

Routes into work

There is more than one pathway to a job. If you're a 'hands on' person then you may wish to consider an apprenticeship or University Technical College. Go for sixth form or college if they offer the right subjects. Either route could lead to higher education.

Apprenticeships

Getting paid while you learn might sound too good to be true but as an apprentice that's exactly what you'd do. Did you know there are 1,200 different job roles to choose from? You can build up your knowledge and skills and gain qualifications while earning at the same time.

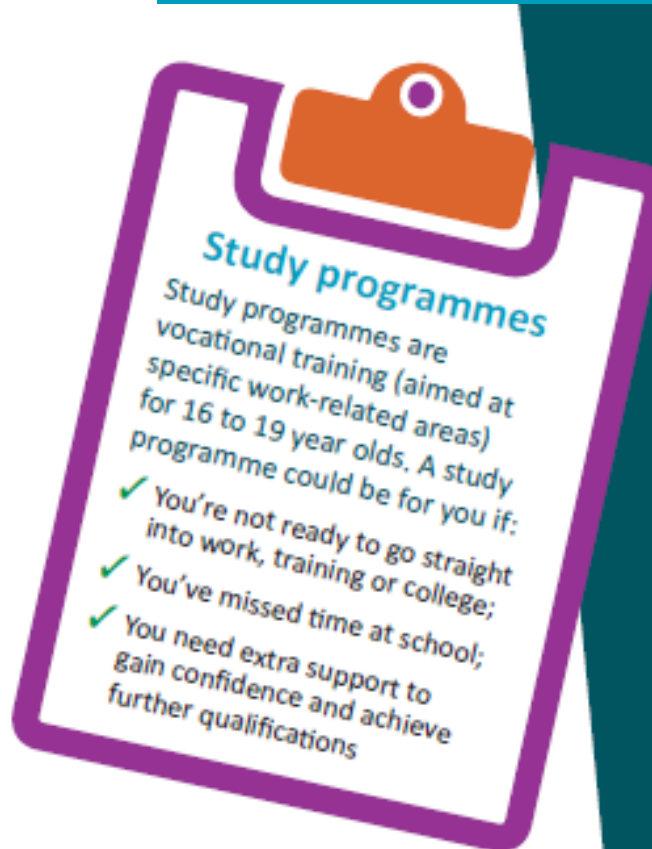
Apprenticeships are offered in a variety of different areas and at different levels of ability, here are a few examples.

Traineeships

Traineeships are for 16 to 24 year olds wanting to start an apprenticeship or job. This programme could help you to develop the skills that employers are looking for and includes a work placement and work preparation.

Higher Education

There are many different forms of Higher Education including study at university, college, Higher Apprenticeships and distance-learning. The courses may last from one to five years or more, depending on the form of study. Higher Education can be used to train for specific jobs in the graduate job market, such as Chartered



Engineering or as a foundation to build your employability and transferable skills to a higher level. This can be used to keep your choices open as 81% of the graduate opportunities can be accessed from most degrees.



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Examples of how additional elements to Higher Education can boost your employment chances include some of the following:

Sandwich courses

A sandwich course basically adds another year to your degree, during which you experience working in industry or working or studying abroad. Students who work in industry (usually paid) gain invaluable work experience and those studying abroad can also use their experience to add to their CV.

Year in industry

Year in industry, sometimes called a YINI, arranges paid placements for students during their gap year before starting their degree course. Other options include studying abroad, work shadowing at a higher level or for a different position while already working and volunteering on a regular basis.

Accredited or Recognised Centres of Excellence

Accredited or Recognised Centres of Excellence, can boost your chances of gaining employment in your chosen field, due to the strong networks or recognition centres and training are given by the industry.

College or Sixth-Form

Can be useful in keeping options open. Some programmes allow you to study for more than one course, whilst others help you focus and build your skills in one area

in preparation for employment. Courses range from floristry and hairdressing through to construction, psychology or mathematics (to name a few). If there is something you would like to try out, further education colleges and sixth-forms can help you explore this. Study styles and levels can vary, with practical, coursework and exam assessments depending on what you choose to take and your ability. Some courses also include work experience which can be invaluable for progressing to employment or studying at a higher level later (such as a degree).

School Leaver Schemes

Allow you to take your employability and transferable skills from college or sixth-

form and apply them to training, which is paid whilst you learn. Often these courses are aimed at 18 year olds and require Level 3 qualifications to enter (you also need these to enter Higher Education). Some employers build schemes around their own programme of study and others include Apprenticeships as part of their programme. Opportunities are various but can commonly be found in junior management schemes for retail as well as in accountancy, finance and law.

Self-employment

For those who have either gained sufficient skills or training through some of the above and/or have the entrepreneurial flair to launch their own business. For

pharmacy technician
music production
PE teacher
youth worker
accountant
florist
energy expert
cabin crew
barber
environmental conservation
IT developer
social media
firefighter
vehicle mechanic
pest control
roofer



young people, support can be found from a variety of places including schools, colleges, universities, banks, chambers of commerce and organisations such as Prince's Trust and Shell Livewire who also offer funding as well as mentoring to support new businesses.

Employability and transferable skills

As well as qualifications, employers also look for the skills people have when they're applying for jobs.

Skills like these are called employability or transferable skills because you can use them in many different types of jobs. Here are some of the skills that employers are most looking for from you:

- ✓ Communication skills
- ✓ Customer service
- ✓ Timekeeping
- ✓ Flexibility
- ✓ Planning
- ✓ Computer skills
- ✓ Detail oriented
- ✓ Writing
- ✓ Team work
- ✓ Leadership



Labour Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

How can I show that I have got these skills?

These skills can be gained and developed through a variety of activities, ranging from school, college and university through to hobbies and interests. For example, when your teachers in school ask you to attend lessons on time, this develops your timekeeping skills. Being captain of the school or local under 16's netball or football teams will develop your leadership skills. Schemes such as the National Citizen Service can help to challenge you and develop your skills in new and inspiring ways.

If you wish to see how transferable skills relate to different jobs, check out the National Careers Service job profiles. These are available online and detail the skills needed for each job, alongside the entry qualifications.

Work experience

A work placement is a great way to gain experience of the world of work and to learn new skills. Employers are especially keen on people who have got some sort of work experience, including graduates, and it could give you the edge at an interview. As well as volunteering to gain experience, there are other options which can be combined with further study to put you in a really strong position!

81% of graduate employers said employability skills are more important than what or where you studied.