

Apprenticeship Grants - Better Business Grant

Did you know there is a new grant available in addition to the funding that Government provides for apprenticeship course fees? This new grant enables apprenticeship employers to apply for funding that goes directly to their business, helping towards the cost of releasing their apprentices to attend apprenticeship training.

This new grant is called the Better Business Grant, and eligible businesses will receive up to £2000 per apprentice in 2025 and again in 2026. Better Business apprenticeship grants are paid directly to eligible businesses who pay their apprentices to attend regular training on a government supported apprenticeship. These grants are designed to assist businesses to release their apprentices for paid training, in 2025 and 2026 as the island transitions to a living wage.

Below is a list of Apprenticeship courses available in 2025, all of which are eligible for a Better Business Grant

Highlands College courses

- Site Carpentry
- Brickwork
- Painting and Decorating
- Plumbing Studies
- Construction and the Built Environment
- Electrical Installation
- Light Vehicle Maintenance and Repair Principles
- Welding and Fabrication Practice
- Hairdressing - Highlands
- Beauty Therapy
- Retail Operations
- Culinary Skills
- Early Years Educator
- Youthwork
- HNC in Construction
- BSc (Hons) Construction Management
- HNC in Civil Engineering

Non-Highlands College courses

- CMI Management
- Dental Nursing
- Hairdressing – Neon
- Health and Social Care (RQF)

To enquire about enrolling employees in one of the available Apprenticeship courses or to learn about support options for course fees, please contact [Skills Jersey](#) directly.

Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant your business must fulfil the eligibility criteria for all Better Business grants, and you must pay your apprentice for their time on their approved training course.

[Use our Eligibility Checker to see if you are eligible for a Better Business Grant](#)

When to Apply for the Better Business Grant

We encourage you to apply for a Better Business grant as soon as you register your apprentice for a course.

For existing apprentices (started their academic course pre-2025) you cannot apply for the Better Business grant retrospectively. i.e. for an apprentice who started Level 2 of an apprenticeship in September 2024 finishing in July 2025, you cannot retrospectively claim for that academic year

If that apprentice continues their academic apprenticeship course and starts a new level in September 2025 you can then claim for a grant in 2025, to be paid at the next payment date.

Example

Joe the electrical apprentice starts the academic year of apprenticeship at level 2 in September 2024	Course level end date July 2025	Not eligible for a Better Business Grant (as the course started before the grants existed)
Joe the electrical apprentice continues his apprenticeship and moves on to level 3 of his academic course in September 2025	Course level end date in July 2026	You are eligible to apply for a Better Business Grant in 2025
Joe the electrical apprentice continues his apprenticeship and moves on to level 4 of his academic course in September 2026	Course level end date July 2027	You are eligible to apply for a Better Business Grant in 2026 (Please note the grant scheme is only available in 2025 and 2026)

You can apply at any time of the year, but payments are made twice a year. In 2025 those payment points are 1st May and the second is the 1st December. Please note your apprentice must have started their course level for you to be eligible for payment. (see payment details)

What's on an application form and how long does it take?

If you have all the information you need to hand it should take no longer than 20 minutes to fill in the application form.

Firstly, you will need to create a grant login and fill in your company details. This will include your

- Business licence number
- Tax Identification Number

You then proceed to the very short application form for apprenticeship grants. Here we collect all the information we need to verify your apprentice is on a course from the approved list.

- The full name for each apprenticeship (you can add more than one apprentice on the form in one go)
- Their date of birth
- Course start date (Note must be in 2025, for a 2025 application)
- Course end date (may well be in 2026)
- Course name
- Course level

After you submit your application what happens next?

Your company business licence number, Tax Identification Number, company name, and company start date are all automatically checked with government to confirm your business eligibility (they don't see the other fields of your application form). You will receive an email from Jersey Business confirming when this is done, confirming your business is eligible and outlining what happens next.

Your application will then be checked with the course provider when your apprentice reaches roughly 8 weeks into their applied for course level (there is a higher risk of apprenticeship drop out in the first term of a course, so apprentices are not "verified" as attending a course until they reach that milestone).

When the course provider verifies your apprentice, we will then email you asking you to log back into your application to complete the grant terms and conditions and add your bank account details.

The payment process

Grant payments are made twice a year in relation to the apprenticeship start dates. In 2025 those payment points are **1st May and 1st December**.

- For courses starting between January 2025 and March 2025, payment will be made in May 2025.
- For courses starting between April 2025 and September 2025, payment will be made in December 2025.
- For courses starting between October and December 2025, payment will be made in March 2026.

Payment dates apply to both Highlands and non-Highland's apprenticeships.

How much will I receive, and are there any conditions?

Grants are a standard amount of £2000 per apprentice, for a full academic year paid in one lump sum. Grants are referred to as “up to” £2000, in the terms and conditions because if your apprentice leaves the course or your employment before the end of the year you will be required to pay back a pro rata amount of the grant. i.e. If you have a grant for an apprentice who completes six months of a level 3 apprenticeship, you will be required to pay back 50% of the grant.

Payments are made directly to the bank account you provide when you sign the terms and conditions.

Please note that if an apprentice joins you part way through the academic year and another company has already received a grant for that apprentice for that year, you will not be able to apply for a grant for that apprentice until they start a new apprenticeship level (if you're not sure if a grant has been paid for a new apprentice part way through an academic year, please contact us and we can confirm before you make an application).

Do I have to do anything after I get the grant?

By signing the terms, you agree to inform Jersey Business if your apprentice withdraws from the course or your employment before the end of the year. In such cases, Jersey Business will connect you to the relevant Government of Jersey department who will confirm how much of the pro rata amount of the grant is to be repaid to them.

You will also agree to fill in a very short survey so that we can ascertain if this scheme assisted your business to employ an apprentice.