

YOUR TRUSTED DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP PARTNER



University
of Exeter

Degree Partnerships

**TOGETHER,
LET'S BUILD YOUR
FUTURE-READY
WORKFORCE.**



CONTENTS

- 04** We're redefining Degree Apprenticeships
- 04** Why partner with the University of Exeter?
- 07** The process and funding
- 08** Case Study Harrow Council
- 10** Case Study WSP
- 12** Case Study Caroline Garrad
- 14** Case Study Rachel Bradford
- 16** Useful Information



University
of Exeter

Degree Partnerships

WE'RE REDEFINING DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

At the University of Exeter, our collaborative approach to Degree Apprenticeships seamlessly integrates and partners top-tier academic excellence with real-world work experience, empowering learners to thrive and organisations to prosper.

EMPLOYER BENEFITS

Improved retention:

Loyalty by developing talent.

Bespoke future proofing:

Tailored programmes for specific needs.

Increase talent:

Access skilled and motivated individuals.

Funding:

Through levy and co-investment in nurturing a skilled workforce.

Industry innovation:

Fresh perspectives and practical insight.

APPRENTICE BENEFITS

Progression opportunities:

Unlock career growth.

Expertise:

Degree with a prestigious Russell Group university.

Upskilling:

Practical experience with skills aligned to your job.

Support:

Earn whilst gaining a tuition-free degree.

Networking:

Build valuable connections.

WHY PARTNER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER?

Our Degree Apprenticeships are built upon a strong foundation of partnership, with organisations and the University forming a crucial alliance. We effectively address skills deficits, ensuring that the curriculum aligns with the current demands of the workforce. By involving learners in the process, their personal and professional development is fostered, making the entire journey a collaborative and transformative experience.

We are your trusted partner by meeting stringent regulatory criteria, our expertise as a prestigious Russell Group member, our substantial investment, and proven track record in effectively managing Degree Apprenticeships at scale further solidify this trust.



“Our experience of collaborating with the University of Exeter on Degree Apprenticeships has been excellent. The communication and organisation are great, and it is always clear what the next steps are for both us as an employer but also for our apprentices as students.”

Mike Downing
Chief Technology Officer, WPA



One of the first Russell Group universities to create customised Degree Apprenticeships.



We are the largest provider of Degree Apprenticeships in the Russell Group.



Since 2016, we've partnered with over 400+ leading businesses.



Impressive 90% completion rate (compared with 50% for Apprenticeships overall).



Our team of mentors are committed to helping individual students progress through the process.



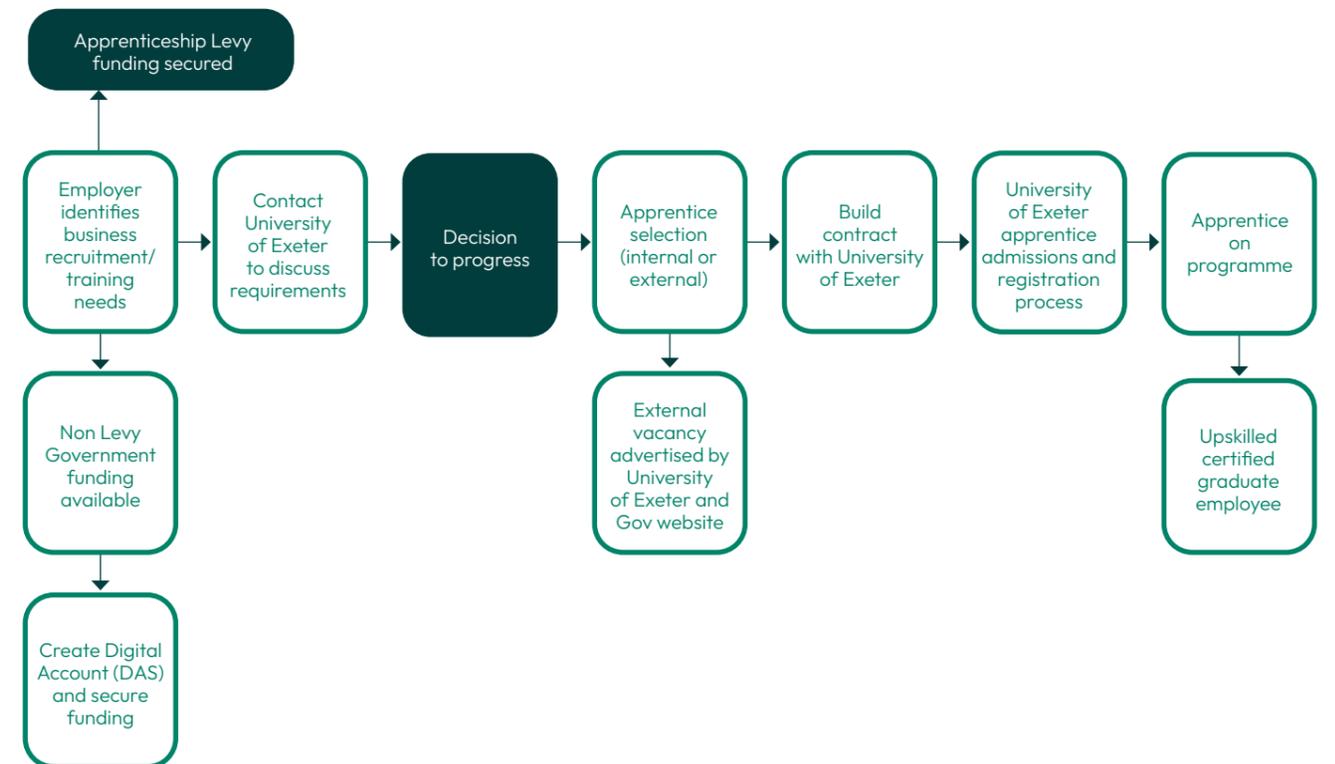
Employees can gain a professional accreditation alongside their Apprenticeship programme.

