Types of Apprenticeships



AutoRaise
THE AUTOMOTIVE SKILLS CHARITY

An apprenticeship in automotive repair is more than just a job

An apprenticeship in automotive repair is more than just a job - it's the start of an exciting career with endless possibilities.

The UK auto repair industry is the backbone of the nation's transport network, keeping millions of vehicles safe and roadworthy. From repairing minor dents to restoring heavily damaged vehicles, this sector combines technical expertise, cutting-edge technology, and skilled craftsmanship to deliver essential services that touch every corner of society.

By choosing an apprenticeship in vehicle repair, you'll gain hands-on experience, develop specialist skills, and work alongside experts in a fast-evolving industry. Explore the exciting opportunities available, and find the path that's right for you.







Apprenticeship Pathways in Automotive Repair

The automotive repair industry thrives on teamwork and precision, with every role playing a vital part in delivering exceptional results. Whether you're hands-on in the workshop or supporting operations behind the scenes, there's a pathway to match your interests and strengths.



From repairing panels and applying flawless paint finishes to managing customer care or balancing the books, every job is an essential cog in the well-oiled machine that gets vehicles safely back on the road. You can explore diverse roles and find the one that aligns with your skills, ambitions, and passions.

This guide dives into the key roles available in the industry, offering insights into what each position entails, the skills you'll develop, and the exciting opportunities ahead. Whether you're looking to specialise, take on a leadership role, or start a versatile career, the automotive repair industry has something for everyone.

Vehicle Damage Panel Technician

What You'll Do:

As a Panel Technician, you'll learn to repair or replace vehicle panels damaged in accidents or through wear and tear.

You'll work with advanced tools and equipment to ensure vehicles are restored to manufacturer specifications. From welding panels to correcting structural misalignments, your work will ensure vehicles are safe and roadworthy.



Training Highlights:

- Advanced welding techniques, including MIG and spot welding.
- Use of cutting-edge diagnostic tools for damage assessment.
- Working with a range of materials, from steel to aluminium composites.

Career Opportunities

Gain foundational skills to progress into roles such as Senior Panel Technician, Workshop Manager, or Structural Repair Specialist.

Vehicle Damage Paint Technician

What You'll Do:

Paint Technicians are the artists of the bodyshop. You'll prepare vehicles for painting, apply primers, colour coats, and finishes to achieve flawless results.

Your work ensures repaired vehicles look as good as new, meeting both aesthetic and manufacturer standards.

Training Highlights:

- Techniques for colour matching and mixing paints.
- Hands-on experience with state-of-the-art paint systems and application tools.
- Use of environmentally friendly, water-based paints.



Career Opportunities

Start in repair workshops and grow into custom paintwork, luxury vehicle refinishing, or even entrepreneurial roles in bespoke vehicle artistry.

Mechanical, Electrical, and Trim (MET) Technician



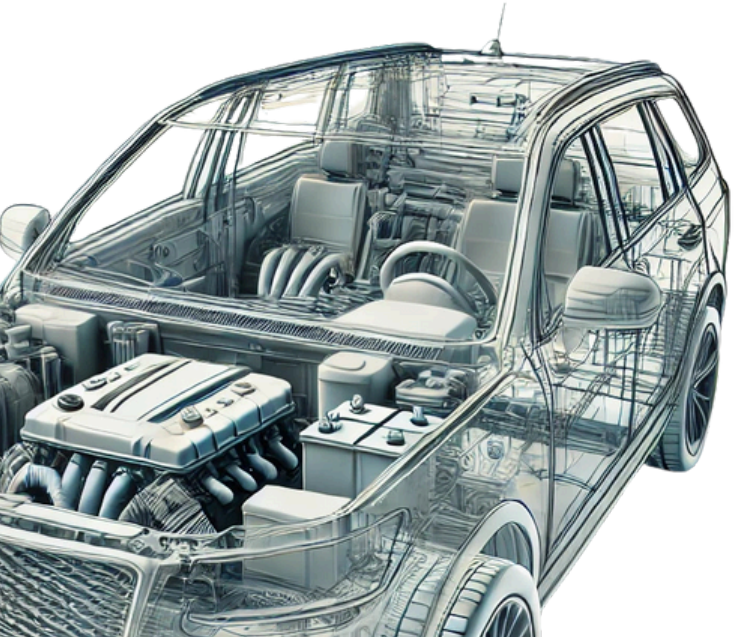
What You'll Do:

MET Technicians focus on the inner workings of vehicles. You'll diagnose issues, replace or repair components, and refit electrical and mechanical systems.

