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Issue 11 | September 2023

Welcome Back!

Another academic year and all the hope that that brings! As parents and carers I am sure that you will welcome the start of a routine again after the summer break.

The next few years of your child's education are such important ones, not just because of their academic achievements and the knowledge they will learn but also because of who they will become. In this time they are going to be forming into adults, working out what they want and don't want and what their future may look like.

In a changing world, the possibilities also change. The options available to them include vocational pathways as well as A levels and GCSEs, they include graduate schemes, apprenticeships, internships as well as degrees.

The possibilities are endless which is why this magazine is such an important publication to guide you through. If you want to find a map to plan the route ahead, this is the place to be!

As you support your child in all that they are going to become, we are all here to support you.

Rachel Johnson

CEO
PIXL



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About Careermag

Careermag publications are designed to provide quality, up-to-date information about careers and qualifications. Careers are not a linear path and you cannot know what you don't know. We aim to inspire and inform about all sorts of careers and opportunities, now and in the future. We look at all the pathways you can take, be that vocational, academic and/or professional.

We welcome your input! Please get in touch if you have any questions or something to contribute.

Contact the Editor at info@careermag.co.uk

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Careermag is an excellent resource for schools, colleges and sixth forms. If you would like to receive bulk print copies, email Jodie at info@careermag.co.uk

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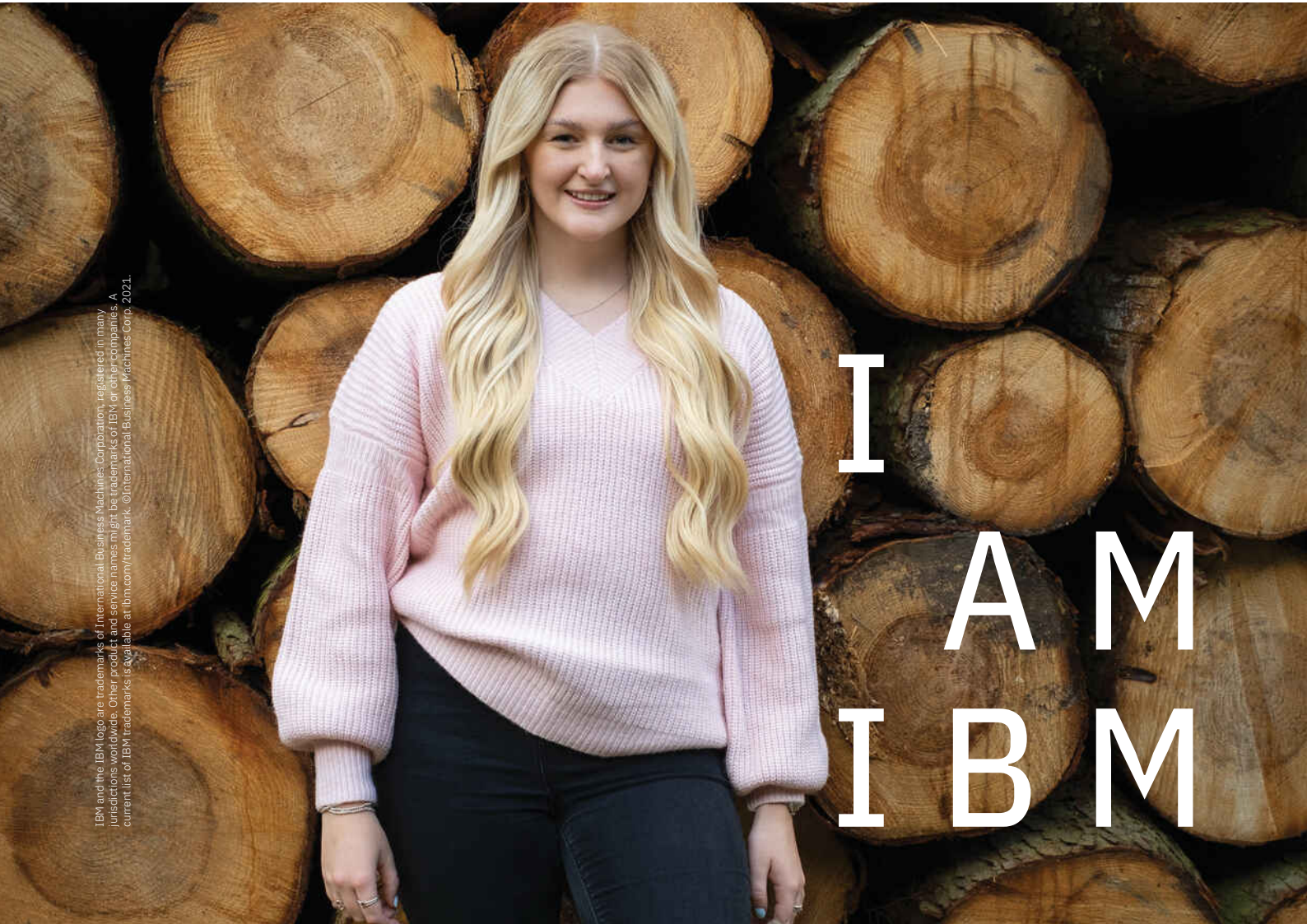
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We'd like to meet you. Explore our apprenticeship scheme today.



Katie (She/Her)
Winchester, UK

Apprenticeships at IBM are all about picking up skills for the workplace and embarking on a long and successful career.



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CASE STUDY

Meet Jade Carino

Software Engineer at IBM UK Labs



What made you decide to come to IBM as a school leaver?

I wanted to start working full-time right away so that I could gain practical experience as well as knowledge. I also wanted to start gaining eminence in the technology industry and begin growing a professional network which I felt would be best achieved by starting a full-time role as opposed to going down an academic route. Additionally, I wanted to start earning a good salary and be financially independent from a young age.

What hints or tips would you pass to those who are interested in applying to IBM as a school leaver?

I would encourage you to research IBM and find the projects or products that IBM has worked on that you find the most fascinating and make sure you explain what about them interests you – this will show you have a genuine passion for technology. I'd also advise you to be yourself and let your personality and individuality stand out in your application as IBM values having a diverse workforce.

What's the best thing about your current role?

The best thing about my job is that it's so varied and I am never just doing one thing. I have my responsibilities as a Software Engineer which involves designing and developing code for a team within the Labs, and in addition that I get to make presentations to my department and external customers, I get involved in hackathons and patenting and I also have public engagements such as speaking with school leavers and going to awards and events.

What support was available to you when starting at IBM?

