

# Apprenticeship Ambassador: My story..

**Name:** Carlene Bantick

**Job title:** Finance Apprentice

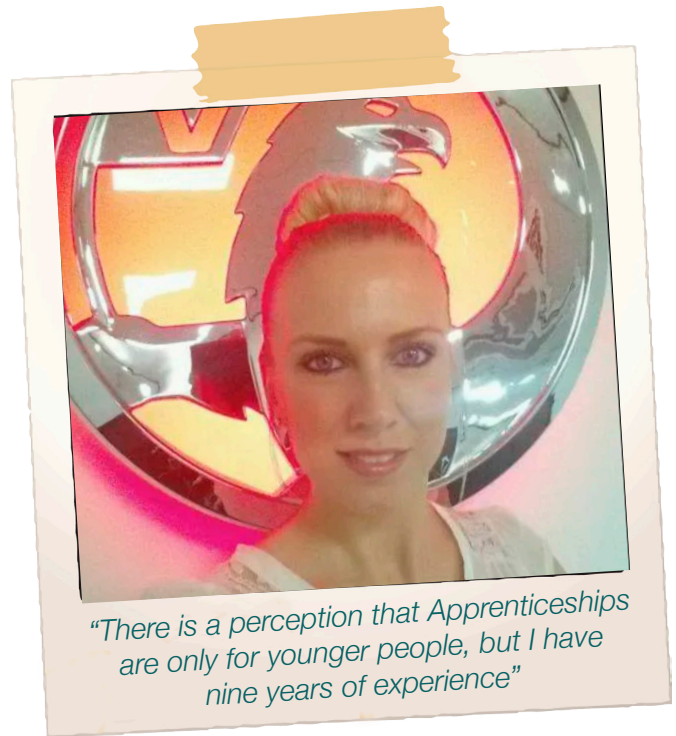
Carlene is currently undertaking a Higher Apprenticeship in CIMA Management Accounts with Vauxhall. This is her story.

## My Story

I left school and worked for the Army for about 9 years in a Business Administration role. The site that I was working at closed in August 2014, so I was looking for something that could give me real career progression within a large company. I had previously studied AAT Level 2 at college so I knew I liked learning about finance.

I saw the Vauxhall Apprenticeship advertised through an on-line recruitment website and I decided to apply. I have now been working with Vauxhall for 2 months and I've learned so much already. I work in the finance department looking after IT. This means that I deal with everything relating to IT in the company, from purchasing new computers through to software licenses and leases.

My day to day roles include the production of reports on invoices, inputting them into the database and checking them off. I analyse a lot of data, checking to see whether the spend figures are fairly consistent. If there is a significant increase, we have to investigate with the relevant line managers why things are costing the company more money. There are around 30 people overall in the finance team, and only four of us in the IT section.



I am slightly older than some of the apprentices who work here, but it doesn't matter. There is a perception that Apprenticeships are only for younger people, but I have nine years of experience working in a business and I've been able to come straight in as a Higher apprentice.

If you are considering undertaking an Apprenticeship, I would advise you to do your research. Have look on the Apprenticeships website: [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk), look at the roles on offer and research the job, the qualification you'll get and the company. Some employers, like Vauxhall, pay their apprentices really well, but others don't.

My Apprenticeship lasts for four years, and when it is finished I hope to move to a permanent position within the finance team. We do get pay rises every year, although I'm not sure how much yet.