

Apprenticeship

AAT – Association of Accounting Technicians (Level 2, 3 and 4)

Studying for the AAT Accounting qualification will provide the learner with the skills necessary to work in many different types of companies and organisations. This nationally recognised qualification will help to improve practical skills and develop the knowledge necessary to complete key tasks and to put knowledge into practice.

The Apprenticeship is designed for those people who are:

- involved in Accountancy as their main work activity,
- seeking a career in Accountancy and looking to achieve professional qualifications,
- looking to gain a qualification that formally recognises their abilities.

Each level of the AAT qualification will give the learner the knowledge and skills which can be applied immediately to their own particular role. There are three levels available to study:

- **Apprenticeship (Foundation - NVQ Level 2)**
- **Advanced Apprenticeship (Intermediate - NVQ Level 3)**
- **Technician (NVQ Level 4)**

How will the work be assessed?

Exams

The examinations are set and marked by the AAT and will test the ability of the learner to apply what they have learned to real situations. The learner can choose to sit exams in June or December and can also re-take any exams they may need to.

Portfolio Units

For the NVQ pathway, the learner will be required to build up a portfolio of evidence. The portfolio might contain evidence from the workplace, activities the learner may be involved in (like being treasurer of a local club or society), or simulations based on real work activities.

AAT Foundation (NVQ Level 2) units

- Recording income and receipts
- Making and recording payments
- Preparing ledger balances and an initial trial balance
- Supplying information for management control
- Working with computers*
- Contribute to the maintenance of a healthy, safe and productive working environment*
- Achieving personal effectiveness*

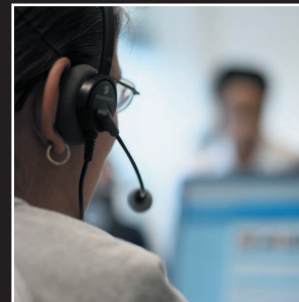
AAT Intermediate (NVQ Level 3) units

- Maintaining financial records and preparing accounts
- Recording and evaluating costs and revenues
- Preparing reports and returns

AAT Technician (NVQ Level 4) units

- Management of performance and the enhancement of value
- Planning and control of resources
- Managing systems and people in the accounting environment
- Drafting financial statements
- Implementing Auditing Procedures

**These units can be completed at various levels and should only be completed once.*



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David Sherlock, Chief Inspector Adult Learning Inspectorate

AAT

Old Custom House
Lowgate, Hull HU1 1RS
Tel: 01482 210093
Fax: 01482 210981
E: info@mcarthurdean.co.uk
www.mcarthurdean.co.uk

Framework

In order to complete the Apprenticeship programme, each learner must successfully achieve a 'framework'. The framework is a nationally recognised group of vocational qualifications, which together, make up the full Apprenticeship qualification and includes the following:

- NVQ
- Technical Certificate
- Key Skills or Skills for Life

Work based learning is built around practical experience with an employer and appropriate training arranged by McArthur Dean Training. In this way, the learner gets the knowledge, skills and experience to achieve the relevant NVQ, Key Skills and Technical Certificate, to complete the Apprenticeship framework.

Technical Certificate

The Technical Certificate is a key component of the Apprenticeship programme and is designed to provide a clear understanding of the world of work. Training for the qualification is normally delivered in the training centre on a day-release basis.

Important issues are covered including, for example, the various types of organisations and their structures, rights and responsibilities, data protection and human resources.

Entry Requirements

The Apprenticeship is open to anyone with a strong commitment to learning, to at least level 2. The Advanced Apprenticeship is available for those who would like to work towards a level 3 qualification, or above. The entry requirement for the advanced level is either a minimum of 5 GCSE passes at grade C or higher, an NVQ level 2, or relevant work experience and a good initial assessment result. Unfortunately, the Apprenticeship is not available to those individuals with a degree.

What is an Apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships and Advanced Apprenticeships combine work and training to offer a programme, which includes:

- a wage of a minimum of £80.00 per week
- a real job with an employer
- a nationally recognised framework of vocational qualifications.

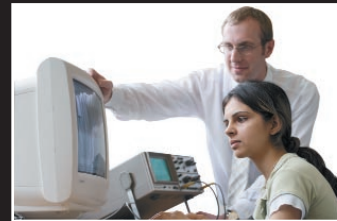
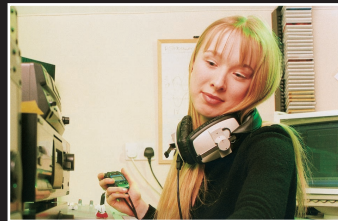
The Apprenticeships form a key part of work based learning, which leads to a framework of qualifications. Quite simply, they are a partnership between the employer, learning provider and the learner. Apprenticeships are available to learners of all ages ranging from school and college leavers (sixteen to twenty four years of age) to the Adult Apprenticeship (twenty five years plus).

The Apprenticeship offers benefits to those learners who:

- are taking the first steps of their career
- may be looking to move into a new occupation
- are hoping for career progression
- need formal training to support practical knowledge
- want to broaden their expertise
- would like to increase knowledge and confidence

The Apprenticeship programme will provide the learner with the basic knowledge, skills and experience required to enable them to confidently complete a variety of tasks within their job.

The Advanced Apprenticeship, is for those learners with more responsibility in their job role.



NVQ

An NVQ, or National Vocational Qualification, is a nationally recognised qualification, which is available at various achievement levels. It is designed in order to provide each learner with the chance to show what they can do at work and the skills they have developed in order to carry out their role.

The achievement of an NVQ is proof of competence to do the job rather than just write about it. Each learner is accredited for the skill levels and experience they achieve both in their job and through the training provided, which is then used as part of the overall evidence collected during the training programme itself.

Once the relevant training has been undertaken, learners will then be able to put the skills gained into practice. Due to the practical nature of an NVQ, assessments of each learner are also carried out within the workplace on a regular basis.

Key Skills

Key Skills in literacy and numeracy enable employees to be competent and confident at work and are just as relevant to young people starting their careers as they are to those adults established in their roles.

Key Skills are an essential part of the Apprenticeship programme. In addition to the work skills required for a particular job, there are other abilities needed to complete the tasks satisfactorily.

Many employers now require the people they recruit to have something extra. They want literacy and numeracy skills. All of the Apprenticeship programmes include Key Skills because they demonstrate a person can communicate both orally and in writing and tackle numerical problems.

Funding Available

Many of the services offered are available free of charge or subsidised, as they involve government funding. Programmes, which attract funding, include the Apprenticeship and Train to Gain.

Equal Opportunities

The key objective of Equal Opportunities is to provide what many of us would describe as 'a level playing field' for differing groups and individuals. With this in mind, it is therefore the policy of McArthur Dean Training management and staff to:

'Deliver services to all our customers in a way which respects individual differences, helps to overcome disadvantages due to ethnicity, gender, age or disability and achieve the best possible outcome for them'.

Progression Routes

