

# Life as an apprentice

Meet Elliot a Chartered Management Degree Apprentice at The Alzheimer's Charity

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## Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship?

When I was in Year 12, I started looking for something more than a regular university degree. I knew I wanted to start earning and getting work experience to help me get on the career ladder early. A degree apprenticeship offered me limitless opportunities and a combination of university and work. This would give me the best possible position to be advancing into the world of work without worrying about university debt or student loans.

I am now completing a degree apprenticeship in Chartered Management. As part of the apprenticeship, I move about teams within my organisation every 3-6 months, learning various aspects of the organisation, such as business, marketing, finance, ethics, governance, and a lot more! Currently I'm in my 10th team and learning so much!



## How did you find the apprenticeship searching process?

I knew I wanted to do an apprenticeship after my A Levels. I created an account on the Government 'Find an apprenticeship' website so that I would be notified when new apprenticeship vacancies that would be of interest to me were being advertised. I could also keep track of the applications I had submitted. Nearly all the apprenticeships I applied to were on the government website. I must have applied to about 15 apprenticeships.

I learned very quickly that the application process was extremely competitive, especially for degree apprenticeships, and to not be disheartened after getting rejected. I just kept myself going and reaching for an offer until I was lucky to get one.

## What was the recruitment process like?

The recruitment process involved quite a few different stages, including several rounds of interviews, group and individual exercises, psychometric tests, different types of assessments and responses to hypothetical scenarios. The recruiters gave several useful tips. They were there to help us succeed rather than try to trip us up. I prepared for the interview by asking my family and friend to carry out mock interviews with me. They recorded what I had said so I could listen back and work on my responses.

## Please can you tell us a little bit about how your apprenticeship is delivered?

I am studying at the Queen Mary University of London. I am in work three days and attend seminars and lectures the other two days during the academic year. When the university is closed, I am at work for five days.

## What advice would you share with a young person or their parents about apprenticeships?

Start researching your areas of interest and taking note of the apprenticeships you think you would like to do. Don't feel pressured to apply for a high-level apprenticeship to prove yourself to others. Employers nowadays are primarily looking for work experience, not qualifications or degrees.