



# RTPI

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# Town Planning Technical Support Apprenticeship

Approved and developed by the Royal Town Planning Institute

## Do you want to earn while you learn? Why not choose a technician apprenticeship to start a career in Town Planning?

The world of the built environment is changing fast and to face the challenge of planning our future towns and cities you need up-to-date skills. But you don't need to sit in a classroom all day to get them – there are other ways of learning that could suit you. Look for “on-the-job” experience and “off-the-job” training.

An apprenticeship in Town Planning Technical Support is a real job with training with recognised qualifications as you go. It has been developed in partnership with the Construction Industry Training Board. You would study one day per week at college and be at work the rest of the time. It is also a first step to a career as a Town Planner and Chartered Membership of the RTPI. Currently offered in England, if you are over 16 and not in full-time education, you can apply.

### What is Technical Support?

Chartered Town Planners help to physically shape our environment to make the places where we live, work and play better. Planning is a very broad profession and planners work in public, private and voluntary sectors, or as self-employed consultants or researchers. A job in Town Planning Technical Support could include supporting planners with planning applications, searching plans and land files, checking development permissions are met, setting up databases and using software including geographic information systems (GIS).

### What can an RTPI apprenticeship offer me?

- Progress in your career: surveys show that employers recognise and value apprenticeships so with hard work you could rise through the ranks quickly.
- Achieve sought-after qualifications: apprenticeships are the gold standard for work-based learning.
- Learn job-specific skills: learn from knowledgeable tutors and work alongside experienced professionals to gain in-demand skills.
- Earn a salary: the average wage for an apprentice is £170 a week, though for a planner it is likely to be higher.
- Top quality training which can lead onto further study if you wish.
- Become a [free student member of the RTPI](#).

Find out more online

[www.rtpi.org.uk/  
apprenticeships](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/apprenticeships)



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## What qualifications could I achieve?

- ABBE **Level 3 NVQ Diploma** in Town Planning Technical Support.
- Edexcel **BTEC Level 3 Diploma** in Town Planning Technical Support.
- Functional Skills (English Level 2 and Maths Level 2)
- Personal Learning and thinking skills.
- Employee Rights and Responsibilities.

A learning provider, such as a college or other training organisation, delivers the BTEC Diploma. On average, this takes one day a week over 18 – 24 months.

Your employer provides your on-the-job training in the NVQ Diploma and pays your wages. You will work alongside them and learn from some of the best in the business.

The work-based NVQ Diploma has several different pathways, depending on what interests you and your employer. These include: Development Management, Planning Enforcement and Spatial Planning.

Following completion of the Apprenticeship and sufficient work experience engaging with spatial planning, you can apply for Associate membership of the RTPI, leading to Chartered Membership.

## What are the business benefits to employers?

Apart from the skills and knowledge it gives the individual, the apprenticeship can also provide the following benefits to employers:

- Fill skill-gaps, including specialist skills specific to planning.
- Grow and mould new staff.
- Motivate existing staff, energise your workplace and reduce staff turnover.
- Enable technical support staff to progress on to team leaders.
- Professionalise your technical support function.
- Access to RTPI membership and professional status.

## How can I apply?

Apprenticeships are advertised online through [Find An Apprenticeship](#)



An apprenticeship  
could be your first step  
to a career in Town  
Planning and  
Chartered Membership  
of the RTPI.

For more information,  
get in touch  
[careers@rtpi.org.uk](mailto:careers@rtpi.org.uk)