

Life as an apprentice

Meet Hannah, a Chartered Management degree apprentice at BT



Why did you choose the apprenticeship route?

I found out about degree apprenticeships when I was in Year 9. I decided I wanted to do A Levels and then search for an apprenticeship. By the time I started college, I knew that I wanted to do a degree apprenticeship in Management. Throughout my education, my teachers tried to encourage me to go to university, but I knew that with an apprenticeship, I could learn on the job, apply the theory to my role, draw on the skills of others and develop my working style. I felt this suited me better than the traditional university learning path.

How did you find your apprenticeship?

When searching for a degree apprenticeship, I visited various websites including the Government Find an Apprenticeship site. Plus, I searched company career pages so I could look at what the organisation offered and its values.

“Doing an apprenticeship is making me grow in a way that I don’t think would’ve happened if I had gone to university to do my degree”.

What does your typical day look like?

For me, a typical day consists of attending meetings, writing emails and documents, and following up on actions. During my apprenticeship, I rotate around the departments to build on my awareness and understanding of the business. The rotation-nature means I am able to manage programmes and deliver core documentation in various parts of the organisation. I deliver the same expectations as other senior professionals, with the benefit of receiving their advice....for free. All of my work helps to build my evidence portfolio to show how I’ve developed and applied the Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship (CMDA) standards, which are the criteria my portfolio is measured against.

How is your apprenticeship being delivered?

My training provider is QA Ltd. Each week I have a mixture of lectures and meetings through a virtual platform. I find this really works for me as I take notes and study through One Note, so I can easily capture online resources and module materials in one place. QA also provide me with a Skills Coach who supports me in developing my 4-year Work Based Learning portfolio. We meet monthly with my manager to discuss my progress. At the end of the apprenticeship, I will need to complete my End Point Assessment.

Ex Who inspires you?

My mum is my biggest inspiration and the best mentor. She is physically disabled and had to stop working as a sales director early due to her chronic condition. She’s never stopped being a gentle, loving, nurturing parent and a great source of strength for me. I admire her resilience and her honesty despite her pain. Initially, it was a challenge balancing my apprenticeship with my caring responsibilities, but it has made me a much better planner and communicator.



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What are you most proud of?

My apprenticeship has allowed me to do so much more and get involved in activities that I am passionate about.

- I am the comms lead for BT's Gender Equality Network.
- I am the events lead for the Enterprise Early Careers (EEC) Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) team.
- I am a Mental Health Awareness champion.
- I had the privilege of being invited to be a panellist for one of BT's internal D&I sessions.
- I hosted an event with Pathways and AllAboutSchoolLeavers.
- I am on an Early Careers mentoring scheme where I'm mentoring and supporting two new apprentices in their first year at BT.
- This year, I won the national Multicultural Apprenticeship Awards in the Management and Professional Services category, for my work in and outside of my role.



What is your advice to others?

An apprenticeship can impact an individual personally and professionally, helping develop transferrable skills, building confidence and networks. They can make a brilliant start to a career. Apprentices also make a positive contribution to the organisation.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

In general, I love all things dogs, especially the big ugly ones...I'm also a big fan of Japanese culture, and I've been learning Japanese as a little hobby since I was 14. I'd love to use it in my job one day! I also love reading and am currently going through "Good Omens" by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman.

"Spreading the word about apprenticeships is important to me because I want more people like me – young, Asian, and mixed-heritage people - to not believe that they must go to university in order to feel satisfied and successful."

To search for apprenticeship opportunities for you, visit:

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)
(www.gov.uk)