

As we reach the end of another busy academic year, I'm delighted to share our latest careers newsletter packed with opportunities, guidance, and resources to support young people as they explore and prepare for their future pathways.

This term's issue shines a spotlight on **dynamic careers events** including the **Reading Careers Fair**, **Guildford Career Fair**, the inspiring **Children's Business Fair**, and the **Festival of Apprenticeships**—all offering valuable face-to-face encounters with employers and organisations across a range of industries.

We continue to support schools and families with up-to-date guidance on **post-16 and post-18 options**, whether that's A-Levels, T Levels, BTECs, university, apprenticeships, or supported internships. There's also dedicated support for **ESOL learners**, and a detailed section to help students **choose the right university**, including financial planning tips and advice on how to research courses.

For younger students, there's information on **interactive virtual maths sessions**, cultural and creative opportunities through **Culture Box Surrey**, and real-world career exposure through **Medical Mavericks**, **Earniversity**, and **Inspiring the Future**.

You'll also find key updates on the **labour market**, **apprenticeship search tools**, and **mock interview tips**—ensuring students are equipped for every stage of their journey.

Finally, I'm incredibly proud of the work our team of advisers continue to deliver in schools—providing one-to-one guidance, workshops, and tailored support across Key Stages 3 to 5, including targeted interventions for high-needs and at-risk students. Thank you for your continued support of Innervate Careers. We look forward to working with you again in the new academic year to help every young person feel confident and informed about their next steps.

Warm wishes,
Natalie Papworth
Founding Director, Innervate Careers

Key Features:

- [Events](#)
 - [The Children's Business Fair](#)
 - [Reading Careers Fair](#)
 - [Guildford Career Fair](#)
 - [Festival of Apprenticeships](#)
 - [London Careers Fair](#)
- [School and College Free Resources, Events for Careers & Employability](#)
- [Qualifications – T Level Update](#)
- [ESOL Student Pathway](#)
- [Year 10/11 What are your Options after year 11](#)
- [Year 12/13 Post Options Looking Ahead](#)
- [Choosing the Right University for you](#)
- [All about Apprenticeships](#)
- [Current apprenticeship snapshots & search websites](#)
- [Labour Market – Update](#)
- [About Innervate Services](#)

[INFORMATION](#)
[RESOURCES](#)
[CONTACT](#)

Up to date Careers News, Information & Opportunities



Schools



Teachers



Young people



Career advisers



Parents/Carers



Events & Opportunities



Parents/Carers



Young people



Teachers



The Children's Business Fair is a one-day marketplace that gives young entrepreneurs (7-17) the opportunity to launch

businesses, sell in an authentic environment and earn their own money.

Guildford Careers Fair



Venue: G Live Guildford Arts Centre, London Road, Guildford GU1 2AA

Friday 5 September 2025, 10.00-14.00

What type of companies usually exhibit?

Exhibitors typically hail from a diverse array of sectors, including finance, education, sales and marketing, motoring, human resources, IT, healthcare, tourism, commercial real estate, biochemistry, electronics, manufacturing, hospitality, social work, events management, retail, job boards, supermarkets, banking, and pharmaceuticals. Click on link below to find out exactly who is hiring at this event.

[For information and to register click here](#)



READING	FARNHAM	GUILDFORD
Sat Jul 5th 2025 Broad St, Reading	Sat Jul 5th 2025 The Maltings, Farnham	Sat Jul 12th 2025 Guildford High Street

A team of entrepreneurs and parents are on a mission to help prepare the next generation for next-generation challenges. Founding the Children's Business Fair UK they truly believe that young people are far more capable than any of us think. When they lead themselves, it's astonishing to see how much they can achieve.

Bringing authentic, hands-on learning and real-world experiences to allow young people to acquire key skills vital for life in both school and beyond.

Find out more: [Children's Business Fair UK | Events for young entrepreneurs](#)

Be inspired and visit the young entrepreneurs and gain an insight to showcasing your ideas next year!

FESTIVAL OF APPRENTICESHIPS
Powered by Pathway Group
LONDON
THURSDAY 29TH JUNE - KIA OVAL

Supported by **LSBU**

Wed, 1 Oct 2025 10:00 - 16:00 BST

The Festival of Apprenticeships is a one-stop shop for anyone looking to find out more about apprenticeships. From discovering local opportunities by meeting organisations first-hand, through to guidance on how to apply for and make the most of an apprenticeship, the festival will cover all!

With top employers and learning providers highlighting their talent and promoting opportunities to future apprentices, the event will serve as a showcase of excellence in the sector! Taking place at the KIA OVAL in **London**.

[Click here for information and registration](#)

London Careers Fair | Nov 07, 2025 Tottenham Hotspur Stadium

Meet local and national employers face-to-face, and apply directly for hundreds of vacancies at the London Careers Fair.



13 August 2025 Reading Careers Fair



The Reading Careers Fair will offer candidates from all backgrounds, experience and education levels the opportunity to speak to representatives from an abundance of local employers, all in one place. **Location:** Pentahotel Reading Oxford Road Reading RG1 7RH

[Find out more](#)



School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability



SUMMER CELEBRATION: MATHEMATICAL SURPRISES

THINK MATHS



Live, interactive, virtual show for **Year 7 – 10, all attainment levels, with Zoe Griffiths**.

Friday 20 June 2025 and Tuesday 8 July 2025, am and pm shows on both days.

AM show 9:20am – 10:20am GMT, (optional puzzles for early students from 9am).

PM show 1:50pm – 2:50pm GMT, (optional puzzles for early students from 1:30pm).

Or watch a recording on another date/time.

Join **Zoe Griffiths** for this summer celebration of maths, that explores surprising maths in an interactive and engaging way. With the help of the audience, experience a live magic trick, conduct a live audience experiment and join in with a curious activity. The show uses no props besides YOU; find out how we can do maths just using facts about our audience, our bodies, and things we happen to have on our person on the day. Surprising maths is hidden in surprising places!

Topics: We are introduced to the strange world of spherical geometry via an activity, we explore the number patterns in bar codes via a magic trick, and we explore the probability of the Birthday Paradox via a large, live audience experiment.

