



# Apprenticeships

Elevate career paths at Cranfield

# Apprenticeships at Cranfield University

## Our reputation

At Cranfield, we're passionate about providing education tailored for industry. As one of the first universities in the UK to offer degree apprenticeships at master's level, we understand what is needed to develop industry-led apprenticeship standards and have the expertise to deliver that training.

Gain access to

**world-leading expertise**

from a specialist postgraduate and post-experience learning provider.

A wide portfolio of

**industry-backed courses**

with real-world application.

Over

**£150m**

of investment in new facilities over the past five years.

**3,500+**

apprentices have studied at Cranfield.

A network of

**82,000+**

alumni, from 170+ countries.

We work with

**over 1,500**

business and governments based in over 40 countries.

**Top 30** in the world

for Engineering – Mechanical and Aeronautical. *QS World University Ranking by Subject 2024.*

**Six time winner**

of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize

**98%**

apprenticeship pass rate.

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“Cranfield's teaching staff are highly experienced in the industries in which they teach. As a result, apprentices gain substantial new knowledge and skills that help them to excel in their job roles and prepare effectively for promoted posts at work.”

Ofsted, January 2024

**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



# Letter from the Vice-Chancellor

**At Cranfield University we understand how important it is to bring together academia and industry. We are industry focused and our teaching is practically based, helping solve real-world problems, and making an immediate impact on society through global partnerships. Working with industry is in Cranfield's DNA.**

A really effective way to integrate academia and industry is with degree apprenticeships. As someone whose experience of higher education started with an apprenticeship while working at Rolls-Royce, I know first-hand the opportunities they offer. Studying while working was a fantastic way to take what I learned and apply it straight away. In fact, I found that the two were a perfect complement to each other. Experiences in industry helped me with the academic side, and the theory I was learning really came to life when I could apply it practically.

As well as helping people to develop professionally, the degree apprenticeship pathway is a powerful route for industry to help build a workforce with the skills that it needs. That's why degree apprenticeships aren't only for people who have just left school. They're an ideal route for anyone already working that wants to build their skillset, advance their career or even change their career path. It truly is vocational education.

Choosing to study at Cranfield is choosing a university that understands the balance between work and education, and which offers world-class courses whether you're interested in science, engineering or management. Our commitment to you is that whatever your career goal, we'll do all we can to equip you with the skills you need to achieve it.

I hope to see you studying with us in the near future.

**Professor Dame Karen Holford DBE FREng**  
Chief Executive and Vice-Chancellor

# What is an apprenticeship?

**Our Level 7 apprenticeships are designed for those in, or aspiring to move into, strategic leadership roles within their organisations.**

**Our Level 4 - 6 apprenticeships are ideal for individuals starting their careers, those looking to upskill, or professionals transitioning into new fields.**

Combining work-based learning with off-the-job training, it provides professionals with a valuable opportunity to learn new knowledge, skills and behaviours and gain a recognised qualification, without having to take a career break.

Eligible employers can draw on the Apprenticeship Levy to fund the upskilling of individuals and teams in areas relevant to their organisational context.



## At a glance

- Practical, work-based training.
- Ring-fenced time on learning and application in the workplace.
- Real-world experience in a chosen field.
- Designed in collaboration with industry.
- Diverse opportunities.
- Recognised qualifications.
- Personal and career development.
- Apprenticeship Levy eligible.





# Why choose to study for an apprenticeship?

**Studying for an apprenticeship offers a unique opportunity for working professionals to acquire higher-level education, gain practical experience, and advance their careers within a structured and supportive environment.**

## Benefits for individuals

- Learn new knowledge, skills and behaviours.
- Choose a career path that aligns with your interests and goals.
- Apply theoretical knowledge to real-world situations.
- Advance your personal and career development.
- Leverage flexible learning and development pathways.
- Gain a nationally-recognised qualification.
- Earn while you learn, supported by your employer.
- Enhance your network.

## Benefits for employers

- Upskill existing employees and teams.
- Nurture the change-makers and leaders of tomorrow.
- Address skills gaps and create a talent pipeline for the future.
- Reskill employees in response to business changes.
- Tailor learning and development to business needs.
- Track progress against set learning objectives.
- Directly implement new knowledge to improve existing practice.
- Access Apprenticeship Levy funding.

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“What’s been good about the apprenticeship route is that I’ve had more time to use the knowledge I’m gaining from the course in my role, without having to justify applying it in my day-to-day work. I’ve been able to get more involved in the higher-level parts of the company on research and development projects. It’s been a good experience.”