“As an employer we pay a lot in levy funds each year and it is in our interest to work out how best to use this money. Apprenticeships are a really exciting opportunity for us to mould apprentices into what best suits our business needs, and a great opportunity for the apprentice to earn valuable industry experience while gaining a degree.”

Carol Fletcher
Head of Academic and Research Partnerships, BT

THE PROCESS AND FUNDING

SUPPORTING YOU AND YOUR APPRENTICES FROM START TO FINISH.



FUNDING

There are two ways of funding a Degree Apprenticeship:

THE APPRENTICESHIP LEVY

All employers with a pay bill of more than £3 million automatically pay the Apprenticeship Levy of 0.5% to the Government. The Levy is Government ring-fenced money which can only be spent on Apprenticeships and is forfeited if not used within two years.

Find out more about the Apprenticeship Levy [here](#).

GOVERNMENT CO-INVESTMENT

Organisations with a pay bill of less than £3 million may be eligible for the Government Co-investment fund. In this case, your organisation is responsible for just 5% of the cost of the Apprenticeship.

Register and use the Apprenticeship service [here](#).

CASE STUDY

HARROW COUNCIL RESULTS IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING TALENT

Harrow Council employs a workforce of more than 5,000 people and faced a challenge of recruitment and retention of staff.

To combat this, they had been exploring ways to recruit new staff, and engage, develop and retain existing staff. They tasked one of their rising employees, Shumailla Dar, into researching Degree Apprenticeships as a possible option, and she identified the University of Exeter as a leading provider. Like many other large organisations in the UK the Council had not fully leveraged the Apprenticeship Levy.

The Council began a partnership with the University of Exeter and explored how the University could assist them in developing employee skills in line with ambitions of the Council. Keen to progress within the Council herself, Shumilla went on to do the Senior Leader Apprenticeship programme at the University of Exeter. The Council have had plenty of regular contact and support from the University which has enabled them to mentor and support their employees on Apprenticeship programmes.

Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of People Services, Harrow Council said: “The Apprenticeship scheme not only develops our staff, but also a sense of loyalty to the organisation. It has helped me see the wider benefits of the programme for the Council as an employer. We are already noticing and seeing an enthusiasm from our workforce asking about this route into developing their skills and we very much intend to capitalise on the strength of this programme. We will be looking to employees like Shumailla through the leadership she’s developed on the programme to help us take this forward.”

The Degree Apprenticeship programme has reaped great benefits for Harrow Council, in terms of retention of staff but also in building skills for the future. When other employees saw staff on programmes such as the Senior Leader, it generated enthusiasm around wanting to develop their own skills but also stay with the Council in the long term. Marrying together the learning needs of the staff with the needs of the organisation has been critical to the overall success of the Apprenticeship to date.



