

My Apprenticeship journey

I became interested in pursuing an apprenticeship during the summer of year 12 while I was completing my work experience with BDO, an auditing firm, where I got to see what it is like to work for an accountancy company. The thought of an office job interested me as I got to see the social side of working. As well as this I enjoy working with people and believe that I learn a lot from a hands-on approach. I soon found out about their apprenticeship program and how I would get awarded a level 7 qualification alongside paid work for one of the largest auditing firms. This really caught my eye and I started to do some extra work during my work experience. At the end of my work experience I had to do a presentation about what I've learnt as well as some auditing techniques I picked up during my time there and to my delight I was offered one of their apprenticeships by the start of year 13. After securing an apprenticeship at BDO I also decided to apply for another accountancy firm EY who are one of the largest accountancy firms and are placed in the Big 4. I was attracted by this company as I believe that I will have the ability to work with much larger clients. I applied for it during the start of year 13 and I was offered a place in the firm

The Process of applying

Fill out a form: This was very similar in both companies as I needed to input my credentials as predicted grades

Online tests: They took the form of verbal, non-verbal, arithmetic and situational with the questions being time recorded

Phone/Video interview: I had to answer basic questions about why the role and what I aim to gain out of the experience as well as some situational based questions

Assessment centre: I had to do group-activities as well as individual activities where you mimic the life of an employee. These activities can take the form of prioritising tasks to presenting new technology to clients. At the company at the EY assessment centre I was placed in groups of people who were graduates and undergraduates

Final face to face partner interview: I prepared for this by doing a lot of background research on the companies and I was asked questions about why the company as well as more situational questions these interviews tend to be strength based but can be knowledge based but this tends to be specified. At my EY interview I had to also do a presentation on one of three topics to a partner at the company

By Ayush T

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The apprenticeship I have been accepted into is audit at PwC. This was the first and only apprenticeship/university I ended up applying for. I applied in February last year to get onto the business insight week in the summer holidays, which is a week of paid work experience at PwC, this application included situational testing, online games testing and followed by a day of learning and assessment at their office in Reading. I thoroughly enjoyed the week of work experience that I did and at the end was offered the opportunity to be fast tracked onto the final stages of the apprenticeship application process which was an assessment and interview.

I ended up choosing this over going to university as it's one of the top accounting firms in the world and their apprenticeship program is equivalent to a master's level degree. Also whilst on the work experience I spoke to multiple partners and all said that an apprentice and a degree graduate are treated as equals and both can get to the same point in the company.

By Joel C