

Livery Committee Website Content

An Overview of Livery Company Apprentices

From the term Apprentice, we understand that to mean that a junior trainee is taken on by an organisation or business to be trained in the skills and craft of the relevant trade, normally coupled with academic study on a part time basis. The Apprenticeship course, or indenture, usually lasts several years and culminates in a recognised qualification or licence to practice the trade.

The class of Apprentice member of a Livery Company is largely symbolic and allows the junior member, under the guidance of an Apprentice Master, to learn about the heritage and history of the City, the workings of the Livery and perhaps something of the trade, craft or profession that the company represents.

The completion of the Apprenticeship normally leads to an admission to Freedom under the servitude rules (having served an Apprenticeship). As usual Companies differ greatly, some take no Apprentices, some actually provide vocational training and some accept Apprentices according to their historical traditions.

Most Apprentices are admitted to an Apprenticeship between the ages of 18 and 21 years. They must be unmarried and agree to be 'bound' to an Apprentice Master. Apprenticeships last for 4-7 years although most are 4 or 5 years. The rules pertaining to Apprentices is laid down by the Chamberlain's Court of the City of London, the rules do not allow an Apprentice to be taken after 21 years of age. The Chamberlain's Clerk records new Apprentices and retains a record of their indentures.

When the Apprentice is bound in a Court ceremony an Indenture Certificate is awarded to the candidate, this document must be recorded with the Chamberlain to allow the Apprentice to gain the Freedom of the City. Typical Apprentice candidates are offspring of Liverymen, members of affiliated Uniform Youth organisations, sponsored School prize recipients or Bursary students.

The typical activities that the Apprentice Master may arrange include attendance at a Livery Committee *City Briefing*. Visits to City historical buildings and sights, a visit to businesses associated with the company's trade or craft, company social events and the occasional formal event as a guest.

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