When I joined, I was introduced to a cohort of new school leavers who had joined IBM just before me, so I had a large support system of people going through exactly the same thing as me. I also have a manager who is specifically a manager for early professionals so is knowledgeable on the school leaver schemes and very supportive. I also had a mentor and buddy from my team who helped me to settle into my role. IBM also has several Business Resource Groups for people who want to join a community of people similar to them.

What's the best thing about being at IBM?

The best thing about being at IBM is working for a reputable company that has high eminence in the technology industry. Any project I work on has a genuine impact for the company and in the industry which allows me to have a real sense of pride in my work.

Search and apply for IBM apprenticeships:
<https://www.ibm.com/uk-en/employment/entrylevel/>



Navigating the Career Maze Together: Career Advice from Professionals

When it comes to providing advice and support to your young person about their career goals, ambitions and prospects, you may find yourself thinking “Where do I begin?”. At Careermap, we believe that one of the best ways to find career advice is by asking working professionals themselves. But don't worry, we did that for you and here's our top four pieces of advice that you can give to your young person today.



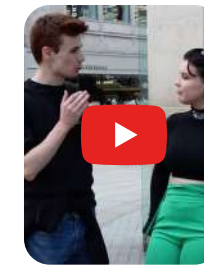
“Chase your dreams”

Everyone has a dream. Some young people are brave enough to chase that dream. As a parent, carer or guardian, the most important thing for you to do is support your young person. Even if their particular career choice isn't what you would regard as a “safe” option, it's vital for young people to understand that a fulfilling career is not solely about financial gain. So whether they want to start their own business, become a film director or the next Prime Minister, encourage your young person to pursue their passions and align their career with their values and beliefs.



“Prioritise your mental health and wellbeing”

Once we get a job and begin a career, it can be very easy to slip into the “live to work” routine. It's common for young people to lose interest in all that extra-curricular they once loved doing in school and focus exclusively on their job role and responsibilities. As they enter the workforce, remind your young person that their mental health and well-being should be at the top of their priority list. Encourage them to eat well, sleep well and that there is life outside of the workplace.



“Don't be afraid to change your career”

The path to securing a career that fulfills you in all aspects of your life is not linear. A lot of adults find themselves changing careers multiple times before finding the right fit for them. SO much pressure is put on us from a young age to know exactly what we want to be when we grow up. Reassure your young person and let them know that even if their first choice doesn't work out, there's always Plan B, C, D etc. All work experience is valuable experience to future employers and it's never too late to change your mind.



“Just go for it”

You get out what you put in. Let your young person know that with enough hard work, they can achieve anything they set their minds on, especially with your encouragement and support. Let them know to not give up at the first hurdle. Encourage them to foster a growth mindset and explain that challenges and setbacks are opportunities for improvement, not failure. Actor Jim Carrey once said “You can fail at doing what you don't want, so you might as well take a chance on doing what you love.” and here at Careermap, we absolutely agree.

There you have our top picks for advice to give to your young person on their career.



Unlock your child's career potential

The best jobs and highest salaries aren't just for university goers anymore.

Amazon, Barclays, Atos, BT, HSBC, Fujitsu..... what better chance could you get to start your career with the biggest name brands out there? A third of QA's recent tech apprentices are already making over £39,000 – with a further 30% earning between £25,000–£38,999. And they all learnt the in-demand digital skills that matter to them, in the place that matters to employers – the workplace.

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What do our employers look like?

Today's employers have embraced apprenticeships. Especially in the technical sector where skills demand is high, and the market is constantly evolving. Our apprentices could find themselves working for an international brand like Amazon or Fujitsu, a fast-paced medium business thriving on innovation or a smart start-up that is hungry for young talent. All offer practical skills, nationally recognised qualifications, and a rewarding career.

Find out more by visiting our webpage: <https://www.qa.com/apprenticeships/>

Ready to apply? **Start your application today**

The Digital Revolution is here, skilled apprentices can look to an exciting future



ICENI

Project Thrive

Works with parents to help their children unlock their full potential

The initiative focuses on three key areas:

Skills:

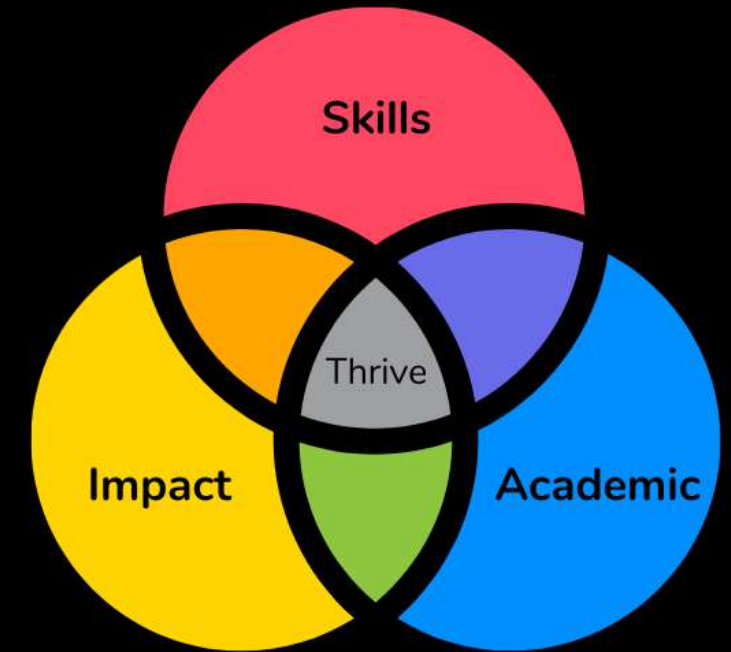
A introduction to a diverse range of skills that not only build confidence but also enable young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities. The comprehensive guidebook, "96 Skills to Survive and Thrive," presents both well-known and lesser-known skills, complete with clear definitions, additional insights, and thought-provoking questions for self-reflection and group discussions. These transferable skills play a crucial role in advancing careers and fostering personal growth.

Academic:

The ICENI Assessment Profile (IAP) is an innovative tool that tailors academic evaluations to your child, covering English, Maths, Verbal Reasoning, and Non-Verbal Reasoning. By analysing data, the IAP sheds light on their academic strengths and identifies areas that require further attention. This valuable knowledge guides decisions regarding tutoring, school engagement, and the next steps in their educational journey.

Impact:

Recognising that our unique inclinations influence our approach to life, Project Thrive introduces the Young People Index®. This provides insights into your child's profile and reveals the balance between being a Game Changer, Strategist, Implementer, Polisher, and PlayMaker. By enhancing self-awareness, this index boosts self-belief and offers guidance on where they can thrive and find fulfilment.