“My experience of working with the Degree Apprenticeships team at the University of Exeter has been extremely positive. It tells me that this is the way of the future, this is how to do things, how we can energise the workforce to recruit and retain staff that are going to make a real difference to this organisation.”

Paul Hewitt
Corporate Director People
Services, Harrow Council

“I feel proud that my organisation have invested in me on this journey, and I feel really excited about the next stage of my career.”

Shumailla Dar
Senior Leader Apprentice,
Harrow Council

Find out more about how Harrow Council are utilising Degree Apprenticeships to develop their team [here](#).

CASE STUDY

WSP SUCCESS IN LONG TERM PARTNERSHIP

WSP have been collaborating with the University of Exeter for several years on their requirement for staff who are looking to fast track their careers to become the Chartered Engineers of tomorrow. Sarah Armitage, Senior Recruitment and Development Specialist at WSP reflects on the partnership with the University of Exeter regarding their Civil Engineering Degree Apprenticeships.

“Exeter’s strengths are not just in their course content, which is at a very high standard and sets apprentices up well for attaining their professional qualification, but also a huge strength is their communication with their employers which is what sets them apart from other learning providers that we use.

Around the last few months particularly, Exeter has been a standout provider due to its flexibility of being able to move content online and maintain contact with students while they are studying from home. This has been a seamless process and we’ve had lots of positive responses from our learners.

Having Degree Apprentices has a lot of benefits for the organisation, it means we can take apprentices on that journey to professional registration quickly. It’s also great for the apprentices themselves who can study at an advanced level at a highly thought of university. It is also a more inclusive route to get those candidates into the industry who may not have otherwise taken the traditional university route.

Not only have Exeter provided excellent course content and training provision in a flexible way that is easy for employers to get to grips with, but our apprentices have also seen a variety of unexpected successes. For example, some of our apprentices have been awarded the Exeter’s Dean Commendation Award and others have been nominated for the Institution of Civil Engineers South West Apprentice of the Year Award, which speaks to the level of guidance and support offered by Exeter.

Overall, the University of Exeter is exceptional and is one of our top providers; there’s not much to offer in terms of room for improvement. I would 100% recommend Exeter to other employers and have already done so with several colleagues in the industry.”



“I would 100% recommend the University of Exeter to other employers and have already done so with a number of my colleagues in the industry. As well as being supportive, they are quick to respond to any issues we’ve had and have a very thorough approach.”

Sarah Armitage
Senior Recruitment and
Development Specialist, WSP

APPRENTICE PERSPECTIVE

CAROLINE GARRAD
COMBINING REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE WITH ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

“The Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship structure at the University of Exeter was the best choice for me after leaving college. Rather than solely relying on classroom learning, this approach combines practical experience with academic coursework. For me, this was much more engaging and allowed me to constantly think about how I could apply what I was learning in the real world. This is the most valuable aspect of the Apprenticeship, as it provides the opportunity to gain hands-on experience throughout the entire degree programme.

It is especially rewarding when you are able to apply what you have learned to your daily work tasks and make a tangible contribution to your organisation; in my case I learnt about requirements gathering and analysis on the course and then showcased this in finding suitable processes for automation. Additionally, the combination of academic study and practical experience can provide a well-rounded education that prepares you for a successful career.

In my role as a lead developer, I have had the opportunity to work with a range of public sector clients to help them embrace digital automation and streamline their operations. This has mainly involved designing and implementing solutions that are tailored to their specific needs and goals.

Your workplace mentor from the University of Exeter will have gone through a similar degree programme as you, so they will offer valuable insights and guidance based on their own experience. It is ultimately up to you to manage your own time and progress. To that end, it can be helpful to form a small group with other students who are pursuing the same specialism as you.

If you are considering pursuing a Degree Apprenticeship, it is important to remember that you do not need to have a strong technical background or advanced technical skills to succeed. While it may be helpful to have some familiarity with technology, the key is to have a willingness to learn and a dedication to your studies. Your Degree Apprenticeship at University of Exeter will give you the opportunity to learn technical skills in a practical setting. This can be an incredibly effective way to acquire new knowledge and build your expertise, whilst helping you to build confidence and competence more quickly than you might in a traditional academic setting.”



“It is especially rewarding when you are able to apply what you have learned to your daily work tasks and make a tangible contribution to your organisation.”