From airbags to advanced safety systems, you'll ensure vehicles are not just functional but safe.

Training Highlights:

- Detailed instruction on removing and refitting mechanical and electrical systems.
- Knowledge of advanced driver-assistance systems (ADAS) and hybrid/electric vehicle components.
- Hands-on practice with diagnostic equipment.



Career Opportunities

Progress into roles specialising in hybrid and electric vehicles, or work with manufacturers to develop new vehicle technologies.

Multi-Skilled Accident Repair Technician



What You'll Do:

This comprehensive apprenticeship combines panel repair, paint application, and mechanical work.

You'll become proficient in all aspects of vehicle repair, making you an invaluable member of any repair team.

Training Highlights:

- Learn the core skills of panel, paint, and MET disciplines.
- Develop a well-rounded understanding of the vehicle repair process.
- Hands-on training in cutting-edge bodyshops.



Career Opportunities

Become a versatile technician, able to work on diverse repair jobs. Progress into supervisory or management roles or specialise further in one of the three disciplines.

Vehicle Damage Assessor (VDA)



What You'll Do:

As a VDA, you'll be at the forefront of repair planning.

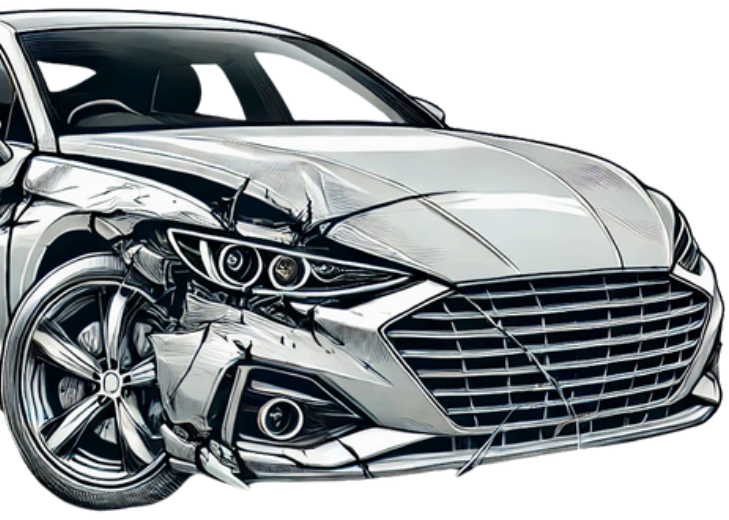
You'll inspect damaged vehicles, assess what's required for repair, and prepare detailed plans using industry-standard estimating software.

Training Highlights:

- Mastering digital estimation tools like Audatex.
- Learning about vehicle structures and repair processes.
- Effective communication with insurers, technicians, and customers.

Career Opportunities

Develop into senior VDA roles, work with insurers as a claims consultant, or progress into management.



Automotive Customer Service Specialist

What You'll Do:

In this role, you'll bridge the gap between customers and the repair team, ensuring smooth communication and top-tier service.

From managing repair bookings to updating customers on their vehicle's progress, you'll be the friendly face of the repair process.



Training Highlights:

- Customer engagement and communication strategies.
- Use of customer relationship management (CRM) software.
- Managing logistics and liaising with insurance companies.

Career Opportunities

Progress into customer service management, marketing, or operational leadership roles within the automotive industry.

Why Choose an Apprenticeship?

1

Earn While You Learn

Apprenticeships let you start earning from day one. Unlike traditional education routes, you'll receive a salary while gaining hands-on experience in your chosen field, developing your skills and building your future.

2

Practical, Hands-On Training

There's no substitute for real-world experience. As an apprentice, you'll work alongside skilled professionals, learning the latest techniques and technologies in the industry. From day one, you'll be applying your knowledge in real situations.

3

Industry-Recognised Qualifications

Apprenticeships provide you with nationally recognised qualifications that employers value. Whether you pursue a single-skilled apprenticeship, a multi-skilled Accident Repair Technician path, or a VDA role, your qualifications will open doors to exciting opportunities.

4

Be Part of a Growing Industry

The automotive repair sector is evolving rapidly, with advancements in technology, electric vehicles, and safety systems. By joining as an apprentice, you'll be at the forefront of an industry that's essential to keeping the UK moving.



5000

Over 5,000 vacancies remain unfilled in the UK, according to the Institute of the Motor Industry (IMI).

35,700

By 2030, the IMI projects a shortfall of 35,700 qualified EV technicians





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