ICENI

Project Thrive's mission is to foster personal growth and development for your child, ensuring they have the tools and guidance necessary to reach their full potential. Through the acquisition of valuable transferable skills, personalised academic assessments, and a deeper understanding of their own strengths and inclinations, your child can confidently navigate their educational and professional paths, ultimately making a positive impact on the world around them.



Jon Crocker is the founder of ICENI Mastermind CIC which supports young people in raising self-awareness and belief in their ability to make a positive impact.

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What parents need to know about students and money

Listen to politicians or the media and you'd be forgiven for thinking that tuition fees are the biggest financial challenge facing students. However, the truth is a little more complicated.

As long as your child is eligible for Student Finance (which most UK citizens are), they'll be eligible for a Tuition Fee Loan. Assuming they're attending a publicly-funded university (which, again, the vast majority of students do), this loan will cover the cost of tuition in its entirety, meaning there's no upfront cost to you or your child.

And, as we'll explain later on, the nature of the repayments means that the headline cost of tuition doesn't necessarily equal what your child will pay.

“Maintenance Loans are means-tested, with a student's household income”

SAVE THE STUDENT! £

The cost of living at university

While the issue of tuition fees is slightly exaggerated, there is a separate problem that's massively underreported: the cost of living as a student, and how it compares to the Maintenance Loan.

The Maintenance Loan is the part of the Student Loan that's designed to cover living expenses – but the fact of the matter is that it often doesn't. Our National Student Money Surveys consistently find that the average loan falls short of living costs by hundreds of pounds every month, meaning students need to plug the gap with other funding.

While some students are able to find a part-time job or receive cash in the form of a bursary, scholarship or grant, many have to rely on money from their parents to get by. This is something the government not only encourages, but actively expects.

Maintenance Loans are means-tested, with a student's household income (typically, the salary of the parents they live with) used to determine how big a loan they'll receive. If your household income is any higher than the minimum threshold, your child will get a reduced Maintenance Loan. And the difference between that loan and the maximum one available? That's what the government expects you to contribute.

To give you an idea of just how much this might be, we have a [parental contributions calculator](#) on Save the Student. All you need to do is enter a couple of details like your household income and where you're from, and it'll tell you how much the government expects you to give your child each year.

There are a few things to note, though. First off, these are indicative amounts which will almost certainly have changed by the time your child goes to uni.

Secondly, if you're from Wales, the government expects no financial contribution from you whatsoever! Your household income is simply used to calculate how much of your child's funding comes as a loan, and how much as a grant.

Finally, while parental contributions are designed to top your child's loan up to the maximum amount, this doesn't necessarily mean that they'll suddenly be able to cover their living costs. Even the biggest Maintenance Loan may not be enough, so either you'll have to contribute more, or your child will have to find extra cash elsewhere.

How do Student Loan repayments work?

Although each part of the UK has its own Student Loan repayment rules, the fundamentals of each system are the same.

You don't start repaying your Student Loan until you've reached the April after you graduated and you've started earning more than the annual repayment threshold (which varies across the UK). You'll only repay 9% of your earnings above the threshold, and the loan will eventually be cancelled, no matter how much or little you've repaid.

Because your child will only repay a fraction of their income over the threshold, and will stop repaying if their salary ever falls below that mark, repayments are far less of a millstone than they're sometimes made out to be. What's more, Student Loans have no impact on credit scores and, because repayments are automatically deducted from your salary, there's no risk of missed or late payments.

That said, while Student Loan repayments are generally manageable, they are becoming more expensive in England. As of September 2023, new students will see their repayment threshold fall and their repayment period extended, meaning the proportion of students repaying in full is expected to rise from around 20% to more like 50%. Nonetheless, repayments will still be tied to income, so should remain fairly manageable.

So with that in mind, if you are looking to save for your child's time at university, and understandably can't cover all the costs in their entirety, the best decision is usually to contribute to living costs. Using this cash for tuition fees or loan repayments, when both can be managed in their own ways, could see your child struggle for funds when they really need them: at uni.

“If your household income is any higher than the minimum threshold, your child will get a reduced Maintenance Loan”

And for any other questions you have about how your child will survive financially at university, head over to [savethestudent.org](#) where we have all the answers!

“The Maintenance Loan is the part of the Student Loan that's designed to cover living expenses – but the fact of the matter is that it often doesn't”

How else can you support your child?

Tempting as it may be to open a student bank account for your child with whichever bank you're with, there are far more important factors to consider.

The interest-free overdraft that comes with a student account is one the safest, most easily-accessible forms of extra cash while they're at university. And far more important than any other factor, including the various freebies on offer with the accounts, is that your child gets an account with as big an overdraft as they need. Even if they don't expect to use it, it's an important safety net to have – so check out our guide, listing every [student bank account](#) and what each one offers.

Beyond that, it's important to have open and honest discussions about money before and during their time at university. The expected parental contributions can be steep, and if you can't afford them, you and your child need to establish this as early as possible and find alternative solutions.

Similarly, if your child is struggling to make ends meet as a student, don't just assume they've mismanaged their money. Particularly at this time, when the loan has struggled to keep up with inflation, students across the UK, from all kinds of backgrounds, are finding it tough.

To mitigate this as much as possible, encourage them ahead of time to read our [student budgeting guide](#) and list of ways to [make money](#), and to make full use of [student discounts](#) too.

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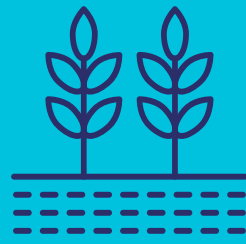


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SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



Why could a career in Agriculture or Horticulture work for your child?



The British countryside and the work force that manages it, face change and challenge on a massive scale as consumer demands and government policy adapts to the needs of the 21st century.

Agriculture accounts for around 70% of the UK surface area and those that manage and work the land can follow a wide range of fulfilling and rewarding careers. Food production, of course, remains the key requirement for the farming and horticultural sectors but sustainability, environmental protection, climate change, animal welfare and the emergence of new technologies throw up huge new opportunities for new entrants.

Farming and growing businesses are on a mission to attract a workforce that is flexible, multi-skilled and imaginative. The industry is putting in place an infrastructure designed to attract, train and retain the best new entrants. A new professional body, The Institute for Agriculture and Horticulture (TIAH), is at the heart of this initiative, offering new entrants a path to progress their careers, building up a body of relevant and well rewarded skills.