**Philip Carey**, Senior Environmental Test Engineer, Martin Baker, current student (Ordnance, Munitions and Explosives Specialist MSc Apprenticeship)





## About Cranfield

**Cranfield is a specialist postgraduate university that is a global leader for education and transformational research in technology and management. We work closely with business, industry and governments around the world.**

The most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) results rated 88% of our research as world-leading or internationally excellent, and we are a six-time winner of the prestigious Queen's Anniversary Prize – a national honour given to educational institutions for work carried out in the public interest.

Through our industry partnerships, applied research projects, executive education and professional development programmes, we currently work with more than 1,500 companies and organisations worldwide.

More recently Cranfield has launched a new initiative MK:U which focuses on the delivery of higher and degree-level apprenticeships providing employers and their employees with a greater choice for the development of their skills needs.

## Why study an apprenticeship at Cranfield?

Since the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy, Cranfield University has been one of the leading apprenticeship providers in the UK.

We have supported more than 3,500 apprentices since we launched our portfolio in 2017, and currently have over 1,400 apprentices across 74 cohorts attending our programmes.

Our apprentices have achieved an exceptional 98% pass rate.

In our most recent inspection in January 2024, Ofsted rated our apprenticeship provision 'good'. Inspectors praised the quality of our teaching, our impactful industry connections, our excellent facilities, and the support we provide to our apprentices.

Whether you are an employee looking to widen your knowledge, skills and behaviours, or a business identifying a need to up-skill your workforce, Cranfield has everything you need to meet your goals with our portfolio of Level 4, 6 and 7 Apprenticeships.



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“My motivation for joining the Sustainability MSc course was to bolster the on-the-job learning I’m doing as our first ever Sustainability Manager. I wanted academic context, to put that, on-the-job learning against and to explore the scope of sustainability.

The course has given me an extra layer of credibility at work. It’s helped me with the self-confidence of being clear on the boundaries between what I should and shouldn’t know, in a work capacity.”

**Ed Robinson**, Sustainability Manager, Wells & Co (Brewery),  
current student (Sustainability Business Specialist Apprenticeship)



# Our apprenticeship offering

**At Cranfield University, we offer a growing portfolio of apprenticeships across a range of industries and specialisms.**

**Our unique, business-led curriculums offer:**

- Science, technologies, engineering, and manufacturing.
- Business, finance, and service industries including retail and leisure.
- Digital and technology development, cyber infrastructure, and security.
- Agri-business, energy systems and security of supply, water, environment and ecologies.
- Health, healthcare, and life sciences.
- Intelligence services, defence, civil governance.
- Sustainability, management and leadership.



## A supportive community

At Cranfield, we work hard to provide apprenticeship students with a supportive environment in which to learn and progress.

Our apprenticeship tutors are there to support both the individual apprentice and their organisation. Working closely with individuals, they ensure that apprentices continue to make sufficient progress towards their learning aims, arranging additional support where required.

As well as helping apprentices to meet the requirements of the apprenticeship and end-point assessment, they work with individuals and their line managers to support the application of learning back in the workplace.

All our apprenticeship tutors are driven by a desire to help apprentices fulfil their learning potential, and gain great pride from seeing their successful application of the learning as the apprenticeship programme unfolds.

**“My role is to navigate students through their apprenticeship journey, spanning from onboarding to end-point assessment. I engage with each student at the outset to clarify the path ahead, outlining the evidence-gathering process, portfolio compilation, and the support available from course tutors and myself. Additionally, I regularly touch base with students every few weeks, offering assistance as needed, including dedicated collaborative sessions if required.”**

**Vijaya Manchem**, Apprenticeships Tutor, Cranfield University



# About the Apprenticeship Levy

**Employers in England are required to contribute to the Apprenticeship Levy which funds apprenticeships. Introduced in 2017 as part of Government efforts to address the skills gap and boost workforce productivity, it requires companies with a pay bill of £3 million or more to pay 0.5% through their payroll into a digital account held by HMRC on their behalf.**

The collected funds are then 'topped up' by the Government and may be used to pay for apprenticeship training from organisations listed on the approved Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers.

Employers can draw down from their digital accounts to fund apprenticeships for both new and existing employees.

Employers cannot use Apprenticeship Levy funds to pay wages, apprenticeship set-up or travel costs, or managerial expenses.



## **My organisation isn't required to pay the Apprenticeship Levy. Can we still access Levy funding?**

Although only larger companies are required to pay the Apprenticeship Levy, other employers who want to take on apprentices can access funding from the pot.

Smaller employers can pledge to pay 5% of the cost of approved apprenticeship training, and receive Levy funding for the remaining 95%. This is made possible by a system that allows large employers unable to make full use of their own levy funds to pledge up to 50% to support smaller businesses.