<https://think-maths.co.uk/summer-celebration/> (Fees apply)



Culture Box Surrey, the Cultural Education Partnership for Surrey

Enriching lives through creativity and culture – Culture Box’s mission is to provide children and young people in Surrey with high-quality, inspiring arts and cultural learning experiences both in and out of school.

They are committed to ensuring that every child and young person in Surrey has the opportunity to participate in these experiences, and that their voices are heard when planning the future artistic and cultural landscape of the county.

Follow this link to find out more: [Schools - Culture Box Surrey](#)



Ambitious about Autism- Careers Education Framework and Training

Developing an understanding of autism and inclusive careers provision is key to helping autistic learners transition into meaningful training and employment after leaving education. An effective careers education approach and programme during school and college is essential. It ensures that autistic young people gain the necessary employability skills and learn about themselves while accessing tailored opportunities they can use to prepare for adulthood.

Ambitious about Autism’s free autism-specific Careers Education Framework has been created based on their research running educational settings and designed in partnership with the Careers and Enterprise Company. The CEF will help schools deliver good careers education for autistic young people. It provides top tips, resources, guides and templates for careers leaders through an interactive online guide. For more information or to access the CEF resources, visit their webpage by following this link: [Careers Education Framework | Ambitious about Autism](#). [Click here for information on training courses](#)

Dates: The following session will take place between 10am-2pm

Thursday 18 September

Wednesday 12 November

Tuesday 6 January

Wednesday 11 March

Wednesday 15 June

Thursday 11 Junen

Individual places on the open access courses are available for £49 and can be booked via Eventbrite by following this link: [Careers Education Framework in your education setting training course Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

The course is also available for whole-school trainings, contact the training team at training@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk



Earniversity

Earniversity aim to empower young people to become successful, ethical and knowledgeable by providing them with modern education in Work Experience, Business, Finances, Entrepreneurship, Employability and Real-world readiness (+ so much more!) – they call this their 'Earnability Skills'. The Supported Pathway scheme helps divert people at risk away from the lifestyle and influences causing vulnerability and helping them to develop their own pathway to a positive future. Relevant groups include children in foster care, those with special educational needs and disability (SEND), and Young Offenders.

Follow this link to find out more on the Supported Pathways section: <https://www.earniversity.io/supported-pathways>



School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability



Early careers support service - specialising in diverse talent

Pathway CTM help students into apprenticeships through careers events, 1-to-1 mentoring, and quality resources.

Pathway CTM are a social enterprise company with the aim of supporting students into apprenticeships. Their services can be accessed by all social groups, although some of their employer programmes target particular under-represented sectors.

They can work with students from Years 9 to 13 and beyond and students can continue to receive support after leaving school. The company operates on a nationwide basis, with a particular focus on London and the South East.

The site provides information on local and online events and apprenticeship resources. Students who complete a two-hour learning resource are then eligible for one-to-one support.

The company are also in discussions to provide a helpline to support the summer results days.

All of the main services which Pathway provide to students and schools are free, although there are some optional workshops which schools can buy in.

For further information: <https://pathwayctm.com/>



SURREY FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service Education Programme, school visits

Surrey Fire & Rescue Service's Education Programme provides an innovative, engaging and age-appropriate safety education programme that equips children and young people with the knowledge and skills that they need to keep themselves safe, both now and in the future.

The programme complements the curriculum, links to PSHE Association guidance and supports the Surrey Healthy Schools approach. Their Education Officers deliver fire safety sessions in schools across Surrey to Year 2 and Year 5, completely free of charge. There are also **Year 7** fire and water safety sessions available. To make a booking please complete this booking form: [Year 7 safety enquiry form](#).

Use this link to book a free session for the Summer Term now: https://customer.surreycc.gov.uk/surrey_fire_school_visits

For Special school bookings, email the Education Officers at firesafetymeducation@surreycc.gov.uk to discuss a bespoke session.

Find more information about what to expect on the day by following this link: [School visits common questions webpage](#). For details on how to book Early Years and **Key stage 3 visits**, please visit our web page www.surreycc.gov.uk/fire-safety-education.



Date: Wed 18th June*
Time: 4.30pm-6.30pm
Venue: Browns Windsor,
The Promenade, Barry
Avenue, SL4 1QX

Pathways CTM are delighted to invite teachers to an exclusive Teacher Networking Afternoon Tea, sponsored by Thorpe Park.

This event is a valuable opportunity for teachers to connect, share insights, and learn about exciting career opportunities for young people in Surrey.

- Discover Thorpe Park's opportunities: for young people, including apprenticeship and work experience programme
- Learn about the Pathway CTM programme: offering 1-1 mentoring and a virtual employability programme to support students' next steps.
- Hear about upcoming events: tailored for students in the local area.
- Open forum: have an open discussion how both Pathway CTM & Thorpe Park can better support students.

<https://pathwayctm.com/event/thorpe-park-teacher-networking/>



Careers & Enterprise now have over 100 Industry Champions: volunteers ready, willing and able to come into school/college to help with careers events!

You can request support from them by completing our request form. You can ask for help for any sort of careers activity, this includes careers fairs, mock interviews, work experience, visits to workplaces, talks, dragon's den type events etc.

<https://forms.office.com/e/REtXTgVugB>



Free Careers Posters for Schools

The Youth Employment UK offers free posters for schools ranging from:
Skills Posters
Career Sectors
Curriculum Subjects

[Free Career Posters for Schools](#)



School/College Resources/Events for Careers & Employability



UCA Free Taster Day Events

Date: Friday 25 July
Time: 10am-2.30pm
Venue: UCA Epsom
Free Year 10 Taster Days: Textiles, Creative Business.

Students can take part in creative workshops, experience a university campus and work with professional artists! All successful applicants will be entered into a prize draw to win one of two artists' packs! Applications close Wednesday 16th July.

<https://www.uca.ac.uk/events/outreach/heon-year-10-taster-day---fine-art---farnham/>



Speakers for Schools Tech Opportunity

Speakers for Schools has partnered with The Hg Foundation to deliver a programme of high-impact interventions for young people in state secondary schools to encourage them to consider a career in the technology sector.

