



# Alternative pathways for developing professional skills: Apprenticeships in the UK

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Advancing geography  
and geographical learning

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# About us

- The UK's **learned society and professional body** for geography, founded in 1830
- A **world leader in advancing geography** and supporting its practitioners in the UK and across the world
- Exists to advance geography and is actively involved in supporting and promoting **geographical research, education, fieldwork and expeditions, policy and public engagement**

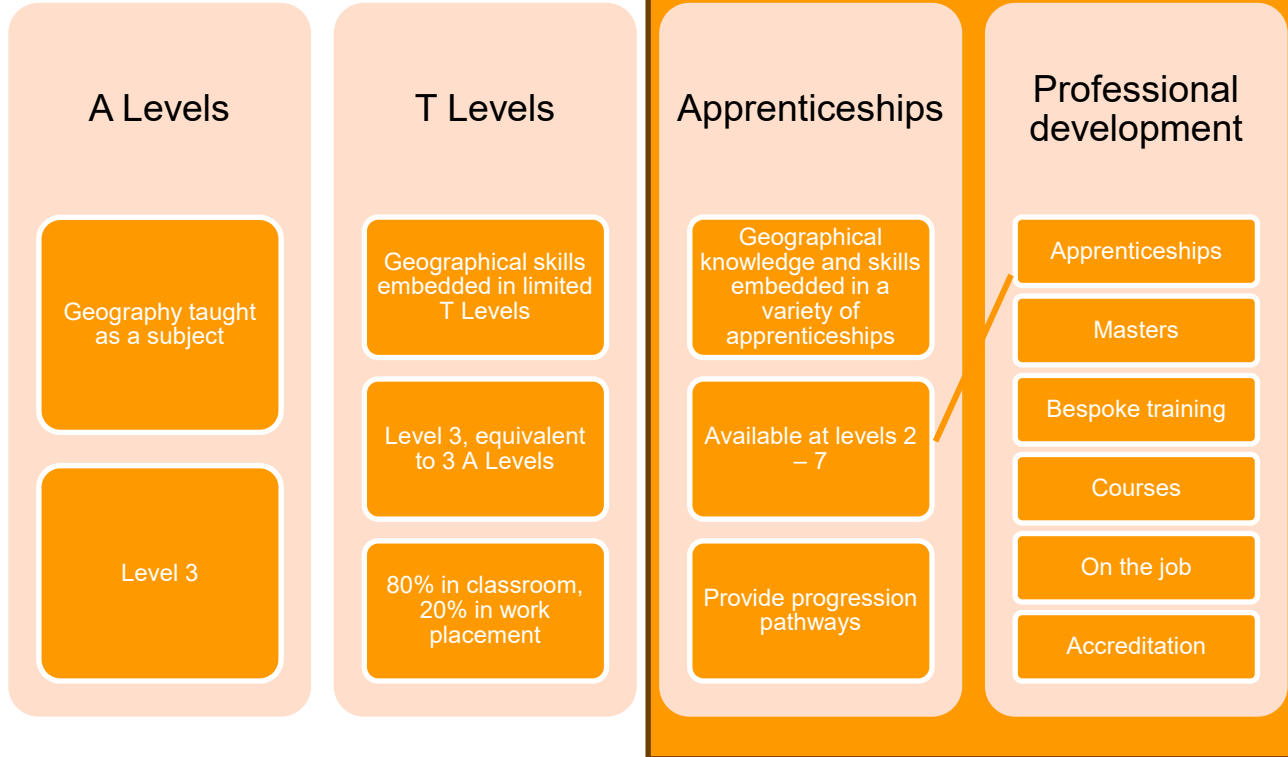
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# Post 16 educational landscape in the UK





