

Questions & Answers from the EY Business Apprenticeship Webinar Answered by Harriet Jones, Student Recruitment Advisor at EY

Will there be psychometric tests as part of the recruitment process?

Yes, the initial stage in the application process is our online strengths portal, which includes a mixture of situational judgement, numerical and verbal reasoning test. We would always recommend doing some practice tests before you complete your actual application. The practice tests can be found at jobmi.com.

Can the apprenticeship be done part time?

We do not currently offer a part-time option for the apprenticeship. However, we do have a great flexible working policy, which enables staff to work from home on some days or work 4 days per week, with longer hours on those days, but this is dependent on the needs of the client you are working for.

What are pros of doing an apprenticeship over uni/why should you do one and not the other?

There is no right or wrong answer – it's completely down to your preferred working style. For example, theoretical learners may prefer university, whereas people who like to be more hands-on may do better in an apprenticeship environment. The main benefits to an apprenticeship is that you get paid for the beginning and you don't accrue any student debt. You also qualify a year ahead of a graduate, as you complete your qualification in 5 years, whilst a grad has 3 years at uni then 3 years on the graduate programme.

What are red flags that come up in interviews from an interviewer's perspective?

Lack of research and being inauthentic are the biggest red flags. It's important that you have taken the time to research the company you're applying for – make sure you have some questions to ask the interviewer, too! Don't try to fit into the mould of what you think a 'perfect' candidate should be. Try to relax and be yourself, as this will show the interviewer (and yourself) whether you will be a good fit for the organisation.

When will applications open for 2018?

Applications will open in September 2017 for the 2018 intake.

What qualities should I highlight on my CV?

Use your CV to highlight any work experience you have, detailing the specific skills you developed through this. It doesn't need to be paid work experience, anything that has given you the opportunity to take on new responsibilities is great. Also, I would recommend including a personal statement at the beginning, tailoring this to the role you have applied to.

What is the most challenging aspect of the 'alternative route'?

Working and studying at the same time is difficult. You need to be self-motivated and able to manage your own time. You won't have a teacher checking up on you all the time, so it's important that you can set yourself goals and deadlines for when you want to complete things.

I applied to the EY work experience for July, hoping I can get a place in the future into the Business Academy Apprenticeship. I have taken the tests and I was just wondering how long it takes for EY to get back to you after they send you your candidate report on your strongest and weakest points during the test.

You should hear back within a week – if it has been longer than this, then please contact the recruitment team on 0800 289 208 or email eyeschools@uk.ey.com

You mentioned the Manchester branch for consultancy apprenticeship, which qualifications do you work towards? Is there away way which I can get in contact with current people on that specific programme?

For consulting you would normally study your CIMA qualification. This is the first year that we have recruited for this area and the new joiners won't be starting until September. Please check the website for further information on ITRA (IT Risk Assurance), which is the area of consulting where we are taking apprentices.

Do you offer work experience?

We have two work experience programmes for year 12 students – the EY Business Academy and the EY Foundation Smart Futures programme. More information can be found here: <https://ukcareers.ey.com/schools/our-programmes/programmes-for-school-leavers>

I currently live in Grimsby, and I'm looking to go into consulting does your firm offer any type of help regarding relocation/transportation costs?

Unfortunately, we do not offer a relocation/travel package for the Business Apprenticeship, however the starting salary is sufficient that if you wanted to relocate, you should have the means to do this.

What are some of the businesses you work with? Anything finance related companies, where students who want to go into finance could transfer?

We work with an extremely broad range of clients across our financial services and UK & Ireland sectors. For those interested in finance, I would recommend applying for the financial services sector, which will allow you to work with banking, insurance and wealth & asset management clients.