We also offer a fully funded option through our Levy Transfer initiative with Santander Bank. More information here: [www.cranfield.ac.uk/levytransfer](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/levytransfer)

# The apprenticeship journey

Applying to study for an apprenticeship at Cranfield University is a straightforward process:

## Application process



Before applying, we recommend applicants prepare scanned copies of their academic and professional qualifications to upload alongside their application form.



It usually takes around six to eight weeks from the point of submission to receive an offer of an apprenticeship place, depending on how quickly the initial assessment is completed and the number of applications we receive.



Our dedicated Apprenticeship Team exists to support both apprentices and employers through their apprenticeship journey. If you need any help to complete your application, or have any other questions, please contact the Apprenticeships Office via the email address below.

Contact the Apprenticeships Office by emailing: [apprenticeships@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@cranfield.ac.uk)



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“This course has really helped me progress my career. When I applied for the role at TRL, one of the things they were really interested in was the more systems-thinking approach and thinking about the bigger picture – skills I really honed via the course. This new mindset has not only helped in understanding the detail (such as root cause analysis) but also working more strategically, which is what my current position is all about.”

**Kate Greenslade**, Consultancy Lead, Behaviour, TRL  
(Through-life Engineering Services Specialist Master's Degree Apprenticeship, 2022)





# Apprenticeship requirements

**All apprenticeships, come with certain core requirements that must be fulfilled to meet the criteria for receiving Apprenticeship Levy funding.**

## Off-the-job training

At Cranfield, apprenticeship students are expected to spend at least six hours per week completing off-the-job training. Apprentices engage in team-based activities, problem-based learning, task-centred investigations and case studies relevant to their job role and organisation.

Part-time blended or online learning is combined with monthly on-campus study blocks, and an annual residential in the case of the Sustainability Business Specialist Apprenticeship.

Off-the-job training means work that is directly relevant towards the achievement of their apprenticeship.

Some examples of acceptable off-the-job training include:

- Learning theory relevant to the apprenticeship standard e.g. through attending lectures, roleplay, simulation exercises, online learning or manufacturer training.
- Completing practical training, such as by shadowing a colleague, undertaking mentoring, or attending industry visits or competitions.
- Time spent receiving learning support, writing assessments and/or preparing assignments.

Off-the-job training is a statutory requirement of an apprenticeship, and a record of it must be kept by the learner.

At Cranfield, our apprenticeship tutors can help apprentices and their sponsoring organisations to determine relevant off-the-job projects and recommend suitable tools for record-keeping.



## Supported self-study

Self-study learning including recommended reading or online learning may be set by academic teams or apprenticeship tutors, and forms part of the apprenticeship programme.

## Portfolio of evidence

As part of their apprenticeship, apprentices must create a portfolio of evidence of their progress in developing the relevant knowledge, skills and behaviours required to achieve the published apprenticeship standard.

This includes evidence of learning and application experiences, reflective narratives on those experiences, progress review reports, and a record of their off-the-job activities.

## End-point assessment

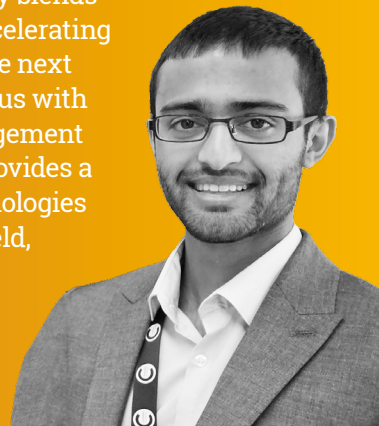
The final stage of an apprenticeship programme, the end-point assessment is a rigorous, independent and impartial evaluation of whether the apprentice has developed the knowledge, skills and behaviours (KSBs) outlined in the apprenticeship standard. These KSBs are determined by employers in the relevant sector or industry, and are the same across all apprenticeship providers.

End-point assessments are conducted by independent bodies known as end-point assessment organisations (EPAOs). At Cranfield, we work with a number of EPAOs depending on the apprenticeship standard and have our own for our integrated apprenticeships.

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The MSc in Engineering Competence masterfully blends technical expertise with managerial acumen, accelerating the academic and professional development of the next generation of engineers. This programme equips us with the essential skills to excel in engineering management roles within the industry. The research project provides a unique opportunity to pioneer cutting-edge technologies under the mentorship of leading experts in the field, yielding tangible commercial benefits and advancing knowledge in the field.”

**Marcus Mascarenhas**, Airworthiness Engineer, Thales UK  
(Postgraduate Engineer Apprenticeship, 2023)



# Start your apprenticeship journey

## Level 4 Apprenticeships, delivered by MK:U

Category	Apprenticeship Standard	Description
Digital environment	Data Analyst	Designed to equip individuals with the skills needed to address complex problems and improve organisational processes.