On arable and livestock farms, and horticultural there is the opportunity to work with nature and be part of a team that is growing, managing and delivering high quality food that consumers value.



Rural Britain and beyond offers an amazing range of career opportunities which demand an ability to take responsibility, work with high-tech machines, meet vital market demands and which are always focused on tangible end products.

The rewards for new entrants are many and varied. Often, business units such as farms and the roles that support farmers are relatively small which gives the individual opportunities to take responsibility early in their careers and offers a real sense of contributing to successful outcomes.

On arable and livestock farms, and horticultural there is the opportunity to work with nature and be part of a team that is growing, managing and delivering high quality food that consumers value. Production must be sensitive to the needs of the environment, managing and maintaining a countryside valued by all.

The challenge for those engaged in such businesses is to embrace new technology, learn business acumen as well as practical skills. To succeed, farmers must be part entrepreneur, part scientist, part mechanic and part environmentalist; they must have one eye on increasing efficiency and reducing cost of production whilst maintaining the highest standards of animal welfare and supporting the environment.

In many sectors change is fast paced. New technologies such as vertical farming, new crop development and different approaches to production are emerging from research and development organisations – all of which

add to the challenge and fascination of a sector which, for too long, has been seen as slow and boring when the reality could not be any further from the truth, it is vibrant, forward looking and rewarding.

The opportunities are huge and varied. The sector needs new blood – not just from the traditional route of being born on the farm but by attracting a future workforce that comes to farming and horticulture with an open mind and boundless ambition.

Later in this feature we will highlight specific opportunities, ways in which new entrants can find their ideal niche, build a rewarding career and be a part of one of the vital sectors that shapes the future of the country.



Sowing the seeds for a rewarding career

The UK's farming and growing sectors are of primary importance in terms of food production, environmental protection and in the provision of the dynamic roles needed to engage our young people. But how can you be sure your child's career will really take off and develop? With such a diverse range of roles, training requirements and progression opportunities, it can be hard to see what is best for your child. Thankfully, any confusion is set to become a thing of the past, thanks to TIAH.

TIAH is the farming and growing industry's new professional body. This means that TIAH now acts as the home of skills and careers support; it will help individuals and businesses fulfil their potential and the industry thrive. For those working in, or who own, an agriculture or horticulture business, TIAH will provide all the tailored advice and practical tools individuals will need on skills and lifelong learning. For those who want to work in pre-farm gate and growing roles TIAH will be the gateway to all the advice, support and training they will need to pursue a rewarding and well-structured career.

For a newcomer to the farming and growing industry TIAH offers a host of supportive information and guidance. **TIAH's website** contains lots of useful help and advice around careers and job applications. TIAH also has a digital learning platform to streamline and boost career progression for those joining the industry. It provides access to an extensive range of expertly curated and individually targeted learning opportunities along with training records storage so that learner's achievements and certificates are safely recorded as accessible evidence of all their hard work.



The view from the cab – this is the tractor driver's workplace, crammed with the technology needed for accurate application of fertiliser and crop protection products so that maximum production is achieved with minimal impact on the environment.



The countryside is ever changing, requiring a range of skills for its work force. In this part of Northamptonshire, enterprises need high-quality crop husbandry, good environmental management and the skills to operate a modern unit producing soft fruit for supermarket customers.

Case Study

Meet Ben Theaker

Lead tractor operator and assistant manager in training on a 4,500 farm and country estate.



What path did you follow to get there?

I had no connection to farming until my dad became head gardener on a country estate when I was 12. He encouraged me to take a summer job on the estate farm. I worked there every summer up to taking my A-levels.

I decided to spend a year working on the farm full-time to learn more. I was gradually given increasing responsibility, which is when I realised, I wanted to become really good at it. Luckily, my boss was very supportive and sponsored me to study agriculture at college.

After graduation I spent a year working on farm in America. When I got back to the UK, I moved on from my original farm to my current job, to take on new challenges.

What training have you needed to successfully follow this path?

In addition to studying at college, I have completed lots of practical training qualifications. They have all helped me to grow and to take on more responsibility at work.

Advice to others looking to follow a similar path

Never pigeonhole yourself and believe you will only ever get so far. There is always a way to progress and, in this industry, always people who are willing to help you.

Jobs and roles available in this sector

The farming and growing industry contains an extensive range of roles. This selection is not exhaustive but gives a flavour of the kinds of jobs on offer. Depending on the size of the business you work in, you might find yourself carrying out more than one role or be one of several people in the same role. You may even find that some roles have more than one name. Some roles will be more common in some parts of the country than others while other roles provide excellent opportunities to start your own small business or operate as a freelancer. Want to know more? Look at the careers profile pages of either TIAH (on-farm roles) or Lantra's (off farm roles) websites.

In England alone, there are just over 300,000 farming and growing jobs. While many of these are more traditional roles, there is a trend of new roles becoming more prominent as people adapt and embrace the new innovation and research that is helping the industry evolve. Recent research into the changing nature of the industry showed that the current workforce expects to not only see a rise in the number of people working on farm, but also more jobs will be specialist and managerial, with a focus on good business management and protecting the environment, it is important to recognise that, as an industry, agriculture also underpins a large proportion of the food and drink industry, which has a value £30billion in 2021, and that food and drink manufacturing is the UK's largest manufacturing sector.

The agriculture industry also supports a wide range of ancillary trades, such as advisors, nutritionists, vets, sales reps, engineers as well as companies that will require IT skills, data analysts, environmental scientist, logistics, procurement and research. The opportunities and progression really is endless in this sector

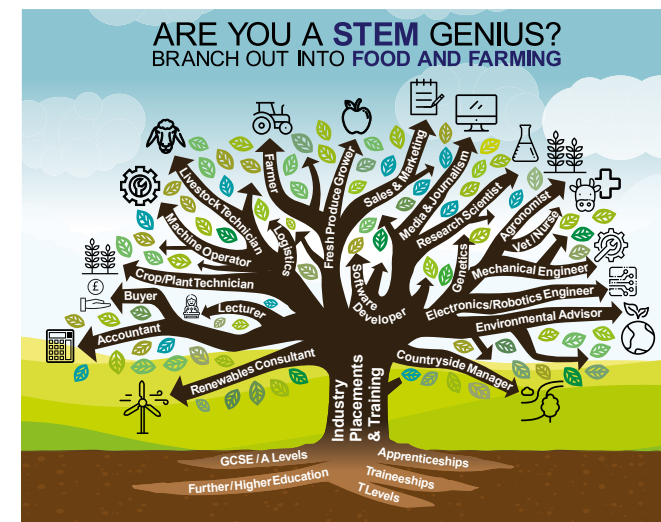


Image adapted from newangia.co.uk/skills

In 2022 the total income from farming rose to be £1.1 billion to £7.9 billion

In 2022, agriculture's contribution to the UK economy increased to £13.9 billion (0.62% of GDP)

Case Study

Meet Hattie Noble



A Livestock scanner who has recently completed one year as a sole trader running her own business.

