

# Life as an apprentice

Meet Euan, a degree apprentice at IBM

**I started my apprenticeship** in September 2020, meaning that the majority of my experience to date has been online. Throughout my A level experience, I always combined my academic learning with challenging part time work, and I wanted to continue this trend of combining work and education. The apprenticeships with IBM proved to be an ideal path. The course not only allows me to obtain a degree and other sought-after qualifications, but it also exposes me to thought provoking and rewarding work, allowing me to grow professionally exponentially.



*Alt text: Euan and friend at a football stadium*

**I completed much of my apprenticeship** research alone, particularly due to a profound lack of support for the apprenticeship route at school, university was pushed a lot more! Due to this, I have extensively advocated for apprenticeships since beginning my own, hopefully never leading to another young person feeling unsupported again.

**Just like any other apprentice,** I spend 20% of my time in education, my degree is provided by the University of Kent, but I will also receive Chartered Management Status from the Chartered Management Institute by the end of my apprenticeship. My education is now mainly in-person and I attend seminars every Friday. In preparation for these sessions, I watch pre-recorded lectures on weekday evenings. Ensuring I have my days planned out and dedicated time carved out for university work allows me to stay on top of it.

**My proudest achievement** since beginning my apprenticeship was speaking at the House of Lords about youth unemployment, articulating how apprenticeships are viable routes for many young people experiencing unemployment. Outside of work I am a keen runner, currently training for this year's London Marathon, raising money for a charity called Rhino Ark.

If I could give one piece of advice to those looking at their future opportunities, it would be research. There are so many apprenticeships available now. If you thought the only route to your desired career was through university, then think again. Without a doubt there will be an apprenticeship that will get you to that same position, with so many added benefits on top.



*Alt text: Euan doing a presentation*