They are inviting mainstream secondary schools in England to participate in their 3-4-year IntoTech programme – where young people, as they progress from year to year, will receive a tech industry talk, then a career Insight Day and finally life-changing work experience.

Students will access a range of career-enhancing interventions including a 1-hour inspirational talk, a virtual or in-person introductory Insight Day and virtual or in-person work experience.

There is also the possibility of getting mentorship to help students with early career planning. Participation in the programme is fully funded, so there is no cost to the students or the school. In return, schools are asked to support the evaluation process led by an independent partner, so they can measure long term impact and outcomes.

[Schools Tech Opportunity](#)



Medical Mavericks inspire the next generation of medics and scientists by taking real medical and sports science equipment into schools, colleges & events all over the UK.

They provide information, planning, resources and workshops, great for young people interested in a career in the NHS. Their website allows viewers to explore different pathways available within the NHS and gives information on what courses should be followed in order to achieve that role.

The site also gives information on which universities offer the appropriate courses and their entry requirements. Young people can plan out their careers journey from GCSEs onwards!

There are free resources on the site. They will also go into schools/colleges to do workshops where students can use an ultrasound, take blood, try keyhole surgery or record an ECG!

Visit their website for more information: [Medical Mavericks – We inspire the next generation of medics and scientists.](#)



Inspiring The Future enable schools to connect directly with volunteers from the world of work – real people in real jobs. Brilliant people, who help children from primary age up to imagine futures they never knew existed. The kind that spark ambition, wonder, and a sense of “that could be me”.

Their network of over 85,000 volunteers is as diverse as the students they inspire – from scientists to stylists, plumbers to pilots, civil servants to self-starters. Some grew up locally. These aren't distant role models – they're people students can relate to and learn from. They come from every walk of life, job and sector – from apprentices to CEOs, from app designers and broadband technicians to zoologists, milliners and aircraft engineers.

They go into schools – in person and virtually – to share their story: what they do, how they got there, and what working life is really like. These short, personal stories engage and inspire young people far more than a traditional careers talk ever could.

Follow this link to find out more about this free service: [About - Inspiring The Future](#)

Key Facts About T Levels:

- **Duration:** Two years (full-time study)
- **Designed For:** Post-GCSE students who want a more hands-on and career-focused route into work, further training, or university.
- **Entry requirements: vary depending on the provider** offering them. In line with other level 3 qualifications, most providers will require students to have at least 5 GCSEs at grade 4 or above as a minimum.
- **Equivalent To:** 3 A Levels
- **Structure:** T Levels consist of:
 1. Core component – theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to the chosen subject.
 2. Occupational specialism – deeper technical training and industry-specific skills.
 3. Industry placement – at least 45 days (around 315 hours) of real work experience with an employer. **Providers are responsible for finding placements, although the student can of course source their own.**

[Updated industry placement delivery approaches](#) are in place from January 2025 and are designed to provide more flexibility in how placements can be delivered. Up to 20% of the placement can now be **virtual** (and up to 50% in Digital T Levels). The exception to these flexibilities includes placements to Education and Early Years and Dental Nursing specialisms, which have specific requirements linked to licences to practice.

- **Assessment:** Through exams, coursework, and practical projects.
- For students who are not quite ready to start a T Level after GCSEs, the [T Level Foundation Year](#) provides **additional support** to help them prepare. This **one year programme** offers students the opportunity to study **technical content** aligned to T Levels and develop their Maths, English and digital skills, alongside work experience and personal development. You can see here a list of [providers delivering the T Level foundation year](#).

T-level	A-Level	UCAS Points
Pass	CCC	96
Merit	BBB	120
Distinction	AAA	144
Distinction*	A*A*A*	168

The overall grade is worked out from the grades they achieved on the core component and the occupational specialism. Students who do not pass all elements of their T Level receive a statement of achievement which shows the elements they have completed.

Progression:

Progression options from a T Level include:

- skilled employment
- apprenticeships,
- further education study
- higher education, including Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs).

More than 140 UK universities (including 17 of the 24 Russell Group institutions)

Universities That Accept T Levels

Many universities have begun to accept T Levels for entry into specific courses. The Department for Education maintains a list of higher education providers that accept T Levels for at least one course: [List of higher education providers that accept T Levels for entry - GOV.UK](#)

Acceptance often depends on the specific T Level subject and the course applied for.

Universities That Do Not Currently Accept T Levels

While many universities are beginning to recognize T Levels, some institutions have stated that they do not currently accept them for admission:

- **University of Oxford:** Indicated that T Levels alone are "unlikely to satisfy the requirements for entry," emphasizing the academic nature of their courses.
- **University of Cambridge:** Mentioned that the initial T Level subjects "would not be a natural fit" with their degree programs.
- **Imperial College London:** Stated they would wait until T Levels are more established before determining their suitability for admission.
- **University of Leicester and Loughborough University:** Have not yet decided whether to consider T Levels as entry criteria.
- It's important to note that university admissions policies can change, so it's advisable to check directly with each institution for the most current information.



Tips for Prospective Students

- **Research Specific Courses:** Even within universities that accept T Levels, not all courses may consider them. Check the course-specific entry requirements.
- **Contact Admissions Offices:** If information isn't clear online, reach out directly to university admissions for clarification.
- **Consider Supplementary Qualifications:** Some universities may require additional qualifications alongside T Levels, such as A Levels in certain subjects.
- **Stay Updated:** University policies can evolve, so regularly check for the latest admission criteria.



