

## Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2025

### Eligibility criteria

The closing date for the Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards 2025 is midnight on the evening of Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

### Apprentice Awards (Intermediate, Advanced, Higher/Degree & Special Recognition)

*To recognise apprentices who have excelled in their work, learning and development and made exceptional contributions to their workplaces.*

*The Special Recognition Award is for apprentices who have achieved in overcoming significant challenges or barriers to learning or work.*

1. Apprentice must be registered on or have completed an Education & Skills Funding Agency funded and recognised apprenticeship programme.
2. Apprentice must either live or work in Oxfordshire.
3. Must have completed a minimum of **9 months** of their current apprenticeship by the closing date (24<sup>th</sup> February 2025), **or** have completed a full Apprenticeship no more than 12 months ago (completed between 25<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025).
4. Apprentice cannot enter a category sponsored by their employer.
5. No age restriction.
6. Entries must be endorsed by the apprentice's employer and training provider.

### Rising Star Award

*To recognise new apprentices who have already excelled in their work, learning and development and made exceptional contributions to their workplaces.*

1. Apprentice must be registered on an Education & Skills Funding Agency funded and recognised apprenticeship programme.
2. Apprentice must either live or work in Oxfordshire.
3. Must have completed less than **9 months** of their current apprenticeship by the closing date (24<sup>th</sup> February 2025) i.e. started their apprenticeship between 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.
4. Apprentice cannot enter a category sponsored by their employer.
5. No age restriction.
6. Entries must be endorsed by the apprentice's employer and training provider.

## Shining Star Award

*To recognise individuals who have made outstanding progress in their career since completing their first apprenticeship and have the potential to achieve even more.*

1. Entrant must have completed an Education & Skills Funding Agency funded and recognised apprenticeship programme.
2. Must have completed first apprenticeship at least **9 months** before the closing date of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 **or** have completed a full apprenticeship no more than 10 years ago (completed between 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024).
3. Can be a current apprentice working towards a further apprenticeship.
4. Must either live or work in Oxfordshire.
5. Apprentice cannot enter a category sponsored by their employer.
6. No age restriction.
7. Entries must be endorsed by the entrant's current employer.

## Apprenticeship Ambassador Award

*To recognise apprentices / former apprentices at any level who have demonstrated a commitment to promoting apprenticeships and gone above and beyond expectations.*

1. Apprentice must be registered on or have completed an Education & Skills Funding Agency funded and recognised apprenticeship programme.
2. Apprentice must either live or work in Oxfordshire.
3. Must have completed a minimum of **9 months** of a recognised apprenticeship by the closing date (24<sup>th</sup> February 2025) **or** have completed their first Apprenticeship no more than 10 years ago (after 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015)
4. Apprentice cannot enter a category sponsored by their employer.
5. No age restriction.
6. Entries must be endorsed by someone who knows the entrant e.g. a colleague, line manager, training coordinator / assessor, someone they have inspired to start or employ an apprentice, or a school careers adviser.

## Apprenticeship Employer of the Year Awards (<250 employees and 250+ employees)

*To recognise apprenticeship employers in Oxfordshire that have exceeded normal standards and expectations in providing a high-quality apprenticeship experience.*

1. Number of people employed is based on total number of employees, not full-time equivalent.
2. Must have management autonomy in Oxfordshire.
3. Must employ apprentices that work in Oxfordshire.
4. Must have employed apprentices for at least **12 months** before the closing date (i.e. from at least 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024).
5. Must be engaged in Education & Skills Funding Agency / apprenticeship levy funded and regulated apprenticeship schemes, delivered by contracted and approved training providers.
6. Entries must be endorsed by an existing or recent apprentice and a training provider.

## Inspiring the Future Employer of the Year Award

*To recognise employers in Oxfordshire that have exceeded normal standards and expectations to inspire the next generation, including engaging with local schools and colleges.*

1. Open to employers of any size and from any sector.
2. Must have management autonomy in Oxfordshire.
3. Must provide career enrichment activities for young people living in Oxfordshire
4. Must have been engaging with Oxfordshire schools and colleges for at least **12 months** before the closing date (i.e. from at least 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024).
5. Entries must be endorsed by someone who has benefitted from a careers enrichment activity provided by the organisation e.g. a school careers professional, or a current employee who previously completed a work experience placement.

## Skills Champion Award

*To recognise individuals in Oxfordshire who make a significant contribution to promoting apprenticeships and other vocational routes, such as school/college careers professionals, business volunteers, work coaches and Careers Hub Enterprise Advisers.*

1. Entrant must either live in Oxfordshire, or support/inspire people who live in Oxfordshire.
2. Entries must be endorsed by someone who has worked with the entrant e.g. line manager, school/college careers professional, Enterprise Adviser, colleague, a learner they've inspired or an employer they engage with.

## Training Provider Individual Award

*To recognise staff working for organisations that provide apprenticeship training in Oxfordshire (colleges, universities, employer providers and independent training providers) who go the extra mile to support and encourage apprentices and enable individuals to achieve to their potential.*

1. Must support apprentices working or learning in Oxfordshire.
2. Can be from any training provider e.g. college, university, employer provider or independent training provider.

## Oxfordshire Apprentice of the Year

*To recognise the apprentice who has reached the highest levels of excellence and achievement.*

1. Will be chosen by the headline sponsor with support from the Awards Committee from the winners of the five apprentice award categories.