



Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- When do the applications open?
 - You can apply now at <https://ourclients.randstad.co.uk/ford-motor-company/>
 - Or use QR code



- I have an international qualification e.g., International Baccalaureate (IB) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS), are these recognised?
 - Yes, we recognise international qualifications. We would work with our recruitment partner (Randstad) to compute your eligibility to apply. You can apply to have your international qualifications recognised by UK ENIC (<https://www.ecctis.com>).
- What opportunities are there for international students to apply?
 - If you have resided in the UK for at least 3 years prior to applying we can accept your application, if you meet the other criteria e.g., qualifications
- What qualifications do I gain after I have completed this apprenticeship?
 - NVQ L2 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
 - BTEC L3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering
 - NVQ L3 Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering in Toolmaking / Mechatronics / Design & Development / Heavy Vehicle Service and Maintenance
- What support does Ford give to apprentices that need to relocate?
 - Although we cannot make your arrangements, we would happily suggest locations and any opportunities for sharing accommodation with other apprentices.
- Are the apprenticeships available all over the UK or in a certain area?
 - Our current Advanced Engineering apprenticeship opportunities are based on Dunton and Dagenham in Essex.
- Is this apprenticeship for school leavers and what is the maximum age limit to apply?
 - Yes, this apprenticeship can be applied for by school leavers but there isn't an upper age limit to apply for any apprenticeship.

Apply for our apprenticeships at: <https://ourclients.randstad.co.uk/ford-motor-company/>
For other career opportunities see: <https://www.ford.co.uk/experience-ford/careers>



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- If successful in being offered an apprenticeship, could you defer for a year e.g., gap year?
 - No, if you were successful and chose not to take the role, then you would have to apply again the next year.
- Is there a limit to how many apprenticeships you can apply for?
 - No, you are welcome to apply for all our apprenticeship schemes, if you meet the required criteria.
- What is the work/life balance like for your apprentices?
 - *Apprentice response:* You are given early sight of your college programme and what assignments etc are required when, this can obviously coincide with work-based projects and you therefore need to be organised and realistic with yourself about time needed. You have regular check-ins with Skillnet (training provider), and they are always happy to help you manage your workload.
- What are the Advanced Engineering pathways available in this apprenticeship and do you take our preference into consideration?
 - The three pathways are:
 - Product Design & Development Technician & Mechatronics Maintenance Technician
 - Mechatronics Maintenance Technician
 - Heavy Vehicle Service & Maintenance Technician (Transport Operations)
 - We do take your preference into consideration both at initial application and at the end of your apprenticeship when final placements are being discussed.
- Are the first two years of the Advanced Engineering apprenticeship spent in the classroom?
 - Yes, but essentially the classroom is also a workshop where you will cover theory and practical, basically all the engineering skills to prepare you for your transfer to the plant.
- If I know someone who works at Ford, am I allowed to reference them, and will this give me an advantage compared to other candidates?
 - Yes, you can certainly reference them but no, it doesn't give you an advantage.



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- What are the contracted hours for an apprentice?
 - The contracted hours are 37.5 hours per week (7.5 hours per day) with 20% of your time being college.
- Is the starting salary fixed for the 4 years?
 - No, the salary increases yearly, on the anniversary of your joining the company if you pass the gateway criteria for that year.
- Does it ever take longer than 4 years to complete the apprenticeship?
 - Yes, it can certainly happen that someone needs extra time e.g., for maternity leave or illness and we are happy to work with that apprentice to manage the process.
- What is the career progression like for an apprentice?
 - We usually retain our apprentices, although there are always a few exceptions. We believe our employees oversee their own careers and so for those who are looking to progress through the company there are certainly channels for that. To run our large business takes all our employees, from the most junior to the most senior, from the least experienced to the most experienced and across all departments to work together.
- What qualities do you look for in an apprentice?
 - We are looking for people who are curious about the world, want to be part of something bigger by solving problems and taking responsibility, who embrace innovation and are looking for ways it can advance the world, who do what is best for all and question what has gone before and who do all of that whilst being empathetic, trustworthy and have integrity, even when no one is watching! (pew!).
- Would an apprenticeship help me gain confidence?
 - *Apprentice response:* Most definitely! Along with the technical skills, we also focus on soft skill development from public speaking and presenting, to working on your resilience, the apprenticeships is designed to develop you in all ways.



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- When do your apprenticeship applications close?
 - The closing date for all our apprenticeships is 18th March. This remains open no matter how many applications we receive, however we do recommend you get your application in early as our assessment centres are booked and filled as candidates are successful through the process.
- What are the transport links to Dunton Essex like?
 - There is a train station at Laindon ([C2C train line](#)) and you would need to take a taxi/cycle/walk from there to Dunton. Our employees do operate a taxi sharing service which you could take advantage of.
- Do your apprenticeships guarantee a job at the end?
 - Yes, all our apprenticeships guarantee you a job at the end if you complete and pass all the gateway criteria at the end of every year.
- What other opportunities are available once I have completed my apprenticeship?
 - We have many further education programmes available e.g., Higher Engineering Degree apprenticeship should you wish to apply for them. We want all our employees to foster a growth mindset and fully support our employees in their continued development.
- I couldn't attend your Open Events, is a recording available?
 - Yes, you can find all our Open Event recordings at:
 - Advanced engineering open evening: https://youtu.be/nnGSX_LJl2s
 - Higher engineering open evening: <https://youtu.be/gZ8RuwJ64Nw>
 - IT Degree open evening - <https://youtu.be/Ygl9Uzj-5Fw>
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