

Alex BradburySolicitor Apprentice

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The primary advantage of an apprenticeship is the on-the-job training you acquire and the hands-on skills that stem from that. You can learn all the theory in a classroom, but nothing compares to actually doing the job you are training for and learning through tangible success and shortfalls.

You will first and foremost gain practical skills that you will use every day in your job, particularly the more general skills you don't get taught. Drafting emails (both internal and external), making telephone calls, organising meetings – all important to help make your team's lives easier and aid you in becoming a better and more integral part of your team.

You will also obviously develop your technical skills. These will be specific to your area of work but are best honed on the job. The knowledge you develop on the study side of your course will also aid you here, as it can often be applied in conjunction with the new tasks you are learning to complete.

A benefit not advertised but extremely valuable is the development of your interpersonal skills too. As an apprentice, you will work with people of all levels of seniority and experience, and it is a skill to learn how to build those relationships so that you can communicate with colleagues respectfully but without feeling intimidated. There will, no doubt, be committees you can join, or initiatives you can get involved in, and these will all help to raise your profile and give you a boost in both confidence, and your abilities in the other skills you have developed.