

# Life as an apprentice

## Meet Amy, a HR Consultant/Partner at Devon County Council

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**My apprenticeship journey** started in October 2016 when I joined Devon County Council on a two-year fixed term contract. During this time, I managed to get the opportunity to work in the apprenticeships team within HR. I really enjoyed my time in HR and so decided to take the leap to progress my career and started a Level 3 HR Support apprenticeship, before progressing to a Level 5 HR apprenticeship.



*Alt text: Headshot of Amy*

**I was really fortunate** as my older brother worked at the Council and had completed his own apprenticeship, so he really encouraged me on my journey. I had been feeling a bit lost, as I had finished college and knew that I was ready to start my professional journey. Because of the experiences that my brother had, I knew that an apprenticeship would be a good balance of both professional working and studying.

**For my current apprenticeship,** I attend college one day a week alongside a diverse range of apprentices. This has been so valuable to learn how HR systems work across a wide range of organisations, including the NHS, Devon & Cornwall police, as well as private sector companies.

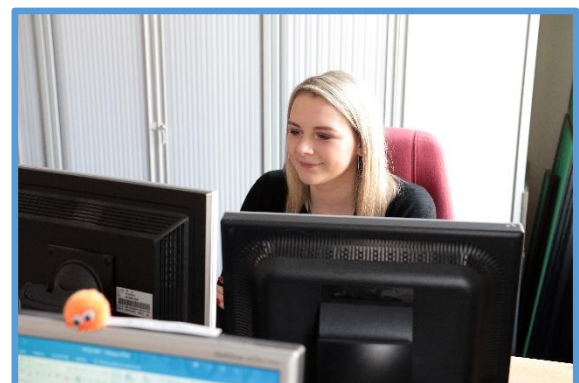
**As an apprentice,** you are given 20% off the job training outside of your usual day-to-day to support in your apprenticeship. This includes the time I spend writing my assignments, attending any webinars or shadowing colleagues for experience. This is amazing for helping to balance my job role with my learning and it means I do not have to complete work in my own time, so my weekends are free to do whatever I want!



*Alt text: Devon County Council logo*

**I became the South West Regional Apprentice Chair** and have loved getting involved and helping to influence decisions that will make an impact on apprenticeships in the South West. The network is a community of passionate current and former apprentices who have chosen to share their story with others. We use our own positive experience as a powerful tool for engaging with students, parents, and teachers.

**My advice to you** is to research what apprenticeships are out there and with what employers to find the best fit for you. Applying for an apprenticeship takes time and dedication, but hard work pays off!



*Alt text: Amy working at her desk*