ESOL students in the UK have access to a range of qualifications and supported tailored to help them improve their English and progress into further education, training, or employment

ESOL Qualifications

Level	Equivalent To
Entry 1	Foundation level – early beginners
Entry 2	Basic understanding
Entry 3	Pre-intermediate
Level 1	Intermediate (GCSE grade 3/D level)
Level 2	Upper-intermediate (GCSE grade 4/C)

Core Skills Taught:

- Speaking & listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Grammar & vocabulary
- Cultural and workplace English (in some courses)

Sample of Colleges offering ESOL Learning

- Brooklands College
- East Surrey College
- South Thames Colleges Group
- West London College
- Croydon College
- London South East Colleges

Progression Opportunities for ESOL Learners

Once they complete ESOL, learners can progress to:

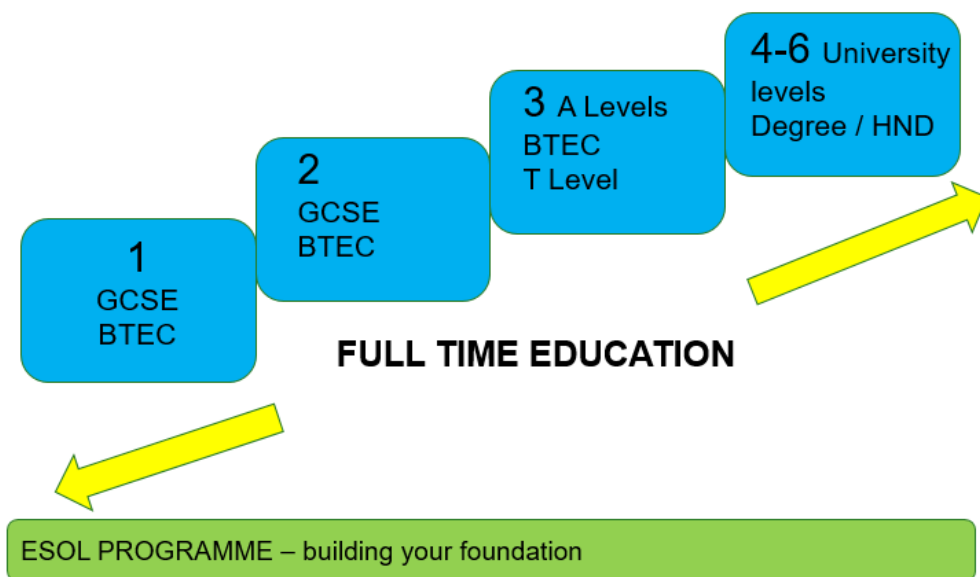
- Functional Skills in English and Maths
- Vocational qualifications (e.g., Health & Social Care, Construction)
- GCSEs or T Levels
- Apprenticeships or employment

ESOL Student Pathway

- ESOL learning is a separate line of qualification to GCSEs, A Levels/BTECs & Degrees.
- Students must have their ESOL skills in order to study any of the other UK qualifications

YOUR CAREER JOURNEY

Options available



What are your options after year 11



Leaving school in the UK is a major life step, and there are several pathways available depending on your interests, academic strengths, and long-term goals. Here's a breakdown of the main options and guidance for choosing the right one:

What are the options?

Continue in education

Sixth form at school/ sixth form college or FE college

Or

Continue in training

Apprenticeships in the workplace

Further Education (Post-16)

For those finishing GCSEs (typically age 16):

A-Levels

- **Best for:** Those who enjoy class-based learning or aiming for university.
- **Structure:** Usually 3–4 subjects over 2 years.
- **Tip:** Choose subjects that align with your intended degree or career.

T-Levels

- **Best for:** Students interested in a mix of classroom and industry experience.
- **Structure:** 80% classroom, 20% industry placement.
- **Tip:** Good for sectors like digital, healthcare, construction.

BTECs & Other Vocational Qualifications

- **Best for:** Practical learners or those focused on specific careers (e.g. business, health & social care).
- **Structure:** Coursework-based with some exams.
- **Tip:** Can lead to university or employment

Apprenticeships

- **Best for:** Those wanting to earn while they learn.
- **Levels:** Intermediate (GCSE level), Advanced (A-Level), Higher (Foundation degree), Degree.
- **Tip:** Great alternative to uni, especially in fields like engineering, IT, or finance.

Traineeships or Supported Internships

- **For:** Young people not quite ready for work or an apprenticeship.
- **Includes:** Skills development, work preparation, and placements
- **Tip:** A short-term stepping stone into employment or further learning.

How to Choose

Ask Yourself:

- What are my strengths and interests?
- What subjects do I enjoy?
- What am I good at?
- Do I learn best academically or practically?
- Do I prefer exams or coursework?
- What kind of job or lifestyle do I want?
- Am I ready to commit to long-term study or would I prefer hands-on learning?

Unsure? Keep your options open

If you're unsure of your future path:

- Choose a mix of subjects (just an example: one science, one humanities, one creative)..
- Avoid overly narrow specialisation unless you're sure.

Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Picking a subject just because your friends are doing it.
- Choosing something you don't enjoy just because it "sounds good."
- Ignoring entry requirements for your future plans.

Qualifications explained

Five or more grade **4's** (A* to C grades) at GCSE

3-4 A levels or ..
Level 3 BTEC/ T Level or ..
Advanced apprenticeship

Help my target grades are lower than 4's

If you are borderline 4's or 5's (C/D) then get motivated to get 5's and above (C's)

If you are predicted 4's and below (Ds and E's) you still have options...

Grade 3's (Ds at GCSE)

Level 2 BTEC/ T Level or
Intermediate apprenticeship

Less than grade **2's** (Ds) at GCSE

Level 1 BTEC Diploma

Research & Resources

- If you know what you want to do as a career – <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>
- www.prospects.com & <https://careerpilot.org.uk/> – Careers information & Quiz
- If you want to go to university – www.ucas.com
- If you think you would suit an apprenticeship [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/find-an-apprenticeship) & [Amazing Apprenticeships](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com)

Which

Year 12/13 Post 18 Options Looking Ahead

Way

Now?



