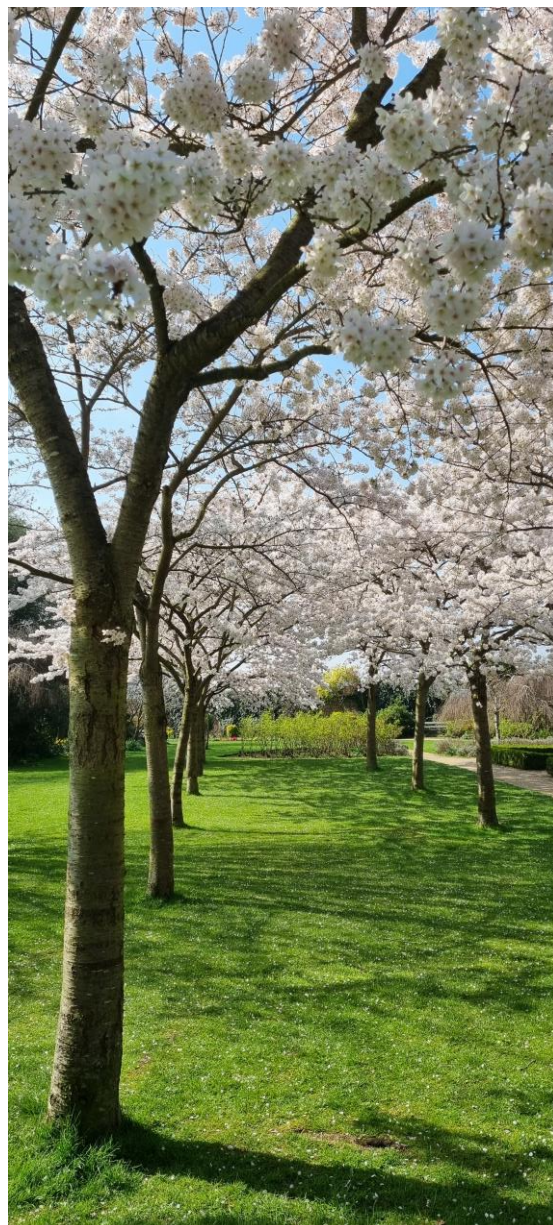
by Murray Bruce - 09/03/23

Hope wakes brightly  
with the lightness of the mornings.  
Singing a glorious song,  
declaring  
that permission is granted  
for us all to stretch into new possibilities,  
discovering the freshness  
of the day,  
and a future ahead.

Ask the seasons if they would like to love  
the world as much as Spring?

It is Spring  
which brings the love of the world  
in its new beginnings  
and lasts until the passing of the sunshine  
when it needs to leave and rest.

If we can liken ourselves to Spring  
we can always be renewed.



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## Complete The Youth Census 2024!

Calling all 11 - 30-year-olds! Complete the Youth Voice Census 2024 to share your experiences being a young person in the UK. We'd especially love to get as many young Disabled people taking part as possible, so do share around with anyone who might be interested. **[You can fill it out on the Youth Voice Census web page.](#)**



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](mailto: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**

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## **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](mailto: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.**

we've updated our Into Apprenticeships resource for Disabled people. It deals with Qs such as finding an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and workplace support available.

**<https://disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships>**

# Contact Us



Email: [getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org](mailto:getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org)



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



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



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[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 49  
April 2024 - April 2025

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

Disability Rights UK

### DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK UPDATER

2024-2025

- Disability Rights Handbook updates
- Significant recent case law

Disability Rights UK

## Disability Rights Handbook

Comprehensive, in-depth information and invaluable guidance on the benefits system and social care services. Full of tools and tactics to help you make a successful claim.

Add Handbook Updater to your order and we'll keep you up to date all year.

**Order your new edition now**

[shop.disabilityrightsuk.org](https://shop.disabilityrightsuk.org)