

# Understanding your options after sixth form

## Degree vs. Degree Apprenticeship

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When students leave university in England, they typically leave with at least £35,000 of debt, this coupled with the current escalating cost of living, has undoubtedly made school leavers consider their options, and ask whether university is really worth the price. It has also led school leavers to consider alternative routes into high education, including the degree apprenticeship, which offers a the option to study a fully funded degree, alongside paid employment.

We spoke to Apprentice Mollie at Tetra Tech, to get her thoughts on degree vs. degree apprenticeship.

### Degree or Degree Apprenticeship? What are your thoughts?

During Sixth Form (and throughout my GCSEs), the university route was really pushed towards students. There were lots of presentations and talks, but I knew this wasn't the route I wanted to take. Once you know that there are higher level apprenticeships out there, you quickly find that there are hundreds of different types, in almost every type of career path.

Although I may be biased – definitely degree apprenticeship!

### What do you feel are the benefits of undertaking a degree apprenticeship?

Through my apprenticeship, I'm not only getting a degree, but also project management specific qualifications, through both the university and Tetra Tech. I wouldn't have gained these other qualifications had I chosen to go to university full time. Moreover, I can't fault my employer throughout my apprenticeship so far. They have been extremely supportive of me.

### If you could tell your younger self one bit of advice, what would it be?

Don't feel pressured to go to university and follow the crowd, just because the school or college is really pushing for it and advocating for people to take that route. While I was in Sixth Form, almost every talk we had in assemblies or career fayres were all geared towards going to university, with very few linking to apprenticeships. My advice to others is to think about what you want to do, rather than what everyone else is telling you should be doing. Whatever interests you and motivates you, whatever you want to get out of life and a career – that's what you should be striving to achieve.

Sound advice Mollie, perhaps we're biased too but more often than not the results speak for themselves and it's no wonder degree apprenticeships are booming!