

JOBS

After you finish school, you may be interested in finding a job straight away. You could be looking to start full-time work, or you may want to find a part-time job to do alongside a course at school or college.

Because of Raising the Participation Age (RPA), you will need to continue in education or training at least until your 18th birthday. This doesn't mean you can't get a job, but if you do work, you will also have to be training towards an accredited qualification. You will be gaining skills and qualifications alongside your work. When we talk about "jobs" in this help sheet, you must remember this important change.

In this help sheet you'll find information about:

Your options

Where to look for jobs

Starting your own business

Your options

There are lots of different types of job you can do, ranging from part-time or holiday work to jobs which offer training while you work.

Jobs with training

Many employers offer on-the-job training, so the need to continue your learning, because of the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA), is already met. Training must lead to an accredited qualification and this will be valued by employers and colleges. There are lots of reasons why it makes sense to find a job with training — here are just a few of them:

- A work-related qualification can help to improve your long-term career prospects, possibly leading to better pay, promotion and job security. You'll be in a better position to move on to other jobs or go back into education if you want to.
- If you want to change jobs, it will be easier to prove to a new employer that you've got the skills they are looking for if you've got some qualifications.
- If you are under 18, you would need to sort out your continuing education or training in any case, so a job that comes with suitable training takes away this pressure.

I've found a job that doesn't offer training

Because of the Raising of the Participation Age, you will need to continue in some form of education or training at least until your 18th birthday. If you take a job which doesn't have suitable training built-in, you would need to arrange this for yourself and fit in the training with the requirements of your job.

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Holiday and part-time work

Working at the weekends and during school or college holidays is a great way to build up your CV and earn some extra money. There are lots of different types of weekend, evening and holiday jobs available, especially in areas like retail and hospitality. For example, you could find a weekend job working in a shop or an evening job in a bar or restaurant. Bear in mind that for jobs where you will be serving alcohol you'll need to be over 18! RPA doesn't stop you from getting a full-time holiday job, and then continuing your education after the summer holiday. If you are a young person then there are rules about when and where you can work.

See <https://www.gov.uk/child-employment/minimum-ages-children-can-work>

Where to look for jobs

There are lots of places to look for jobs — try out some of these ideas.

If you are a young person working with Birmingham Careers Service, you can find out more about a selection of local vacancies by visiting us — find out how on the “Contacting us / Staying in touch” webpages at <http://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/visit-us/>. We send alerts about the latest of these apprenticeships, jobs and other opportunities using Twitter. Follow us at <http://twitter.com/BhamCareers> to receive these alerts.

Websites — try some of these online job search sites:

- <http://www.fish4.co.uk/jobs/birmingham/>
- <http://www.indeed.co.uk/jobs-in-West-Midlands>
- www.monster.co.uk
- GOV.UK's Universal Jobmatch job search page at <https://www.gov.uk/jobsearch>
- Jobcentre Plus — you can find vacancies advertised in your local Jobcentre.
- Newspapers — local papers usually advertise vacancies on particular days. For example, the Birmingham Mail has jobs on a Thursday.
- Employment agencies — agencies can help you to find temporary and permanent jobs.
- Personal contacts — ask your friends and family if they know about any vacancies.
- Local high streets — you can often find part-time or holiday work advertised in shop or restaurant windows.

Did you know?

If you are a young person working with Birmingham Careers Service, a Personal Adviser can help you to think about your job ideas as well. Go to <http://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/visit-us/>

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Starting your own business

Starting a business and working for yourself is another option you could consider, especially if you are ambitious, prepared to work hard and good at getting things done. Because of the Raising of the Participation Age (RPA), you will need to continue in education or training at least until your 18th birthday. If you set up your own business, this still applies — you would also have to be training towards an accredited qualification.

Don't forget that it will take a great deal of hard work to start a business, there are lots of risks involved, you'll have to raise finance to get started and you almost certainly won't start making money straight away! It often makes sense to gain some experience first, by working for an employer in the area you want to start your business in.

People who work for themselves are usually:

Creative and imaginative
Good at getting things done
Ambitious and original
Risk takers, but sensible
Good at getting their point across
Hard working and committed
Persuasive salespeople
Tough when things go wrong

If this sounds like you, then working for yourself could be an option. Points to consider:

- You must be prepared to work long hours — self-employed people often end up working from the moment they get up until they go to bed, especially in the early years of a business.
- You will also need to allow time for the continued learning which you will need to be doing at least until you reach 18.
- You will need appropriate skills — for example, self-discipline, initiative, flexibility and administrative skills.
- You will need to choose and research a product or service. Is there a market for it? Who are the prospective customers? Are there enough of them to make a successful business?

Want to know more?

If you are considering starting your own business, get as much help and advice as you can. There are lots of organisations to help you — you could begin by discussing your business idea with family and friends to see if they think it could work. You can get lots more advice from these websites:

- Shell LiveWIRE www.shell-livewire.org helps 16 to 30 year olds to start and develop their own business and hosts a national competition for new business start-ups.
- The Prince's Trust Enterprise programme www.princes-trust.org.uk helps 18 to 30 year olds who are either unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week, by offering low-interest loans, mentor support and more — find out more on their website.

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