Young people



Parents/Carers



Further Education

- **University:** Degree in your field or switch to a new one. www.ucas.com
- **Professional Certifications:** Short-term programs for skills like data analytics, graphic design, or project management (e.g., PMP, Google Certificates). <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/best-certifications>
- **Online Courses / Bootcamps:** Fast-track programs in tech, business, or creative fields (e.g., coding bootcamps). <https://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/trainin-g-choice/skills-bootcamp>



Sponsored Degree/ Degree Apprenticeship

- A chance to learn and train with a large company while earning a wage. Offered in sectors like accountancy, engineering, finance, IT, law, leisure and retail. Similar to graduate employment schemes run over a longer period of time.
- Professional employment
- [348 Apprenticeship Job Opportunities](#)



Apprenticeship

- Intermediate, advanced higher and degree apprenticeships
- A minimum of 1 year - Will be dependent on the industry, job role and apprenticeship level
- [Amazing Apprenticeships](#)
- <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>



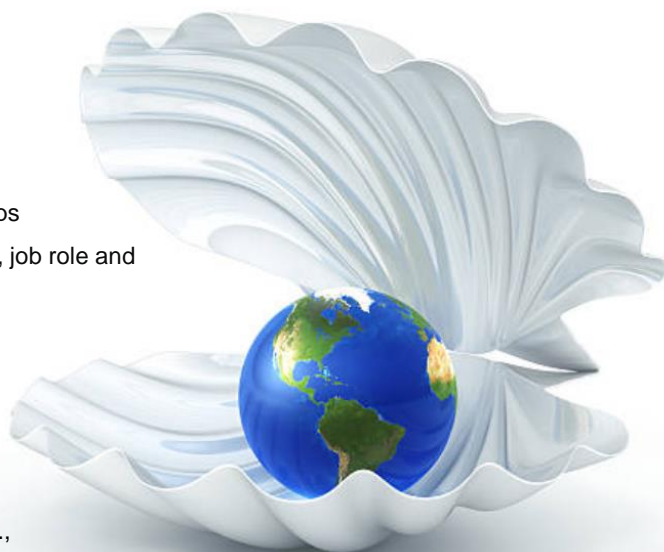
Employment

- **Entry-Level Jobs:** Start a career in your degree field (e.g., analyst, assistant, coordinator roles).
- **Internships:** Gain experience, often with the potential to convert into a full-time job.
- **Startups or Small Businesses:** More hands-on experience and growth opportunities, though often less stable.
- **Freelancing / Contract Work:** Ideal if you have skills in writing, design, coding, or marketing.
- Creating a CV & Cover Letter [CV Format Guide: Examples and Tips | Indeed.com UK](#)
- <https://barclayslifefskills.com/> CV & Interview techniques help



Gap Year / Life Experience

- **Travel:** Explore new cultures and gain global perspective (can include working holidays or volunteering abroad).
- **Volunteer Work:** Join organisations, or local nonprofits.
- **Work and Save:** Take a temporary job to save money while deciding your next step. www.gap360.com www.responsibletravel.com www.latitude.org.uk
Year in Industry: [Placements \(age 17 & over\) | EDT](#) (etrust.org.uk)



Entrepreneurship

- **Start a Business:** Launch a product, service, or app, especially if you already have a market or idea.
- **Freelance / Creator Economy:** Build a brand or income stream via YouTube, TikTok, writing, art, etc.
- [Self employment vs employment | The King's Trust](#)



Not Sure Yet?

- **Part-Time Work + Exploration:** Get a job while exploring passions or skills.
- **Career Counselling:** Talk with advisors or career coaches to narrow your focus.
- **Informational Interviews:** Reach out to people in fields you're curious about and ask questions.

Year 12/13

Choosing the Right University for you



Choosing a university is a big decision and depends on a mix of personal, academic, and career factors. To help you narrow it down, below are decisions to consider:

1. Define your Goals – ask yourself:

- **Field of study:** What do you want to study? Some universities are stronger in specific areas.
- **Career ambitions:** What are my career aspirations?
- Am I looking for research opportunities, practical experience or both

If you don't know what degree subject you want to study, [Informed Choices](#) can help give you the start you need in deciding what to do next.

Informed Choices

2. Where do you want to study?

- **City vs. town:** Proximity to family, Urban universities might have more opportunities; smaller towns might be more community-focused and affordable. **Campus culture:** Clubs, diversity, values, community, student work opportunities.
- Housing options and food services
- **Alumni network:** Can help with jobs and mentorship.
- **Post-graduation outcomes:** Employment rates, graduate school acceptance, etc.

3. What's your budget?

- **Tuition fees:** [Get undergraduate student finance: step by step](#)
- **Scholarships and financial aid:** Are you eligible for any?
- **Living costs:** Rent, food, and transport vary by location.



- Search for Scholarships
 - About Student Finance
 - Managing you Money
- <https://www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/>

HEON – Outreach provision options & advice available during Higher Education.



4. How do you learn best?

- **Class sizes:** Prefer lectures or small seminars?
- **Course content:** flexibility and specialisations – attend Open and Taster Days
- **Teaching style:** Research-focused vs. hands-on or applied learning.
- **Support services:** Look for mentoring, counselling, and career services.

To find out about university open days either go direct to their website Click on icons to search for University open and taster days



5. Reputation & Rankings

- Not everything, but can be a rough guide.
- Look at subject-specific rankings rather than overall prestige.
- Industry connections and internship opportunities

Click on icons to search

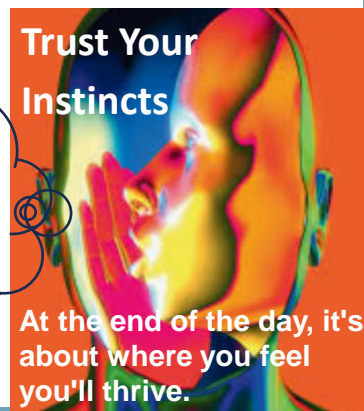


Can I see myself happy and growing ?

Does the university align with my values and learning style?

Trust Your Instincts

At the end of the day, it's about where you feel you'll thrive.



Is an apprenticeship right for me?

Yes

- ▶ if you want to go out to work
- ▶ if you want to learn but be in the workplace
- ▶ if you want further vocational qualifications
- ▶ if you are interested in the types of apprenticeships available

No

- ▶ if you are best suited to purely academic learning/ academic career
- ▶ if the career you have identified requires an academic qualification/ degree
- ▶ if you do not feel ready for the working world –longer days, less holidays, boss, customers/ clients

Searching for Apprenticeships

You can register on the websites below and set up alerts of searches in your particular area of interest where new opportunities will be emailed directly to you.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> - Search for apprenticeships

<https://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/> Not going to Uni website with advertised apprenticeships

<https://www.indeed.co.uk/Apprenticeships-jobs> Indeed website

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/> Apprenticeship search

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/apprenticeships> Rate my Apprenticeship with latest apprenticeship opportunities

<https://www.e4s.co.uk/> Student job search site

<https://targetapprenticeships.co.uk>

Apprenticeship Application

Once you've searched and found the right apprenticeship for you, you can get on with the application process.

