

# DIGITAL FORENSIC TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP (LEVEL 4)

## STUDENT FACTSHEET

### WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIPS?

An Apprenticeship is a real job, with hands-on experience, a salary and the chance to train and gain qualifications while you work. An Apprentice will:

- Work alongside experienced staff.
- Gain job-specific skills.
- Earn a wage and get holiday pay.
- Be given time for study related to their role (the equivalent of one day a week).

### WHAT IS DIGITAL FORENSICS?

Digital forensic science is a branch of forensic science that focuses on the recovery and investigation of material found on digital devices. Digital forensics is the process of identifying, preserving, analysing, and documenting digital evidence.

### WHAT IS THE LEVEL 4 DIGITAL FORENSIC TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP?

This apprenticeship is a recently developed [apprenticeship standard](#) based on the [national Digital Forensic Technician Professional Profile](#).

The standard was completed in March 2023 and can be viewed on the [IfATE](#) website.

Employers are now beginning to recruit into this apprenticeship, and the first apprentices should commence January '24. Employers will range from law enforcement organisations, private forensic service providers and a wide range of public and private sectors organisations with digital forensic teams.

The apprenticeship lasts between 24-27 months. There are three elements to this apprenticeship;



### WHO CAN DO THE APPRENTICESHIP?

Anybody can do the apprenticeship, if they are 18 or over, living in England, not in full-time education, and the apprenticeship is giving them new skills to achieve competence in the role.



### WHAT WILL THE TRAINING CONSIST OF?

It will comprise of a blended learning programme of online learning events combined with face-to-face blocks of learning at a training centre, which will equate to 20% of the apprentices' time overall. During your apprenticeship you will:

- Become competent in the extraction of data from mobile phones, computers and other digital devices using industry standard technology
- Undertake acquisition and processing of digital evidence for use as forensic evidence
- Build your knowledge and practice in validated forensic standards in a professional environment
- Work alongside digital forensic practitioners in the workplace and learn from expert trainers and academics

The first two learning providers are **Blue Light Digital** and **Staffordshire University**. There are no costs for this training, the employer and Government fund the qualification.

Employers will provide ongoing support and mentoring for the apprentice, and ensure they have sufficient time allocated to undertake their training. The apprentice will produce a portfolio evidencing how they have met the standards of the apprenticeship.

Following successful completion, the apprentice is eligible for professional registration with;

- BCS - Professional register of IT Technicians
- CII Sec - Chartered Institute for Information Security
- Institute of Cyber Digital Investigation professionals.

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### HOW IS THE APPRENTICESHIP ASSESSED?

Following apprentice portfolio sign off, the candidate is put forward for their End Point Assessment.

For this assessment, the apprentice will then be observed undertaking their duties in the workplace and will be asked a number of questions around their portfolio.

### WHAT DOES A LEVEL 4 APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD EQUATE TO?

LEVEL		EQUIVALENT EDUCATION LEVEL
Intermediate	<b>2</b>	GCSE
Advanced	<b>3</b>	A Level
Higher	<b>4&amp;5</b>	Foundaton Degree
Degree	<b>6&amp;7</b>	BSc or MSc

### WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

Individual employers will identify entry requirements. Normally you will have Level 2 Maths and English at the start of your apprenticeship, if not you must achieve it before you complete your apprenticeship.

Employers will want applicants to demonstrate they have an interest in digital forensics and show an aptitude for IT skills.

### HOW DO I APPLY FOR THE APPRENTICESHIP?

There are a number of routes where apprenticeship vacancies can be found;

- On individual employers websites, search Digital Forensic Technician Apprenticeship
- On the [FCN website](#) where national vacancies will be shared.
- [Find an Apprenticeship](#) government website

Once an apprenticeship opportunity is identified follow the application guidelines on the employers website.

For further information see

[GOV.UK - Become an apprentice](#)

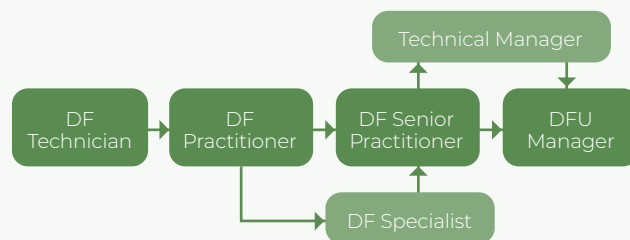
### HOW MUCH DOES A DF APPRENTICE EARN?

Employing organisations will set the salary for the role and therefore there is no national salary. However, apprentices are entitled to the National Minimum Wage for their age group.

[SEE THE CURRENT NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE RATES](#)

### WHAT IS MY POTENTIAL CAREER PATHWAY IN THE DIGITAL FORENSICS OCCUPATION?

Career pathways vary across employing organisations. In policing there are a number of nationally agreed roles and a career pathway which is included below.



Progression in these roles would be based on role availability and suitability of skills and is not automatic. Even within police forces the roles can differ. The Level 7 Advanced Digital Forensic Apprenticeship is currently under development, and following work experience, could be a progression route.

### COULD I BE EXPOSED TO DISTRESSING MATERIAL IN MY ROLE?

Whilst working in some organisations, and policing in particular, it is possible that the apprentice will encounter media representing scenes which are upsetting or distasteful. Whilst appropriate support will be given to staff, applicants should be aware that exposure to such material is likely and should consider this when deciding whether or not to apply. The apprentice will play a vital role in protecting vulnerable people and identifying evidential opportunities.

### BENEFITS

- Paid while you learn
- Gain experience and job ready
- Gain professional accreditation
- Long-term career
- Networking and support