What path did you follow to get here?

After graduating from Harper Adams with a degree in Agriculture with Animal Science, I took an opportunity to travel to New Zealand to work on a couple of farms over there. It enabled me to explore agriculture in another country and learn about the farming systems over there and how they differ from the systems we implement here.

On my return to the UK, I got a full time job working for JSR Farming on their Stabiliser unit near Pocklington. After 12 months I decided to become self-employed and train to ultrasound scan cattle. I'd noticed a lack of people providing the service in my area and thought it would be a good opportunity to work for myself.

What skills do you need for this job?

To be a livestock ultrasound scanner you really need to know how to work around stock and how to behave with them. It can be stressful for animals to go through a handling system so being calm and patient is a must.

A good knowledge of the reproductive system in farm animals helps a lot with the theory side of learning how to scan. You have to be approachable and have good communication skills to be able to talk to farmers and discuss your findings.

The job can be physically demanding so good fitness helps too.



Jobs and roles available in this sector

Pre-farm gate roles

General farm labourer
Farm manager

Poultry sector

Catcher
Hatchery operative
Poultry Farm Assistant
Breeder / Production Manager
Egg collector
Assistant Farm Manager

Pig sector

Fieldsperson
Unit manager
Breeding stocksperson
Finishing stocksperson

Arable sector

Farm manager (crops)
Harvest operations manager
Sprayer operator
Tractor driver
Crop technician
Agronomist

Cattle sector

Calf rearer
Milker
Herd manager
Senior herdsperson
Farm manager (livestock)
Breeding technician (AI technician)

Sheep sector

Sheep stocksperson (Shepherd)
Shearer

Horticulture sector

Horticultural production operative (protected planting)
Horticultural field operative
Irrigation technician
Growing manager
Market gardener

Associated pre-farm gate

Mobile dipper operator
Livestock scanner
Livestock hoof trimmer
Farm Secretary

Associated Industries

Machinery operator
Agricultural engineer
Forestry (Arboriculture)
Fencing installer / labourer
Ruminant nutritionists
Large animal veterinarians, nurses and assistants
Agricultural inspectors (Production workers, manager and supervisors)
Packhouse processing
QA Roles
Rural surveyors and land agents
Livestock auctioneer
Agroecologist
Sustainability advisors
Pest controller
Gamekeeper

Case Study

Meet Will Oliver

Will Oliver is a farmer from Leicestershire.

What do you do?

I run a 2000-acre owner arable farm, with a 180,000-broiler unit (birds reared for meat production), with my dad and younger brother. We are heavily diversified – we also have solar panels, a livery yard, an industrial unit, a fishing lake and a quarry.

Describe your career path so far:

I went to Harper Adams University where I got a degree in agriculture with crop management. I then did a placement year on a potato and onion farm in Essex, followed by four months in New Zealand with a farm business also growing potatoes and onions. I returned home and completed my BASIS and FACTS qualifications - essential agronomy qualifications - then took on more responsibility on the farm.

What is the best part about your job?

Definitely the variation – there is always something interesting and challenging to do!



Safety is paramount, here students are expertly supervised whilst learning the principles of safe heavy machinery operation.



Soft fruit moisture probe - Testing the quality of strawberries grown under protective tunnels – the adoption of new technology, new varieties and crop protection as extended the productive season of UK fruit to stretch from early spring to late autumn.



Harvest in the evening as the race to gather valuable crops gathers pace. Harvesting is a team game with combine drivers, tractor and trailers and the team in the stores working in harmony.

Case Study

Meet Flavian Obiero

Flavian is currently a tenant pig farmer in Hampshire who has enjoyed working with animals since he was young.



Describe your career path so far

I moved with my family from Kenya aged 15 when my dad got a job as a biomedical scientist in the NHS. As a young lad, I wanted to be a doctor, a vet and an executive chef. I finished my A-levels with Bs and Cs – not enough for vet school but I wanted to do a course involving animals so I applied for an Animal Science degree. Due to my lack of experience in animal work, I asked around different local farms for a placement and eventually landed a week's work experience on a farm in Hampshire and ended up doing a gap year there, learning about farming. I'd always had an affinity for animals from a young age so working on this farm sealed the deal for my career path. After university, I got a job as assistant pig unit manager at Plumpton College. I worked there for three years, where I improved my stockmanship and management skills then left to go to work as a commercial assistant for a feed company in Kent. The position of manager on the College farm came up in 2018 and, after a tough interview process, I got the job. I have now moved on to take on my own farming tenancy in Hampshire.

What advice you would give to others looking to follow a similar path?

Stick to your lane – everyone has their own career plan and moves at a different speed to achieve their goals. If you know what you want to do, keep moving forward and don't be put off or distracted by what others are doing.



Beehives and stewardship - Bees are a vital resource on many farms providing the means to fertilise fruit and vegetable crops. Hives, a common sight on farms, are often owned and managed by specialist beekeepers working in partnership with landowners.



Milking sheep - Tastes change and production must keep pace. Highly-productive sheep flocks provide specialist milk supply for the dairy industry.

Pathways into the sector

There is a wide selection of pathways into the farming and growing industry with opportunities including work experience, apprenticeships and degree level qualifications offered by colleges and universities across the country.

Qualification routes

There are opportunities to enter the farming and growing sectors at many ages and stages, but you can specialise as early as post 16 education with college courses available around the UK. These include a wide range of further education qualifications at levels 2 and 3 (GCSE and A-level equivalent) in areas such as Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Arboriculture, Land-based studies, Countryside Management, Animal Management and Animal Care. These courses are delivered in several different formats such as diplomas, extended diplomas, BTEC and Access to Higher Education courses.

Degree qualifications

To access a degree qualification (Level 5 and above) you will probably need a minimum of two A levels, with three A levels and A/B grades required for the most popular courses. Entry requirements for degree level qualifications vary, with universities and colleges most commonly asking for 3 C grades at A-level. Most degrees in this field ask for at least one science A level (biology is often required for degrees in animal science and veterinary nursing), with two preferred by many. It is vital that you check precise requirements with individual universities, as some will be more flexible around which subjects, they regard as a science.