Caroline Garrad
Digital and Technology Solutions
Apprentice, IBM

MORE INFORMATION

Find out more about the University of Exeter Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship [here](#).

APPRENTICE PERSPECTIVE

RACHEL BRADFORD
TURNING AMBITION INTO REALITY

“Studying a Degree Apprenticeship at Exeter has been an exciting, challenging but hugely rewarding experience. Even with the added pressures of Covid-19, I feel privileged to be part of the first cohort of Degree Apprenticeship Diagnostic Radiographers and paving the way for a new route into the profession.

Every Lecturer I have met so far has been friendly, approachable and it is clear to see they are hugely passionate about what they do. Our cohort are spread all over the country, and so there is plenty of encouragement to support one another through online platforms and group work, as well as the campus weeks where we can all meet in person.

Being part of the first ever cohort for this Apprenticeship was always going to have its challenges but it helps that our lecturers are committed to making sure we feel supported and have access to services if we are struggling. The regular online ‘breakfast club’ with an academic skills advisor has made the assignment elements of the course a lot less daunting and gives us another opportunity to share experiences with fellow apprentices.

The team behind my Apprenticeship are always on hand if there are any issues and will quickly resolve them. There is regular communication and a real drive to gain both positive and negative feedback to make the course the best it can be.

I would absolutely recommend a Degree Apprenticeship at Exeter. I feel Exeter can see the real value in offering Apprenticeship routes and opening an avenue to gaining a degree that may otherwise never be achievable.

For me, university was always something I wish I could do but as a military wife raising our two daughters, it was never an option. Having worked in healthcare for over ten years, the Apprenticeship gave me access to a route that meant I could balance my home life with work and study. Once I have successfully gained my degree in diagnostic radiography, I will be able to register as a qualified healthcare professional and hope to continue on to do a postgraduate course in ultrasound and return to my passion for obstetrics.”



“The team behind my Apprenticeship are always on hand if there are any issues and will quickly resolve them.

I would absolutely recommend a Degree Apprenticeship at Exeter. I feel Exeter can see the real value in offering Apprenticeship routes and opening an avenue to gaining a degree that may otherwise never be achievable.

Having worked in healthcare for over ten years, the Apprenticeship gave me access to a route that meant I could balance my home life with work and study.”

Rachel Bradford
Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust,
Diagnostic Radiographer Apprentice

USEFUL INFORMATION

FUNDING

You can find out more about the Apprenticeship Levy [here](#) and the Government Co-investment fund [here](#).

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Entry requirements for most programmes can be set in consultation with the University. However all programmes require a minimum of English and Maths at Level 2 (equivalent to a pass at GCSE). If evidence of this cannot be supplied the apprentices are able to gain these qualifications alongside their Degree Apprenticeship, but they must have passed before completing the End Point Assessment of their Degree Apprenticeship.

CLOSED COHORT DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

At the University of Exeter we are proud to offer bespoke 'closed cohort' programmes which are specifically designed for your employees. These programmes are designed in collaboration with you to ensure content meets your business needs. We are always happy to discuss your requirements and if you think this may be the best option for your organisation please contact us at: businessDAs@exeter.ac.uk



“Gone are the days where a student would do a degree at university which didn’t necessarily tie in directly with the day job. With a Degree Apprenticeship you can guarantee that the day job activity ties in with the education route - and what you get is a very rounded, competent person, formally educated at the end of the Apprenticeship.”

Scott Bell
Apprenticeship Programme Manager,
Laing O’Rourke

JARGON BUSTER

APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD

Apprenticeship Standards outline the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to carry out a certain job role. All our Degree Apprenticeships are developed to meet the requirements of Apprenticeship standards.

For more information on the Apprenticeship standards available please see the [Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#) website.

END POINT ASSESSMENT

All Degree Apprenticeship programmes have an End Point Assessment that must be passed in order for the Degree Apprenticeship and the University of Exeter degree to be awarded. Any mandatory qualifications must also be achieved prior to the End Point Assessment.

MORE INFORMATION

For more on all of our Degree Apprenticeships please visit [our website here](#).



PARTNER WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER AND EMBED EXPERTISE IN YOUR ORGANISATION



University
of Exeter
Degree Partnerships



University
of Exeter

Degree Partnerships

Contact us at:

businessDAs@exeter.ac.uk

exeter.ac.uk/study/degreeapprenticeships