

Life as an apprentice

Meet Isha, a Level 6 Architectural apprentice at Weston Williamson + Partners



I delved into architecture during my A-level art studies, discovering a genuine interest through research and work experience. My fascination with brutalist architecture ignited my interest in the field, inspiring my A-level artwork and prompting a deeper exploration of the architect's role. Understanding how the built environment impacts us captivated me, and I wanted to work on real projects.

Why did you choose the apprenticeship route?

The realisation that I preferred practical experience over a traditional academic path drew me to explore the apprenticeship route. Merging theoretical knowledge and applying practical hands-on learning opportunities aligns with my learning style while ensuring the dual approach provides me with a comprehensive skill set, making an apprenticeship the ideal path for me.

What does a Typical Day look like?

When I work in the office, I actively contribute to real-life architectural projects, encompassing tasks from drawing to model making, gaining valuable industry experience that distinguishes me from my peers.

How is your apprenticeship being delivered?

My apprenticeship is delivered through The London South Bank University. One day a week is dedicated to my university studies, complementing my four days of hands-on work. I study with full-time architecture students, concentrating on academic facets of architecture, allowing us to share insights and experiences.

How did you find your apprenticeship.

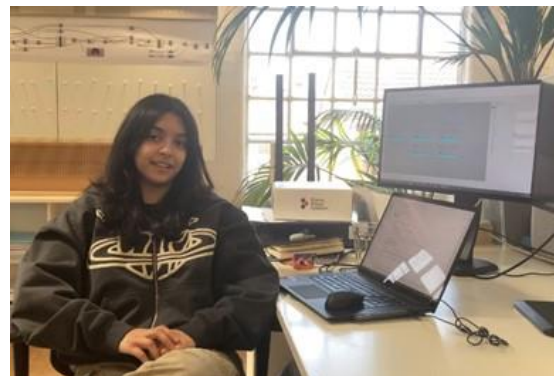
My proactive approach, coupled with a personal affinity for the industry, led me to secure my current apprenticeship. The limited availability prompted me to actively seek opportunities by carrying out my own independent research, checking websites like the government's Find an Apprenticeship platform, and reaching out directly to organisations.

What is your inspiration?

My hardworking mother serves as my inspiration, encouraging me to strive for excellence. Ultimately, I aspire to qualify as an architect, learning firsthand from industry practitioners. My goals extend beyond architecture, focusing on my dedication to helping students discover diverse educational paths.

What advice would give to a young person or their parents about apprenticeships?

I encourage embracing unconventional paths and exploring diverse educational options, as there's no one-size-fits-all in learning. Fearlessly consider apprenticeships. Understand that education comes in varied forms, and everyone learns uniquely. Apprenticeships offer practical experiences and a distinct learning approach that can pave the way for meaningful and fulfilling career journeys. Embrace the opportunity to learn by doing, breaking away from traditional norms, and discovering a personalised path to success.



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To search for apprenticeship opportunities for you, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>