**Apprenticeships**

**Choosing an apprenticeship can be a good way to obtain work experience, training and a salary whilst working. You can gain valuable experience and maybe even qualifications whilst being supported by your work colleagues. Apprenticeships are offered at different levels depending on your qualifications but disabled people should be given equal access. If they do not possess the correct qualifications they should be offered the chance to show commitment to an Apprenticeship through a 'portfolio of evidence' which may include work experience or volunteering as well as courses you have attended and life experiences.**

**The National Apprenticeship Service provides funding for training costs and apprenticeship grants for employers which can be used to encourage employers to take on young people with sight loss.**

**Under the Equality Act 2010 you would be legally protected against discrimination as all employers, colleges, universities and training providers have to make reasonable adjustments for disabled apprentices. This means that, as well as not discriminating against you during the recruitment process, they’re expected to provide support and make reasonable adjustments and tailor any support to your job role.**

**You may also be able to receive**[**Access to Work**](https://www.rnib.org.uk/information-everyday-living-work-and-employment-practical-support/access-work-scheme)**support to help you when you are working. This is a government scheme for workers with disabilities by funding transport & necessary equipment which you may require for your work role. Funding is available to travel for work or for example magnification or software required. The RNIB have a guide about the scheme here:**

[**Access\_to\_Work\_Employers\_factsheet.doc**](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fmedia.rnib.org.uk%2Fdocuments%2FAccess_to_Work_Employers_factsheet.doc&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)

**A careers advisor should be able to give you more information or you can obtain further information from the Disability Employment Officer (DEO) at your local Jobcentreplus.**

**Further details about apprenticeships are available here:**

[**What are the benefits of an apprenticeship? (apprenticeships.gov.uk)**](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/benefits-apprenticeship)

[**www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/adjustments-disabled-students-and-apprentices**](http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/adjustments-disabled-students-and-apprentices)

[**Into Apprenticeships | Disability Rights UK**](https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/apprenticeships)

[**Apprenticeships | RNIB**](https://www.rnib.org.uk/living-with-sight-loss/education-and-learning/education-for-young-people/apprenticeships/)