If you're planning on working for bigger organisations, you might have two or three interviews. A smaller employer may just want to meet you face-to-face, to see if you fit into their organisation.

Employers will each set their own application process for an apprenticeship, which will be similar to applying for any other job within that organisation. This typically, will involve an interview.

Interviews can range from face-to-face, a panel interview, on the telephone or on-line. It just depends on how the employer wants to conduct it. If you've not done an interview before, the following tips should help you through the whole process:

BEFORE YOUR INTERVIEW

CHECK WHERE AND WHEN

Find out what time your interview is, then figure out the best way to get there in plenty of time. Also check the employer's website for the address, directions and any useful advice on finding their premises.

KNOW YOUR STUFF

It's worth finding out as much as you can about the apprenticeship, and the organisation that's interviewing you. You might also want to keep up to date with the relevant news in your industry, just in case your interviewer asks your opinions on any relevant news stories.

PRACTICE

Try a mock interview with a teacher, adviser or even a friend. A simple practice interview can help you feel more confident, and see what questions and answers you need to practice.

Remember to include a few questions that you think you might be asked e.g. Why you chose this apprenticeship, what you enjoy most about your current studies.

LifeSkills

LifeSkills
Created with BARCLAYS

Go forward into work

LifeSkills is designed to help young people develop the skills they need for the 21st century workplace.

Preparing for the workplace? You'll find content on building confidence, creating a CV and preparing for interviews, and you can even try virtual work experience on the LifeSkills website.

Interview Questions Practice

<https://www.ratemyapprenticeship.co.uk/advice/how-to-apprenticeship-interview-questions/>

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/interviewing/apprentice-interview-questions>

SEEKING APPRENTICESHIPS?

FREE 1-2-1 mentoring & support



Apply for apprenticeships from level 2 - 6/7



FREE access to employer events & workshops



CONNECT WITH THE UK'S TOP EMPLOYERS!



COMPANIES

Find out which companies offer apprenticeships, events and other opportunities through Pathway CTM.

View Companies



EVENTS

The clock is ticking! Find out where events are being held near you.

View Events



RESOURCES

We offer you resources to help you get a good start on your potential career paths. Find out how.

View Resources



Apprenticeships Snapshot

Automotive

Volkswagen Group Apprenticeship Programme

[Volkswagen Group Live Apprenticeships](#)



Mercedes-Benz



[Apprentice Parts Advisor - Mercedes-Benz of Brooklands - Hedin Automotive London Ltd](#)

Retail

TESCO Careers

<https://www.tesco.com/careers/en-GB/our-teams/early-careers/apprenticeships>

Childcare & Education

[Level 3 Early Years Educator Apprenticeship](#)

ALMNERS (CHILDCARE) LTD
CHERTSEY (KT16 0BH)

Distance 2.0 miles

Start date 1 October 2025

Training course Early years educator (level 3)

Wage £22,738 a year

Closes on Tuesday 30 September 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

[Nursery Educator Apprentice - Sunbury-on-Thames](#)

kinderzimmer
UK (TW16 6RT)

Distance 5.1 miles

Start date 11 August 2025

Training course Early years educator (level 3)

Wage £25,000 a year

Closes on Friday 1 August 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

Banking & Finance



NatWest Group Careers

Customer Service & Operations, Customer

Relationship Management Apprentice

Staines, United Kingdom

Apprenticeship

[Relationship Management Apprentice in Staines | NatWest Group Careers](#)

Engineering

[Lead Engineer Maintenance Technician Apprenticeship](#)

BT GROUP PLC

Kingston: Bentall Centre (4322, Kingston upon Thames, United Kingdom, (KT1 1TR)

Distance 9.1 miles

Start date 8 September 2025

Training course Lead engineering maintenance technician (level 4)

Wage £21,840 a year

Closes on Thursday 31 July 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

[Engineering Technician Apprentice](#)

FT GEARING SYSTEMS LTD
ALDERSHOT HANTS (GU12 4UB)

Distance 13.2 miles

Start date 1 September 2025

Training course Machining technician (level 3)

Wage £15,704 to £25,396.80 a year

Closes on Friday 27 June 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

Hair & Beauty

[Hairdressing Apprentice](#)

EASTWORTH PLACE LTD
THAMES DITTON (KT7 0PW)

Distance 7.3 miles

Start date 2 September 2025

Training course Hairdressing professional (level 2)

Wage £11,778 a year

Closes on Wednesday 30 July 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

Apprenticeships Snapshot

Construction

[Bricklaying Apprenticeship](#)

CLAYLENS MILLS LTD
Bracknell (RG12 7BW) and 1 other location

Distance 11.3 miles

Start date 2 September 2025

Training course Bricklayer (level 2)

Wage £15,704 a year

Closes on Monday 1 September 2025 [Click here to apply](#)

[Civil Engineering Technician Apprentice](#)

LANMOR CONSULTING LTD
Surbiton (KT6 7EW)

Distance 9.6 miles

Start date 1 July 2025

Training course Civil engineering technician (level 3)

Wage £17,000 a year

Closes on Monday 30 June 2025 [Click here to apply](#)

Hospitality & Catering

[Chef Apprenticeship](#)

Ashley Park - Walton On Thames
Ashley Park Road (KT12 1JP)

Distance 3.8 miles

Start date 16 July 2025

Training course Production chef (level 2)

Wage £15,600 a year

Closes on Wednesday 2 July 2025 [Click here to apply](#)

Landscaping & Horticulture

[Horticultural Operative Apprenticeship](#)

GREEN GARDENS SOUTH EAST LIMITED
Addlestone (KT15 2DE) and 2 other locations

[Click here to apply](#)

[Landscape Apprentice](#)

Landcraft Landscape and Design Ltd
ALDERSHOT (GU12 6PN)

[Click here to apply](#)

[Landscaping Apprentice](#)

C J Landscapes
SANDHURST (GU47 0SQ)