Universities and colleges in the UK are offering degrees in the following subject areas that are likely to lead to careers in the sector. Education to this level can lead to both on and off farm roles. Post-farm gate destinations related to the farming and growing industries include jobs in the scientific research, technology development and engineering innovations that underpin the development of the sector: Animal science / Agriculture / Forestry and arboriculture / Food and beverage studies / Food science and nutrition / Agricultural sciences / Plant science / Environmental science

Some young people also enter the industry following the completion of more general degrees. These include geography, chemistry and biology, the content of which courses can be useful in this industry especially if supported by some relevant work experience. Students could even boost their skills by taking a sector specific master's qualification such as the University of Lincoln's Agri-Food Technology course taught over 12 months.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships provide the potential to 'earn while you learn' which sets them apart from many other qualifications for users. They are a great 'first step' into the industry, involving extensive on the job experience and the delivery of taught materials usually in a classroom setting.

They take between 12 and 36 months to complete, depending on the course and its assessment level. During an apprenticeship the development of practical skills and sector knowledge is likely to be monitored through a range of activities such as hands-on demonstrations, multiple choice online assessment and professional conversations.

There is a huge range of taught apprenticeships at levels from GCSE to degree equivalent available through various colleges across the UK. They include the following options amongst many others.

- General farm worker (Level 2)
- Poultry worker (Level 2)
- Crop technician (Level 3)
- Horticulture and landscape operative (Level 2)
- Horticulture and landscape supervisor (Level 3)
- Livestock unit technician (Level 3)
- Poultry technician (Level 3)
- Agriculture professional advisor apprenticeship (Level 6)

Salary information - on completion these qualifications will enable the holders to begin work on salaries of up to £25,000 per annum and the potential to progress quickly thereafter up to salaries in the region of £50,000 plus and benefits such as housing and works vehicles.

T-level in Agriculture, Land Management and production - Another post GCSE, Level 3 option starting in September 2023 is the T-level. Delivered over 2 years this qualification provides the core knowledge and skills required for entry to the industry alongside a minimum of 9 weeks of industry placement. Local requirements in terms of GCSE achievement required for entry apply.

Supporting/allied roles - the agriculture and horticulture sector also requires the input of a huge number of allied roles from other specialist industries such as accounting, law, banking, hospitality and HR.

Work experience - if your child wishes to try working in the sector before they commit, they might want to get some work experience. Many schools currently send their year 10 or sometimes year 12 students out on work experience, and many will have access to businesses in the industry. There are also opportunities at some larger agriculture/horticulture business such as Dyson Farming and JCB and summer offerings at some universities such as the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester.

Applying for roles - when your child gets to point of looking for a role in the industry and applying you can get help here too by looking at TIAH's careers information and employment toolkit online. <https://beta.tiah.org/employment-toolkit>

Mythbuster

Don't be held back from exploring a career in farming or growing by outdated beliefs about the industry. Our mythbuster describes what working in agriculture and horticulture is really about.

Myth 1

You need to be from a farming background to work in agriculture and horticulture

This may have been the case in the past but not today! Forward-thinking farm and horticulture businesses are keen to consider anyone eager to learn and with a passion for how our food is produced.

As the industry rises to big challenges like feeding a growing population and tackling climate change, there's a need for talented people who can bring new thinking, knowledge, skills and experience, whether practical or academic.

Myth 2

You need to live in the countryside

The reality is many agriculture and horticulture businesses are based in the countryside, but this is not necessarily a barrier. Some farm businesses offer accommodation with certain jobs.

But there are also opportunities if you live in a town or a city. 'Urban' food production is a rapidly growing area and indoor farming, known as Controlled Environment Agriculture, is starting to make its mark across the UK. More jobs will become available in this area in the near future.

Myth 3

Farming damages the environment

Farmers and growers face the huge task of feeding an ever-growing population while repairing and boosting the countryside and nature.

It's true that agriculture and horticulture can have significant impacts on the environment, such as those on soil health, water and air. But while there can be negative impacts, farming and growing is also a big part of the solution. For example, harmful greenhouse gases can be 'trapped' within crops and soils. Also, innovative approaches to fertiliser and pesticide use have vastly reduced negative effects on wildlife and water quality.

Myth 4

Farming has low standards of animal welfare

British farming standards are amongst the highest in the world and British farmers sign up to a range of higher welfare standards such as being RSPCA assured, the Red Tractor Scheme, the Lion Mark (for eggs) and The Soil Association's organic standard which applies to both crops and livestock.

Myth 5

Farming is old-fashioned and low-tech

Visit a modern farm or horticulture business today and you are very likely to see a range of data-driven technology in use. This might include a drone which allows a farmer to detect weeds within a crop, a GPS-enabled tractor that can steer itself, robots that milk cows and pick or pack soft fruit, or livestock sensors which enable a farmer or vet to detect and treat an illness at the earliest possible stage.

Myth 6

The pay is low and the hours are long

As in any industry, the pay in farming and growing varies depending on the job, but you will find that many roles offer a good salary, especially as you gain more experience and progress your career.

The hours depend on the job. In some roles, there are times in the farming calendar when the hours might be long or unsociable, but employers in agriculture and horticulture are now more aware that it is possible to offer a regular or even bespoke working pattern in order to attract the best employees.

Myth 7

There's no opportunity for career progression or innovative career pathways

There is a huge variety of exciting jobs in farming and growing, and endless opportunities for an exciting career where you can grow your skills and experience and make a real difference to people and the planet.

You can enter the farming industry at any level – such as through work experience or an apprenticeship; following a college or university course; or by having relevant skills from working in another industry.



Find out more about just some of the careers available in [TIAH's job profiles](#)

FIND YOUR NEXT JOB THROUGH AN APPRENTICESHIP

Lifetime Training, the UK's largest apprenticeship provider, could help you secure your next job.

If you are looking for your first role, are keen to change careers or can bring your skills and experience to an organisation, then an apprenticeship could be perfect for you.

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

- Work-based training programme, where you learn on the job
- Earn a wage whilst you learn
- Gain new skills and grow in confidence and ability
- Be supported by a trainer, as well as a mentor in your organisation
- Gain a nationally recognised qualification

WE OFFER APPRENTICESHIPS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Health & Social Care
- NHS Trusts and Hospitals
- Public Sector & Civil Service
- Childcare and Education
- Business & Professional Services
- Customer Service
- Hospitality
- Retail
- Fitness and Active Leisure



Scan here to see opportunities in your area

You can register online for job alerts and updates!

