

Dundee City Council - Modern Apprenticeship Programme

Scottish Apprenticeship Week 7-11th March 2022

Traditionally, apprenticeships have been thought of as being entry level job opportunities in the crafts and trades areas of work. Young people training to become plumbers, joiners, mechanics, electricians etc. but, with over 100 Modern Apprenticeship frameworks now available they cover so many more job roles. This offers young people an alternative pathway in to some areas of employment, other than the purely academic routes provided by colleges or universities.

The Modern Apprenticeships offered by Dundee City Council are targeted at young people in the 16-19yrs age range (or up to 29yrs if they have a disability or are care experienced). By becoming a Modern Apprentice, a young person has the opportunity to gain valuable work experience in an actual job role as well as a relevant industry-recognised qualification and all while earning a wage at the same time.

Dundee City Council have run a highly successful Modern Apprenticeship programme over the past 9 years and with the increased range of frameworks available have been able to employ apprentices across a broad spectrum of its services, with apprentices currently employed in areas such as Civil Engineering, Digital Marketing, Social Care & Health, Early Years Education Health & Safety and I.T. to name a few. A Modern Apprenticeship can take from 1 - 4 years to complete, depending on the level of qualification, which can be from SVQ level 2 up to SVQ level 4 and in some cases an HNC may also be required.

On successful completion of their apprenticeship a high percentage of our Modern Apprentices gain full-time employment with the Council, many in the same job role but others using it as a stepping stone to alternative career paths in other Council services. Some have also progressed further on the “apprenticeship pathway” by going on to study to degree level through the Graduate Apprenticeship programme that some Modern Apprenticeships may lead to.

For many, an apprenticeship is the young persons’ first experience of full-time employment. Support is provided by a dedicated workplace mentor, their training provider and a vocational training co-ordinator, who all work together to ensure things run smoothly throughout. Dundee City Council’s apprenticeship programme also ensures young people are provided with other useful training opportunities, more akin to life-skills rather than skills for their job, and in the past apprentices have taken part in training provided by the charity Heartstart Discovery, gaining skills in emergency lifesaving techniques. The charity Nil by Mouth, also run training sessions for apprentices to promote good, safe and responsible practice in the use of social media, an area particularly relevant to young people today. Our staff Wellbeing Service provide and learning round good mental health & wellbeing practices and sources of support. Dundee City Council have also actively run a programme of events during Scottish Apprenticeship Week, a National initiative that takes place in early March each year, to promote their apprenticeship programme.

Dundee City Council are also carrying out a 'Meet the Employer' event, presenting to students who are currently on Early Years Education courses with Dundee & Angus College and promoting the apprentice opportunities Dundee City Council have to offer in that area of work. We will be supported at that event by 2 of our current Early Years Educator Modern Apprentices who will describe their experience of working in an Early Years setting to students, answering any questions they may have. Vocational Training Co-ordinators are also delivering a webinar for teachers, school guidance staff and youth workers to raise awareness of the Apprenticeship route and opportunities they can provide. One of our current Graduate Apprentices, who has progressed through various roles within the Council as an apprentice, will tell her story. With this year's Scottish Apprenticeship Week theme being #Apprenticeships Work, this is a success story that demonstrates they really do!

A busy week for all involved, running from 7th March to 11th March 2022.

For further information contact: -

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