

Differences between Higher Technical Qualifications and Apprenticeships

HTQs

Apprenticeships

Structure and learning environment

Independently approved against employer developed occupational standards, ensuring the skills provided align with employer needs.

Classroom based learning that can be studied at a: FE College, University, Institute of Technology and Independent Training Provider

Combine on-the-job training with classroom learning

Focus on workplace competencies.

Employment status

Suitable for employed learners who want to upskill on a part time basis and those not in employment who want to study a full time course.

Includes a work placement when mandated by the Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB)
E.g. The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) mandate a work placement within the Nursing Associate Foundation Degree (HTQ)

Employed

Combine on-the-job with classroom learning.

Funding

Learners studying HTQs that are longer than 1 year can apply for funding via student loans, with tuition fee and maintenance loans available for both full and part-time options. Employer can contribute to the tuition fee as part of the employee's benefit package.

Tuition Fees paid by the apprenticeship levy

Salary paid by the employer

Qualification Level and duration

Level 4 are generally 1 year full-time

Level 5 are generally 2 years full-time

Apprenticeships at this level are called Higher Apprenticeships and generally take between 3 – 5 years, depending on prior knowledge of the learner

How do they overlap?

They are both suitable for college leavers or adult learners wanting to upskill or retrain

Both pathways are designed to meet the needs of employers and provide learners with the skills required to succeed in their chosen careers. The choice between an HTQ and an apprenticeship depends on individual preferences and learning styles, business need and business capacity to mentor an apprentice.

HTQs can be studied as a standalone qualification, or it can be the mandated qualification that forms part of an apprenticeship