Check our website for CV writing and interview tips!



SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



Choosing a Career in Childcare



There are many reasons to choose a career working with children and there are a variety of jobs within the childcare sector. From working in a nursery with lots of children, to being a self-employed childminder looking after children in your own home, if you love the idea of working with children, there will be the ideal role for you.

Working in the childcare sector can be extremely rewarding but also challenging. Some of the benefits include having the opportunity to teach something new to children and seeing them develop from babies to young people. You will build amazing relationships and have the opportunity to earn money from doing something you enjoy. The hours can be really flexible and the joy of seeing children's faces when they have achieved a new skill is priceless.

What can you do?

There are many different careers under the umbrella term of Childcare. Here are just some of the examples of different roles within the childcare sector:

Working in a non-domestic setting

Play Worker - This can include roles such as working in out of school clubs, breakfast clubs, after school clubs or holiday play schemes. Within these roles you could be working in a school, community centre or leisure centre.

Teaching Assistant - Working to assist teachers with students, a teaching assistant is a rewarding role in a school environment. Previous experience in childcare, play work or youth work may be an advantage.

Nursery Assistant - Just like children, no two nurseries are the same. So whether they're part of a large chain, or a small, independent set up, nurseries and their staff work together to provide a high quality childcare and early learning experience for all the children they care for.

Working in a home-based environment

Childminder - This is someone who looks after children in their own home and is self-employed. Childminders are qualified professionals and must be registered with Ofsted or a childminding agency. They will deliver the Early Years Statutory Framework (EYFS) to those of early years age but may also care for older children as well as part of wraparound care. Childminders must stick to a certain number of children that they can care for (ratio and the hours can be varied).

Nanny - This is where you look after a child or children in their family home. It is optional to be registered or not and you do not necessarily need formal qualifications however families may specify that they would prefer someone with a childcare qualification or experience.

The Professional Association for Childcare and Early years (PACEY) offers membership and insurance to support you throughout your career. You can access exclusive resources, monthly live events, three support helplines, get free advertising and more - www.pacey.org.uk/join



“The most rewarding part of my role is watching children develop and grow.”

Robert, Nursery Worker, South East London

“You watch them grow and blossom in different ways and it is an amazing feeling to be part of making that happen. One of the great benefits of working in home-based childcare is there is no commute. I also now work with my partner”

Maisie Collins of Maisie Poppins Childcare

Skills

High quality childcare, play opportunities and early education are crucial for young children to get the best possible start in life and working with children can be an incredibly rewarding experience. If you love being with children, are dedicated to keeping them safe and happy, and are interested in educating and stimulating them to prepare for later life then a career in childcare could be perfect for you.

Childcare professionals play a vital role in supporting, inspiring and laying the foundation for all-round development in children's formative years and preparing them for adulthood. The work of childcare professionals has a far reaching impact. Recognising the importance of play in supporting children's social and emotional development and creativity, childcare professionals enable children to be resilient and prepare them for the range of transitions in their lives.

There are many skills that are important when considering a career in childcare and also many skills that you will gain along the way. A sense of fun, energy, imagination, empathy and patience are all key skills you'll need to work with children in any setting.

In addition to this, a good level of written and spoken English is crucial along with the ability to be a good communicator and active listener.

All kinds of people work in early years and childcare. Children need a variety of positive role models and good influences. School leavers and students, adults of all ages, people from all cultures and backgrounds, men and women - with or without previous experience - all play an important part.



Pathways and qualifications

Completing a qualification in childcare will help you to understand more about your role and the environment you work in, enhancing the service you provide to children and their families.

The benefits of gaining a childcare qualification include:

- More opportunities for professional development and career progression, such as moving into more senior or specialist roles
- A greater sense of confidence in your professional knowledge and skills
- Increased satisfaction and fulfilment from your work.

It can be possible to work in childcare without a childcare qualification, although more and more settings ask for qualified staff. There are lots of childcare qualifications available in the UK.

Whether you want to set up as a childminder running your own business; manage a nursery; specialise in caring for children with additional needs; or work as a nanny, there are training and professional development opportunities that will support you on this journey.

Vocational qualifications, training and apprenticeships

Level 2 or 3 qualification in childcare

You can complete this online, through your local college or on the job

Higher education

If you've already gained a level 3 qualification, you might want to consider going on to complete a degree in childcare and early years

Early years teaching

Are you interested in becoming an early year's teacher in England? To train as an early year's teacher, you need a degree and at least a GCSE C grade (or equivalent) in English, maths and science. You'll also need to pass the professional skills tests in numeracy and literacy.

Then, you'll then need to complete your early year's initial teacher training (ITT) and demonstrate that you've met the Teachers' Standards (Early Years).

Preparing to work in home-based childcare (HBCA) Specifically aimed at those who want to become a childminder or nanny, doing PACEY's HBCA is a great way to help you begin a career in home-based childcare. It covers how to work with children effectively and manage your business. It also comes with three months free PACEY membership.

Apprenticeships

Working with children and young people is an increasingly popular area for apprentices.

You could be an apprentice teacher, teaching assistant, childminding assistant or early years educator, playing a vital role in enabling children to get the most out of education in a school or nursery setting.

Apprenticeships can also involve particular specialisms in areas like music or working with pupils with special educational needs or challenging behaviour, helping them to overcome barriers to learning and fulfil their potential.

"Nannying is great because children have the reassurance and familiarity of their own home, so transitions are purely about building a trusting relationship with me. One of the most rewarding elements is watching children grow and develop."

Angie Ellis, Nanny Buckinghamshire



If you want to find out more about working in childcare, here are some useful links;

Childminder support - <https://www.pacey.org.uk/childminders>

Working in home-based childcare award (HBCA) - www.pacey.org.uk/HBCA

Nursery support - www.pacey.org.uk/nurseries

Nanny support - www.pacey.org.uk/nannies

Find out more about PACEY membership - www.pacey.org.uk/join

www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-qualifications-finder

www.gov.uk/government/publications/find-a-free-level-3-qualification/list-of-free-level-3-qualifications-available-to-eligible-adults

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/teaching-assistant

www.cache.org.uk/our-qualifications-and-services/playwork

UCAS APPLICATION KEY DATES

With changes being made to 2024 undergraduate applications, see below all the essential dates that you may require awareness of throughout the process:

5 September 2023

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS.

2 October 2023

Closing date for conservatoires music applications.

16 October 2023

Applications for Oxford, Cambridge and most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time).

31 January 2024

Applications for the majority of undergraduate courses should arrive at UCAS by 18:00 (UK time) on the equal consideration date.

