

Association of Apprentices Apprentice Council

The Association of Apprentices is a user-led community that will help apprentices across the UK maximise their potential. Our platform (www.associationofapprentices.org.uk) launched on 1 March 2021. We aim to provide a community which will offer some of the social elements that are often missing from apprenticeship programmes, as well as offering additional professional development opportunities and career advice.

The work we do is for apprentices, which is why we want it to be guided by apprentices, hence the creation of our Apprentice Council. We currently have 10 members but are looking to expand to 20 members in total. We're looking to recruit current or recently completed apprentices to join the Council and help the Association develop and grow.

The Council meets once a month to discuss the things that they think the Association should focus on, the content of our website and the future direction we should take. It doesn't matter what level or type of apprenticeship you're doing – we just want to hear your ideas and get your feedback. This is a great opportunity to put your mark on what we create and ensure it benefits apprentices across the UK. In return, you'll gain experience of working on a major project, the chance to meet and collaborate with other apprentices and opportunities to develop your skills and enhance your CV. You'll need to agree to the time with your employer but we're only asking for a few hours a month of your time to join a Zoom call.

Who can apply to be a Council Member?

If you'd like to join the Council, you need to:

1. Be doing an apprenticeship at the moment (it doesn't matter what level you're at or what you're doing), or have finished your apprenticeship within the last 24 months
2. Want to share your thoughts and ideas on how to improve things for apprentices in the UK
3. Have the time to commit to joining the Council meetings
4. Have your employer's agreement that you can take part (some meetings may take place during working hours)

Why are you adding more members to the Council?

The intention was always to have 20 members of the Council. Initially, we recruited 10 apprentices to get the Apprentice Council up and running, and now that they have settled into their roles, we're opening up the rest of the spaces to join them.

Who runs the Council?

The Council is currently made up of 10 members, including a Chair and Vice Chair, who run the meetings and mediate conversations and discussions. They are supported by The Apprentice Voice. The Apprentice Voice aids the council on various projects from community engagement to other projects. In terms of the meetings, the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council set the agenda and meet regularly with the Association's Board and staff to discuss the latest developments.

The Council meets once a month via Microsoft Teams. In the meetings, the Council discusses things like: what information, advice and guidance should we offer apprentices? What are the biggest challenges that apprentices face? Where do you think the gaps are for people studying an apprenticeship? Should we allow people to upload their own content or chat in forums? What sort of events should we offer? As for the rest – you decide what you want to talk about.

How much time will I have to commit each month?

The meeting (60-90 minutes per month) plus any actions or preparation for the meeting depending on projects (60 minutes per month). Council Members may be invited to join webinars or other events to represent the Association, but it won't be compulsory.

Do I have to attend all the meetings?

Don't worry if you don't think you'll be able to make all the meetings. We know that life's busy and you will sometimes have other priorities. As long as you think that you'll be able to make most of the meetings then that's fine.

What if I'm worried about sharing my thoughts in front of everyone?

Don't be! The great thing is that there are no right or wrong answers to many of the things we'll be discussing. And if you have anything that you'd rather not say in a meeting, you can always email the Chair, Vice Chair or one of the other Council members, and tell them privately.

Will I get paid?

We aren't offering payment for being a Council Member, but we will reimburse you for any travel expenses if you have to attend an event in person. If an apprentice needs to pay for anything else to be able to participate in the Council, then those costs can be discussed with the AOA Exec Team.

What are you looking for?

We want people who have ideas and thoughts on how the Association of Apprentices can serve the UK's apprentice community. We are committed to the principles of fairness, consistency, meritocracy and equality of opportunity. We don't mind what level of apprenticeship you're doing, whereabouts in the UK you live, what industry you work in or what your plans for the future are. If you want to help us shape this really exciting organisation then we want to hear from you.

Who decides the membership of the Council?

All applications will be reviewed by The Apprentice Voice. A shortlist will then be circulated to some members of the Apprentice Council and the Managing Director for a final decision.

Where can I meet the Council?

We have an in-person event on 1st July where all members of the Association of Apprentices are welcome. You can spend the afternoon at the Guildhall, London, hearing from influential keynote speakers and take part in workshop-style development sessions as well as meeting new people including our wonderful Council members.



Association of
Apprentices

I'm interested! How do I apply?

It's simple!

1. Fill in the application form: [<https://forms.gle/WTRdzEVGSF68TMEZ9>]
2. Ask your employer to email Emily Austin saying that they've agreed you can join the Council.
3. The deadline for applications is Monday 20th June.