

BIRMINGHAM CAREERS SERVICE NEWS

YOUR CHOICE
YOUR FUTURE

SUMMER



BIRMINGHAM
CAREERS SERVICE
guiding young people



Birmingham
City Council

NEXT STEPS



As you approach the end of the school year, an exciting new chapter awaits. Remember – you must remain in education or training until you are 18. This requirement, known as Raising the Participation Age (RPA), ensures that all young people continue learning and developing their skills to set themselves up for success.

Career paths available to you:

- Sixth Form or College – A-levels, T-levels, or vocational qualifications which can lead to university, apprenticeships, or skilled careers
- Apprenticeships – Earn while you learn by working with an employer and gain valuable skills alongside qualifications.
- Study Programmes/Pre-apprenticeship Programmes – A short-term, entry level program to help you develop workplace skills and prepare for an apprenticeship or job.

For young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), your transition beyond Year 11 or Year 13 may require additional support, there are plenty of tailored pathways to help you achieve your goals.

[Post-16 and Post-18 Options – Local Offer Birmingham](#)

ARE YOU PLANNING TO ATTEND COLLEGE?

Make sure you submit your application as early as possible. Don't wait until returning from a family holiday or after you receive your exam results! Last year our Careers Advisers helped many young people who missed out on their first choice course because they applied too late. Some courses are hugely popular and have limited places.

Apply online through the college websites using your predicted grades. Many colleges have summer open days, so go along, talk to the tutors and get your application forms filled in. There is a starting point for everyone in further education – you will be placed on the right level course for you – even if you don't have any qualifications.

Find the latest Open Days at: <https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/open-days>

KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN BY APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP

New opportunities are advertised daily. Apply now for apprenticeships with immediate start dates and for apprenticeships starting from September.

Apprenticeships are available after Year 11, 12 or 13. They enable you to learn and earn at the same time. You will gain valuable employability skills, a relevant qualification and get paid. The apprentice wage is currently £7.55 an hour, though many companies will pay you more.

Apprenticeships are available in a wide range of industries, including construction, healthcare, engineering, IT, and finance. You will find many roles advertised which will be new to you. It is better to keep your options open and consider a wider range of roles.

The entry requirements for apprenticeships do vary depending on the employer, so always check that you have the required qualifications, skills and qualities.

Carefully read the job description, identify the required skills, and tailor your application with examples from school or college, work experience, clubs, and activities outside of education.

Be prepared for the employer to follow-up your application with online tests (e.g., numeracy, literacy, situational judgement), and a telephone, video, or face-to-face interview. Practice and preparation will give you confidence and help you to succeed with these different methods of assessment and interview.

VOCATIONAL ROUTES

Looking for a pathway which is related to the world of work?
Let's explore T Levels and Study Programmes.

T LEVELS

T Levels have been created alongside employers and businesses, so you gain the skills and knowledge needed for your chosen occupational area. Like an apprenticeship, they include a 45-day industry placement. They can lead into employment, Higher Education or Higher Apprenticeships.

So, if you want to be a Dental Nurse, Lab Technician, Teaching Assistant, Junior Games Designer, Installation Electrician, Advanced Site Carpenter – and many more careers – T Levels might be for you.

FAST FACTS

Academic qualification equivalent to 3 A-Levels

2 year programme

80% Classroom and 20% Work

Includes 45-day industry placement

Exams and assessments

Practical skills obtained

Gain a minimum standard in Maths and English if not already achieved

Entry requirements vary – check with the provider

Interested in doing a T Level but not quite ready yet? The T Level Foundation Year is a one-year course after your GCSEs that helps you build the skills and knowledge needed to progress onto your chosen T Level.

Find out where you can study a T Level at
<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find>



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



LEVEL 1 STUDY PROGRAMME/PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

These are available for anyone not ready to start full-time college or an apprenticeship. These are flexible programmes built around you as an individual and any career plans you have. They include the following elements:

- Qualifications that prepare you for the next level of education or for employment
- English and Maths if you have not achieved GCSE Grade 4
- Work Experience to develop your career choices and get a first taste of work
- Activities to enhance your CV

Most Study Programmes/Pre-Apprenticeships are offered by independent Training Providers. They are a good alternative to college for those who prefer to study in a small, friendly environment, with lots of support. Local training providers include Crackerjack Training, HOET, Protocol Training, Reflections Training Academy, Nova Training.

Find out more at <https://www.birminghamcareersservice.co.uk/training-provider-marketplace>



GET READY!

FOR EXAM RESULTS DAY

Find out from your school or college how to collect your exam results. You might need to get up early to collect them in person or you might get them sent to you by email. If you are feeling nervous, have a family member or friend by your side for support when you open the envelope or email.

You can also access free support resources and chat anonymously to trained counsellors at:

<https://bwc.nhs.uk/young-people-ybm>

<https://www.kooth.com>





ARE YOU A YEAR 13 LEAVER?

Depending on the qualifications you studied, you will receive your exam results on or before Thursday 14th August 2025.

The decisions you make next will be really important, so don't rush into anything. Consider all your options carefully, and remember most careers have a range of entry pathways, so don't be disappointed if your original plans need to change. For example, you don't need A Level Law to study a Law degree, or you can study a Foundation Programme in Science at University to progress onto a pharmacy degree.

HAVE YOU APPLIED TO UNIVERSITY?

On results day log into the UCAS Hub to see if you have been accepted at your Conditional Firm or Insurance university.

If you don't have any offers, you can enter UCAS clearing from Saturday 5th July until Monday 20th October 2025 to find a place in higher education.

If your results are better than expected and you now want to change universities, from 5 July 2025, if you are holding a firm place, you can release yourself into Clearing, using the 'decline your place' button in your application.

Only use this button if you no longer wish to take up your place at your firm choice, and you have spoken to your university or college and/or an adviser at your school/centre.

If you didn't get the grades needed for your firm or insurance choice, you will be eligible for Clearing Plus. A 'See Matches' button will appear in your UCAS Hub. Clearing Plus uses your previous course choices, qualifications and grades to suggest courses that match your profile.

ALTERNATIVES TO HIGHER EDUCATION:

You may feel you need a break from full-time study. If so, consider getting a job, or a higher or degree apprenticeship (Levels 4 – 7). You could also consider an advanced apprenticeship (Level 3) if you are looking to change your career direction or you are entering a competitive field.

If you need more time to consider your career aims, you may have the option to defer your university place for one year and take a gap year. You can use this time to volunteer, earn money, do an internship, work experience, or travel.

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/ncvo-volunteering>
<https://www.push.co.uk/gap-years.html>

BIRMINGHAM CAREERS SERVICE ARE HERE TO HELP

Whatever your situation on results day, Birmingham Careers Service's friendly Advisers are here to help with your next steps. We can help you find a pathway into your chosen career, or get you back on track, by talking through your options.

As one of our clients recently told us

“

I liked the way the adviser talked to me, she helped me to understand that I have lots of opportunities and options in my career plan’.

”

