



# The Degree Apprenticeship Pathway

Degree Apprenticeships should offer students from low-income backgrounds an accessible, affordable, high-quality route onto the labour market. Yet Sutton Trust [research](#) shows that disadvantaged young people are consistently falling through the cracks:



of degree apprentices come from the least deprived areas



of degree apprentices are over the age of 30

Our work with state schools in deprived areas has identified three main barriers preventing disadvantaged students accessing Degree Apprenticeships:

## 1. An impenetrable application process

- ▶ Searching for vacancies is complex, requiring far more time than UG degrees.
- ▶ Applicants face a dizzying array of different application forms & timelines.

## 2. A lack of knowledge and confidence

- ▶ Applicants lack the professional vocabulary to make sense of job descriptions.
- ▶ Students unable to navigate language surrounding different market 'sectors.'

## 3. An absence of support

- ▶ Students need guidance on understanding, developing, and explaining soft skills.
- ▶ Overworked schools often lack the time and resources to put the scaffolding in place to support students through the long and complex application process.

## Our remedy

As a charity committed to tackling educational disadvantage, Causeway Education is building the Degree Apprenticeship Pathway, a complete digital application platform that will:

- ✓ Equip students facing barriers with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to develop outstanding Degree Apprenticeship applications.
- ✓ Promote diversity and inclusivity in higher education while boosting social mobility, a key element of social responsibility.
- ✓ Ensure a diverse pipeline of highly trained and employable candidates for future recruitment, equipped with the skills your business needs the most.

Providing guidance tailored to each stage of the process, the Degree Apprenticeship Pathway builds on our proven model of improving access to highly competitive degree courses: [100% of our first cohort](#) received offers from Russell Group universities, far exceeding the control group.

The Pathway would be housed within OSCAR, our portal used by tens of thousands of students and teachers to navigate university applications.



96% of 2019-20 OSCAR users felt it helped them write a better application

"Thanks to OSCAR, I now have a clearer vision of what I want to be in future."

[Read OSCAR testimonials here](#)

## Solving the problem together

- ✓ As a national charity with extensive networks and an excellent track record in application support, we are perfectly placed to deliver this project.
- ✓ We have partner schools standing by to help with testing, and a user base of over 100 schools and colleges keen to start using the finished product.

**For progression not determined by privilege**

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