

APPRENTICESHIP Academy

Start your journey
with North Tyneside Council

Your Application

Where to apply?

All our apprenticeship vacancies are advertised on www.northeastjobs.org.uk
You can find out more by contacting Lesley Maughan on 07969 449 665 or email lesley.maughan@northtyneside.gov.uk or Jane Gray on 07968 380 208 or email jane.gray@northtyneside.gov.uk

Your application

Do

- Follow the instructions provided
- Take note of the closing date, we may not be able to accept late applications
- Apply online via www.northeastjobs.org.uk or ask us for a paper form if you're not online
- Make sure your contact details are correct. We will only contact you via email if this is provided

Don't

- Send a CV
- Use an inappropriate email address and nothing that could be offensive
- Rush your application. Give yourself enough time to think and prepare each section
- Forget to sell yourself

Take your time – Don't rush

When you've found an apprenticeship opportunity you're interested in

- **Read the advert, job description & person specification carefully**

These will give you information on the tasks and learning you will undertake as part of the apprenticeship. The person specification will tell you the essential knowledge, qualifications and skills you will need to be considered for the apprenticeship.

- **Show your enthusiasm for the apprenticeship**

We don't expect you to have lots of work experience and skills, but we do want to see your enthusiasm and your potential to achieve. You can show this in your application by telling us about your achievements so far and how you think they matter to the apprenticeship.

- **Proofread**

Always read through and check your application before sending.

- **Sell yourself**

The personal statement section of the application is most important. Successful applications come from those who've given examples of how their personal attributes experience and skills match those in the job description and person specification. Don't worry if you think you're inexperienced. You can say how keen you are to learn and work hard given the chance.

Most apprenticeships ask for certain key skills **Communication, teamwork, literacy, and numeracy**. North Tyneside Council apprenticeships are the same. Other qualities are equally important e.g., **flexibility, motivation, enthusiasm** and a **"can do" approach**. Think about yourself in school, on work experience, at home, your outside interests to give examples of these qualities.

You say: I've done.....

Give some examples of the skills and qualities this shows

e.g., 'As a keen member of a local football team, it is important that we communicate constantly when on the pitch to make sure everyone can work together to win the game. I have been praised by the team captain for the way that I communicate on the pitch, saying that I am calm, motivational and fair'

You say: I'm good at.....

Give examples of what this could bring to the workplace

e.g., 'I feel I have very good communication skills as a member of a local football team, I am calm and clear when talking and this will be helpful when communicating with customers.'

- **Why work for North Tyneside Council?**

Think about why you want to work for North Tyneside Council, show you've looked into what the Council does and include this within your personal statement. **Stand out from the crowd.**

Your References

North Tyneside Council will always contact a referee if an apprenticeship offer is made to you. You will be unable to start your apprenticeship without a reference, so consider the following points to help make references a quick and easy part of your application.

- **Who should act as your referee?**

This should be somebody who knows you and can talk positively about your suitability for the apprenticeship. This is most likely to be a teacher or employer. You can give the name of another adult you know as long as it's not a family member.

- **Referee contact details**

Make sure you give us their full contact details including address, telephone and email.

- **Inform your referee about the applications you have made**

Make sure you've got your referees agreement for us to contact them and advise them of the applications you have made. This way they can be ready to reply promptly to any reference requests.

Keep Track

- **Save copies of your applications**

Save copies of your applications especially if you've applied for several apprenticeships. If you are invited to an interview, we are likely to refer to things you've mentioned in your application form.

- **Check the post or email regularly**

If you have provided us with an email address, we will contact you in this way, alternatively we may contact you via telephone (your mobile if provided) or in writing. Please remember to check your messages regularly – both voicemail and email.

Get some help

There are lots of people around you who can help with your applications. It's sensible to get advice from your Connexions adviser at school, 6th form. They are experienced and trained in helping with job applications and can spend time helping you draft and develop your applications.

Family members, teachers, mentors, key workers, and Job Centre advisers can also support you.

While it's a good idea to get help, make sure your application is your own. Don't expect somebody else to do it for you.

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Your Interview

Congratulations you've got an interview. Getting through to this stage is a big achievement – well done! This means your application has impressed a manager and they want to meet you.

So what's next

Prepare

- **Get refreshed ahead of the interview**

Read through the advert, the job description, the person specification and your application so it's fresh in your mind.

- **How much do you know about the Council and what it does?**

Find out more about North Tyneside Council by looking at our website (www.northtyneside.gov.uk). If you know where the apprenticeship will be based and in which department then do a bit of research. Where a manager's name is given to help you find out more, consider ringing them to ask questions. Think about asking for a spell of work experience to get a better insight into the team you might be working for.

Plan your Journey

- **How are you going to get to your interview?**

Check which bus or metro you need to use and how long the journey will take. If somebody is driving, you make sure they know the way and perhaps do a practice run.

- **Always allow extra time**

Better to be early than late. Keep the manager's name and contact number in your phone in case of any delays.

Choose your outfit

You don't need to wear expensive gear, but you should be clean, smart and tidy. When deciding on what you'll wear, think "office" no matter what apprentice role you're being interviewed for.

Practice Interview

Everybody gets nervous in interviews and the interviewer will understand.

- **Consider what type of questions you maybe asked?**

Trying out a few typical interview questions can help you feel more prepared. Think of some questions and work out how you would answer them. Writing notes can help.

- **Be confident**

Remember we only want you to do well and be able to tell us why you could be one of our apprentices.

Smiling, looking the manager in the eye and being friendly, positive, and enthusiastic go a long way. Listen to the question and answer as fully as you can by focusing on what you "can do" and "have done" rather than the opposite. Remember to think back to what you said on your application.

Common Interview Questions

Questions

Points to make in your answer

Why would you like this apprenticeship?

- Why you've chosen an apprenticeship instead of college, 6th form or a job?
- Why you are keen to gain a qualification?
- Why you want to learn on the job?
- What has attracted you to North Tyneside Council?

What are your strengths/achievements?

- Refer to things you've done which you are proud of
- Show how these can be useful in the workplace

Why is teamwork important? Can you give an example of a time when you have worked as a member of a team?

- Explain how you think teamwork creates a better workplace
- Describe what makes a good team player i.e., being helpful, sharing work, listening, being respectful and tolerant

Explain how you would deal with a difficult customer?

- How you would behave and speak
- What you would do
- Who you would ask to help you

What interests you in business admin, sport and leisure, horticulture.....?

- Has something or someone sparked off the interest
- Show what you know about the job role
- Talk about how it relates to past studies or work

Questions

Points to make in your answer

What would you do if you were given 2 free hours on your first day?

experience

- What could you do to get to know staff, the building and what goes on?
- What you think the employer expects you to do?

Can you give an example of when you have solved a problem?

- Describe the problem
- What you did to solve it
- What you learnt
- Could you have done something better?

Prepare to ask questions

At the end of most interviews, you'll be asked if you have any questions. Even if you're sighing with relief because the end of the interview is in sight, don't leave things here. This is a final chance to show your interest and enthusiasm.

Positive questions to ask:

- What are the best things about working for North Tyneside Council?
- What has happened to previous apprentices?
- What qualifications will I be working towards?
- What training will I get on the job?
- When will I know the outcome of the interview?

If you want to know more about the entitlements as an apprentice e.g. pay, holidays see the guidance notes detailing the terms & conditions of employment for the apprenticeship via www.Northeastjobs.org.uk

Useful websites

<http://my.northtyneside.gov.uk/category/119/skills-jobs-and-careers>

<https://www.northeastjobs.org.uk/>

<http://www.connexions-tw.co.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>