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Apprenticeships should be clearer in their approach and provide adequate challenge to trainees, says ABE

The requirements and responsibilities of apprenticeship roles should be made clear from the outset to encourage completion of programmes

Figures obtained by the Financial Times have revealed that over [30 per cent](#) of people who start apprenticeships fail to complete them. This is indicative of a need for young people to be offered programmes that provide an adequate level of challenge and make apprentices' responsibilities clear from the outset, according to global non-profit organisation [The Association of Business Executives](#) (ABE).

The statistics, obtained from official spreadsheets, demonstrate that the number of people completing apprenticeships has worsened every year for the past three years. Not only does this support [Ofsted's claim last year](#) that taxpayer-funded apprenticeships were often not being used to develop real workplace skills, it also suggests that young people may be going into apprenticeships without a clear idea of what their role will entail.

Gareth Robinson, CEO of ABE, commented: "In principle, the government's apprenticeships programme is an excellent one, enabling young people to gain valuable vocational qualifications and experience at an early age. However, it's clear from these latest figures that more young people enrolled in the scheme need to be encouraged to complete their courses."

To increase the completion rate of apprenticeships, Robinson believes that businesses could benefit by taking a leaf out of other further education providers' books.

Robinson said: "Providers of business qualifications, such as ABE, place a strong focus on inspiring, challenging courses that grant students both a solid theoretical and also a practical grounding in their chosen business discipline. Furthermore, the content of these programmes and the expectations placed on students are communicated clearly from the outset and throughout. As a result, students tend to approach courses with high aspirations and a clear idea of where they would like the

qualifications to take them. Although these qualifications don't focus on manual work in the manner that many apprenticeships do, the ways to inspire participants to finish their courses are much the same."

Robinson concluded: "If companies offering apprenticeships were able to mentor their young candidates for the duration of the programme, completion rates may increase significantly."

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About The Association of Business Executives (ABE)

ABE is a not-for-profit awarding body accredited by Ofqual. Established in 1973, it has an international footprint with key markets in the UK, Africa, the Caribbean, SE Asia and China. ABE develops business and management Diploma qualifications at QCF Levels 4-7. Its qualifications provide progression routes to Bachelors degree and Masters programmes worldwide.

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