## Level 6 Apprenticeships, delivered by MK:U

Category	Apprenticeship Standard	Description
Business and people	Leadership and Management Professional	Transforming managers into future leaders.
	Supply Chain Leadership Professional	Tailored to meet the evolving demands of the industry, ensuring the necessary knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience to manage global supply chains.
	Project Manager	Equips employees with the skills to manage complex projects in a rapidly evolving business world.
Digital environment	Cyber Security Technical Professional	Blending human and technical aspects of cyber security.
	Data Scientist	Exploring how data science impacts and supports business.
	Digital Technology Solutions Professional	Combining digital, technology and business concepts to create real-world solutions.
	Robotics Engineer	Specify, design, build, programme and test robotic solutions across multiple industries.





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“One of the key benefits of an apprenticeship is the ability to learn while you work - gaining new knowledge and skills and immediately applying them back in the workplace. It’s a win-win, benefiting not just me and my career, but also the business as a whole!”

**Richard Werran**, Global Director, Consumer, Retail and Food BSI Group, current student, (Senior Leader Apprenticeship+ Marketing and Leadership)





## Level 7 Apprenticeships, delivered by Cranfield University

Category	Apprenticeship Standard	Description
Business and people	Senior Leader Executive MBA	Develops the core knowledge, skills and behaviours recognised by the Apprenticeship Levy's Senior Leader Apprenticeship and Executive MBA. Delivered in partnership with Grant Thornton.
	Senior Leader Management and Leadership	Developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours of professional leaders. Delivered in partnership with Grant Thornton.
	Senior Leader Marketing and Leadership	Developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours of professional marketing leaders. Delivered in partnership with CIM Academy.
	Senior Leader Logistics and Supply Chain Management (Executive)	Developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours to take on executive roles.
	Senior People Professional	Encouraging a strategic approach to championing the people agenda, future-proofing the workforce, and developing inclusive cultures and an engaging employee experience journey.
	Sustainability Business Specialist	Exploring the theory and practice of organisational sustainability, and building the personal competencies required to lead and manage change towards improved sustainability performance.
	Senior Leader Executive Programme (SLEP)	Designed to future-proof an organisation's leadership pipeline while delivering commercial value. It is a unique, executive-level apprenticeship for existing and high-potential managers and leaders.
	Senior Investment and Commercial Banking Professional	Develop an advanced-level understanding of retail banking, digital business management, organisation management, marketing and business strategy.
Business and people	Senior Leader (with Rosalind Franklin Programme)	Designed in partnership with the NHS Leadership Academy, this programme supports individuals who are from clinical and non-clinical backgrounds, aspiring to build their strategic leadership skills to progress in their health and social care careers.
	Systems Thinking Practitioner	Developing knowledge and application of systems thinking to support organisational viability and the development of appropriate governance and decision-making processes.
	Risk and Safety Management Professional	Developing knowledge, skills and behaviour in safety management, risk, law, regulations, incident and accident investigation, human factors and leadership. In partnership with the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

## Level 7 Apprenticeships, delivered by Cranfield University

Category	Apprenticeship Standard	Description
Digital environment	Digital Technology Solutions Specialist	Blending technical and managerial skills to promote the creation, adoption, and evolution of digital technologies and solutions across industries that rely on complex engineered products and services.
STEM Specialist	Materials Process Engineer	Developing technical specialism, combined with commercial and problem-solving skills applicable to a variety of thermal process-related industries.
	Postgraduate Engineer	Developing engineering competence in early career employees, while actively taking forward organisational capabilities.
	Systems Engineer	Preparing for the professional practice of systems engineering roles in multidisciplinary, distributed, agile teams using shared models and flexible working approaches.
	Through-life Engineering Services Specialist	An essential foundation for future leaders in organisations who wish to optimise the value in-use and cost in-use for long-life engineering assets.
	Advanced Digital Forensic Professional	Developing the knowledge, skills and behaviours pertinent to planning and conducting digital forensic investigation in a complex and tech-divers landscape.
	Bioinformatics Scientist	Exploring the computational skills and awareness needed to process, analyse and interpret biological data.
	Soil Scientist	Encouraging optimal soil management through enhanced knowledge of soils across diverse land-use contexts, cutting-edge technologies for effective decision-making, best practice analysis, and building personal competencies.
	Ordnance Munitions and Explosives Specialist	Developing the advanced academic background necessary to contribute effectively to technically demanding projects in the field of explosives and explosives ordnance engineering.



# Our location



Located just over an hour from London in the English countryside, Cranfield's campus environment supports close, working relationships between our multinational postgraduate students and academic and industry experts.

[www.cranfield.ac.uk/visit](http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/visit)



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For a full list of Cranfield courses, please see our **website**.

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