[Click here to apply](#)

Business



[Customer Service Management Apprenticeship](#)

Type: Apprentice
Location: Aldershot (GU11 1EJ)

[Click here to apply](#)



[Business Administration Level 3 Apprenticeship](#)

SILVERJEN LIMITED
Leatherhead (KT22 7PL)

Distance 8.3 miles

Start date 1 September 2025

Training course Business administrator (level 3)

Wage £11,778 a year

Closes on Thursday 31 July 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

Sport

[Sport Coach Apprenticeship](#)

LIONHEART FOOTBALL GROUP LIMITED
Banstead (SM7 1HR)

Distance 12.5 miles

Start date 16 July 2025

Training course Sports coach (level 4)

Wage £11,778 a year

Closes on Wednesday 2 July 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

[Grounds Staff Apprentice](#)

THE ROYAL COUNTY OF BERKS POLO CLUB
WINDSOR (SL4 4TH)

Distance 9.2 miles

Start date 14 July 2025

Training course Sports turf operative (level 2)

Wage £15,704 a year

Closes on Monday 30 June 2025

[Click here to apply](#)

All about Labour Market Information



Parents/Carers



Young people



Career Websites are excellent resources for find out all about roles and specific labour market information click on icon and start to explore:

Careerpilot

PROSPECTS

icould

National
Careers
Service
Helping you take
the next step



Parents/Carers



Teachers

UK Labour Market Update 2025



Young people



Schools



Home - Office for National Statistics

UK 2025 LABOUR MARKET

GROWTH

Employment is projected to continue growing

AGED 65+

More people in employment will be aged 65 and over

HEALTH

Increased demand for health and social care workers

GREEN JOBS

Rising employment in the green economy

UK 2025 LABOUR MARKET

EMPLOYMENT RATE

75,4%

EMPLOYEES

27.1 MILLION

SELF-EMPLOYED

4.2 MILLION

UNEMPLOYMENT

1.4 MILLION

Across the UK

seasonally adjusted

Unemployment

Share of economically active 16+ year-olds (unemployed or employed) who are unemployed



Employment

Share of 16-64 year-olds who are in employment



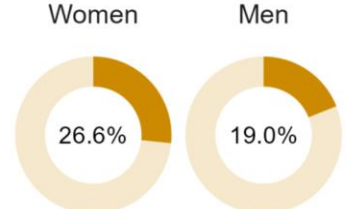
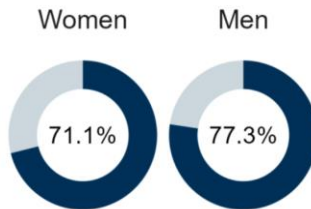
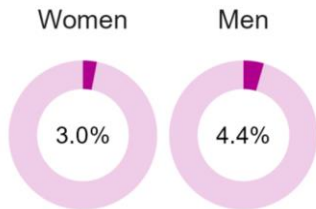
Inactivity

Share of 16-64 year-olds who are economically inactive



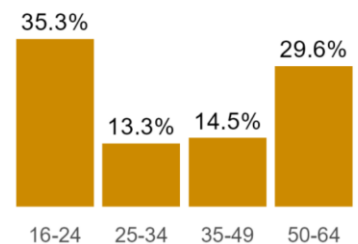
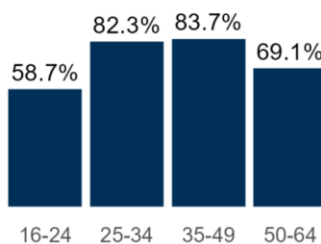
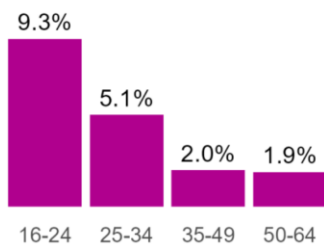
Women & men

seasonally adjusted



Age groups

not seasonally adjusted





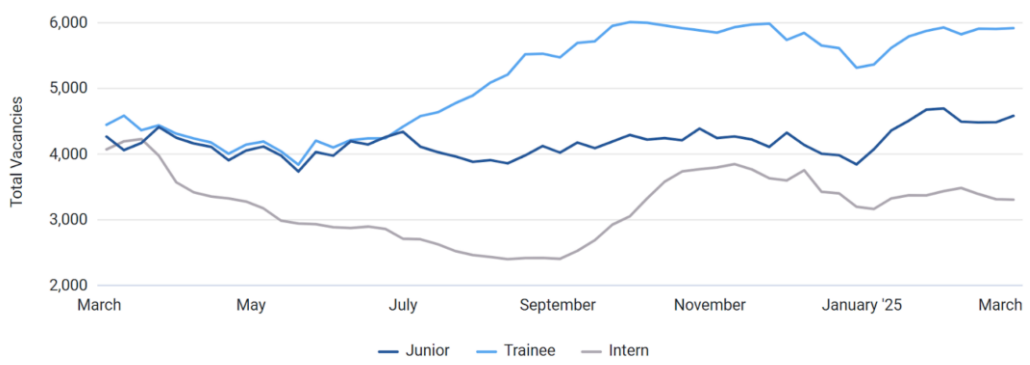
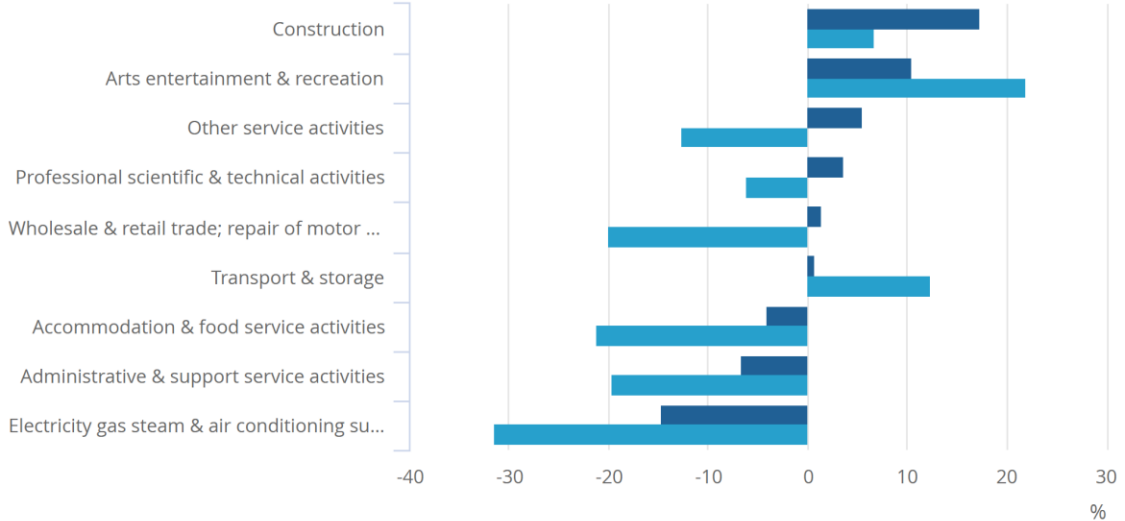
UK Labour Market Update 2025 Snapshot



