



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

Advanced Apprentices is an earn-as-you-learn scheme that gives work-based trainees the chance to study at a research-intensive university.

The project is based at the University of Sheffield's purpose-built Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre. In its first year, some 150 apprentices working in manufacturing benefited from its high-quality practical and academic training.

Those taking the higher apprenticeship foundation degree, delivered with Barnsley College, are also eligible to progress to a part-time top-up degree programme run by Sheffield, or to transfer to the second year of an honours-level engineering degree.

As a direct alternative to student loan-funded study, an apprentice who progresses to the undergraduate level can leave Sheffield with a degree, seven years' industrial experience and no debt.

"I hope my apprenticeship will act as a platform for me to real my goal of achieving a master's degree in engineering physics and becoming one of the best engineers in the country," said one beneficiary of the project.

John Widdowson, principal and chief executive of New College Durham and lead judges in the category, said the apprenticeship scheme was a "real alternative to more traditional full0time study" that would engage those who might not otherwise consider higher education.

"Sheffield has designed programme that not only respond to the needs of students and their employers, but also integrated this alternative mode of study with progressions to higher academic awards," he added.