Level 2: Intermediate apprenticeships	GCSE level (~ 16)
Level 3: Advanced apprenticeships	A Level (~18)
Level 4 – 6: Higher apprenticeships	L4 = first year of degree L5 = Foundation degree or HND L6 = Degree level
Level 5 – 7: Degree apprenticeships	L5/6 = Apprenticeship + a degree qualification L7 = Apprenticeship + a Masters qualification



# Apprenticeships

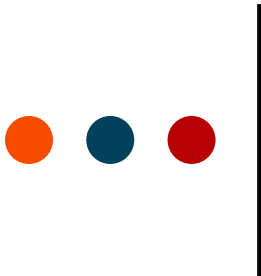
- Earn and learn
- Structured around occupations
  - Knowledge
  - Skills
  - Behaviours
- All apprenticeships are currently funded by a Levy
- Development is always led by the needs of employers, and by employer Trailblazer groups
- Geography is embedded

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Higher/Degree Apprenticeship  
**Environmental Practitioner**  
BSc(Hons) Environment and Sustainability

Course code	ST0778
Level	Higher/Degree Apprenticeship
School	<a href="#">School of Architecture and Environment</a>
Duration	Typically five years
Delivery	Day release; September intake
Programme leader	<a href="#">Michael Horswell</a> <a href="#">Dr Sara-Jayne Williams</a>

- Data skills
- Field work and survey skills
- Geographical theory



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## Soil Scientist Apprenticeship with MSc in Soil Science





# Construction and the built environment

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▶ Geospatial survey technician



☑ Level 3



A

TL



▶ Geospatial mapping and science -  
Geospatial Engineering



☑ Level 6



A

▶ Geospatial mapping and science -  
Hydrography



☑ Level 6



A

▶ Geospatial mapping and science -  
Geospatial Surveying



☑ Level 6



A

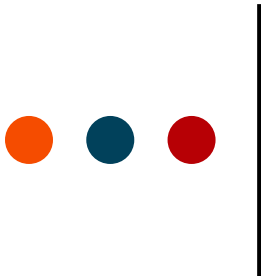
▶ Geospatial mapping and science - Utilities



☑ Level 6



A

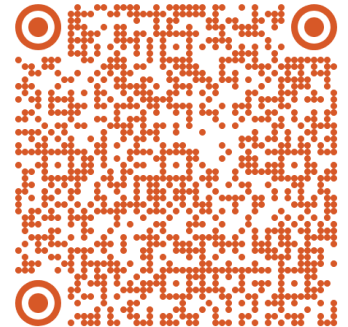


# Spatial Data Specialist Integrated Masters' Degree

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- Masters level – in response to employers needs for higher level training (pros & cons)
- Advanced GIS and geospatial analysis
- KSB's are designed to be flexible
- Audience
  - Career development for existing geo-professionals
  - Career pivoting
  - Upskilling from aligned professions, e.g. data science





# Elements of the apprenticeship

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## **Data Collection & Management:**

Gather and manage accurate location data using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), ensuring data meets standards and includes vector/raster formats and metadata.

## **Data Analysis & Visualisation:**

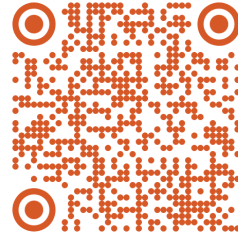
Analyse, model, and visualise geographic data to produce digital/printed maps, dashboards, and reports while applying geographical standards and principles.

## **Professionalism, Project Leadership & Collaboration:**

Lead and support teams in GIS and location data applications. Develop through CPD. Acting professionally.



# Professional Accreditation



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- Chartered Geographer is an internationally recognised accreditation.
- It recognises competence, experience and professionalism in the use of geographical knowledge, understanding and skills in the workplace, and your commitment to maintaining your expertise.
- Includes specialist accreditation for GI / GIS / Earth Observation / Geomorphology / Economic Geography / Teachers



# Where next?

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- Identifying the embedded geography
- Working with employers, schools, colleges to raise awareness of opportunity
- Different, lower level, apprenticeships
- T Levels?
- Change of government policy.



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