

Apprenticeships Case Study

Oliver Heeks

Age: 17

Abbey Butchers

Level 2 Butchery



1. Why did you choose to do an apprenticeship over university?

I thought I would be better off in a working environment, rather than spending years in a classroom learning something that I'm not interested in. My mum and dad did similar things and they've both got their own businesses, I hope to have my own business one day.



2. What have you learnt and achieved by working here?

I've learnt how to cut steaks, use the mincer, sharpen knives, make sausages and burgers. I've also learnt customer service and business skills whilst selling meat on the counter – all aspects of business. It's been absolutely fantastic.

3. What advice would you give to people choosing between apprenticeships and university?

Get out there and start earning and learning, rather than wasting your time not getting paid, not getting hands-on skills and not getting to learn the ways of a work based environment. Why go to university when you can get money and skills, and still go on nights out without the debt?

4. Some people feel like they will miss out on a social life if they don't go to university. Do you think this is true?

I don't think so. I'm still going out most nights!

For more information, visit: www.worcsapprenticeships.org.uk



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5. Did you have any perceptions of apprenticeships before becoming an apprentice?

No, people told me, 'you have to go to university in order to have a nice job and get the money' but I think there's more to life than everyone at school going on the conveyor belt to sixth form, and then going on to university and getting into a load of debt. Everybody just presumes it's the norm to go to university, I don't think it is.

6. Was it difficult to apply for an apprenticeship?

No, I think that people assume it's all online but a lot of bosses like to have a chat and get to know you. I got chatting to Ken, asked if he would offer an apprenticeship and he gave me a chance.

7. What are your plans after you finish your apprenticeship?

Eventually, I hope to own my own farm shop. I think with Brexit and all that is happening, the prices will go up and people will turn to local, home-grown meats. I think that by having my own shop and selling locally-sourced food, I will benefit myself and the industry that I'm in.

I'd definitely go on to do a higher level apprenticeship. I hope to go on to master butchery, so it'll be a long time before I finish all of the courses.