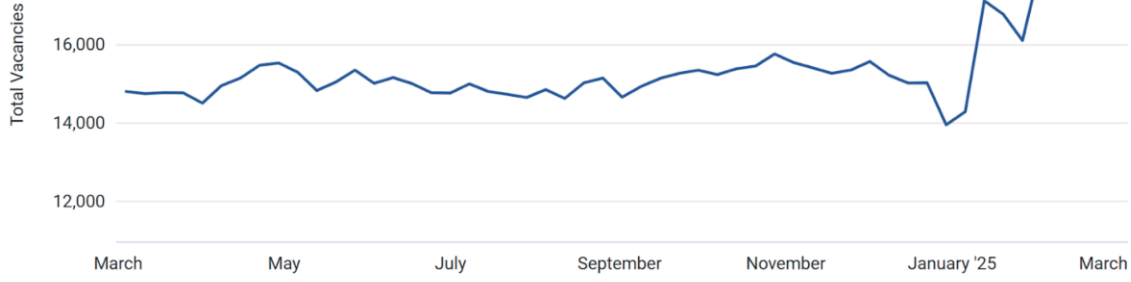
Figure 2: Quarterly growth increased in 8 of the 18 industry sectors in December 2024 to February 2025

December 2024 to February 2025 three-month average vacancies in the UK, quarterly percentage growth from September to November 2024, and annual percentage growth from December 2023 to February 2024

- Quarterly percentage change since Sep to Nov 2024
- Annual percentage change since Dec 2023 to Feb 2024



Entry Level Jobs in the UK, last 12 Months



UK Remote vacancies trend, last 12 months



Schools



Teachers



Young people



Career advisers



Parents/Carers

Our Approach

Our approach is to provide multiple career guidance interactions offering schools a variety of methods to access personal guidance. By accessing our assemblies, presentations, workshops, and career lessons, young people are better prepared for their one to one personal guidance meeting with our qualified career advisers.

Our careers and personal guidance services can help schools and career advisers make the most effective and efficient use out of the resources, time and personnel available.

We have designed and developed our career lessons from the CDI Framework learning outcomes, with a range of career and personal development activities to encourage self-awareness, decision making skills, opportunities awareness and transition management skills.

The approach we provide enables this to happen at each key stage for each year cohort. It supports schools in addressing the needs of students with an effective way of planning caseloads and preparing students for personal guidance interviews.

Key stage 3:

- One to one personal guidance interviews and/or interactions for prioritised students choosing their GCSE Options
- Group career and personal guidance interactions prioritised students choosing their GCSE Options
- An annual career lesson for all students in year 7, 8 & 9 delivered by a qualified personal guidance adviser
- Guidance services at parents evenings, options evenings, career events
- CEIAG activities including group work, assemblies, and career days e.g. workshops on Apprenticeships, Employability, University

Key stage 4:

- One to one personal guidance interviews and/or interactions for year 10 and 11 students
- Group career and personal guidance interactions for year 10 and 11 students
- Presentations/ group work for all key stage 4 students to build awareness and understanding of all post 16 options including education and technical training, with follow up interventions to monitor intended destinations and guidance needs
- Guidance services at parents evenings, options evenings, career events
- CEIAG activities including group work, assemblies, career days e.g. workshops on Apprenticeships, Employability, University
- Labour Market Information and Career Pathways lessons and activities

Key stage 5:

- One to one personal guidance interviews and/or small group discussions for sixth form students
- Providing focus and clarity to any contemplating their current programme/ considering leaving 6th form
- Supporting students with generating initial ideas around their next steps, plan of action regarding university and/ or work in light of long term career goals
- Dilemmas regarding university courses and subjects, university or work, long term career planning
- Support for those considering work or higher/ degree apprenticeship schemes, CV preparation, job/ opportunity searching, interview and assessment centre day technique
- Any last minute concerns, change of plan
- August Exam Results Period – Triage/ emergency one to one support
- Career Lessons/ Sessions as part of a Careers Programme:
- Employability Skills – the content of winning CVs, application forms and personal statements
- Interview & Assessment Centre Preparation – details and mock activities to provide insight and readiness
- Introduction to UCAS/ Personal Statement workshops/ UCAS application clinics
- Higher & Degree Apprenticeships
- Attendance at Year 12 & 13 Parents Evenings and Parent Information
- Apprenticeships, UCAS and the Importance of Work Experience
- Labour Market Information and Career Pathways lessons and activities

Targeted support for high needs students:

- Schools can choose specific targeted support for disadvantaged and/ or high needs and/ or those at risk of exclusion/ NEET
- Group career guidance interventions once a term for prioritised students from year 7 to year 10
- A developed range of extension activities around the key stage 3 and 4 programme and increased the frequency of interactions with a career adviser for these students from once a year, to once a term.
- Students are seen in small groups of up to five to provide a sense of focus and give each student more opportunity to participate, be heard and interact with the career adviser and each other.
- Each term we build on the work of previous sessions providing careers education activities with reflective guidance time that enables a deeper impact in terms of building aspiration and achievement over time.

Bespoke:

We can provide bespoke personal guidance activities to fit schools and cohort needs.