Closing date for most conservatoires dance/drama/musical theatre applications.

28 February 2024

Extra opens. If your child has used all five choices and is not holding an offer, they can add another choice using Extra.

30 June 2024

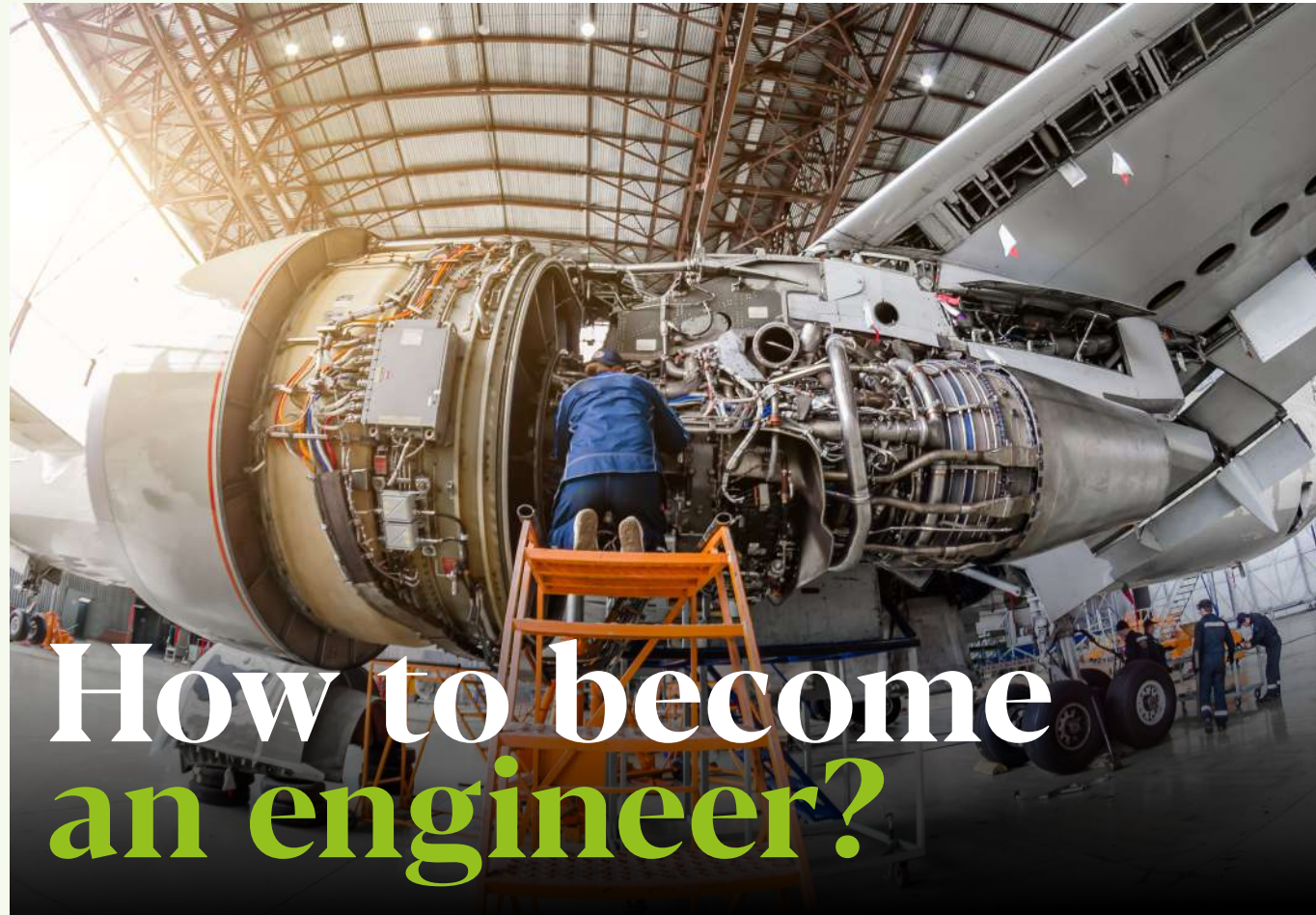
Last date for receipt of applications with choices. Applications received after this deadline are automatically entered into Clearing. 18:00 (UK time)

4 July 2024

Extra closes.

5 July 2024

Clearing opens, and vacancies are shown in the UCAS search tool.



Becoming an engineer is a rewarding and fulfilling journey that opens the door to a wide range of career opportunities.

Are you curious about the exciting world of engineering? Imagine designing cutting-edge technology, building sustainable infrastructure, or finding innovative solutions to real-world challenges. If you're ready to embark on a rewarding journey, join us as we explore the steps to becoming an engineer.

From choosing your path to reaping the rewards, we've got you covered as we explore:



Working hours
38 hours



Average salary
£46,280



Projected growth
42.6%

Source: Careerometer

Engineering roles

Engineering is like a puzzle where science meets creativity to create a better world. In the UK, this dynamic field offers a range of specialisations. Are you fascinated by towering structures? Consider civil engineering. Passionate about machines? Mechanical engineering might be your calling. The key is to find the field that sparks your interest and aligns with your strengths. Let's dive into how you can become a part of this innovative world:



Aerospace Engineering: Aerospace engineering is all about taking flight. Whether it's designing aircraft that soar through the skies or spacecraft that venture into outer space, aerospace engineers make the seemingly impossible a reality. From propulsion systems to aerodynamics, these engineers push the boundaries of what's achievable, enabling us to explore new horizons and understand the universe in ways we never thought possible.

Biomedical Engineering: Biomedical engineering is where engineering meets medicine. These engineers apply their skills to improve healthcare outcomes by designing medical devices, equipment, and technologies. From creating prosthetics that enhance quality of life to developing advanced imaging systems for accurate diagnoses, biomedical engineers bridge the gap between science and healthcare, making a profound impact on people's well-being.

Civil Engineering: Civil engineering is all about creating the physical infrastructure that shapes our lives. Think about the bridges that connect us, the roads we drive on, the buildings we live and work in, and even the water supply systems that keep our cities running smoothly. Civil engineers are the masterminds behind these structures, ensuring they are safe, efficient, and sustainable. From towering skyscrapers to intricate underground tunnels, civil engineers make our modern world possible.

Chemical Engineering: Chemical engineering is about taking raw materials and turning them into valuable products that enrich our lives. Whether it's designing processes for manufacturing pharmaceuticals, creating efficient food production systems, or developing eco-friendly materials. They combine scientific knowledge with creativity to drive innovation and sustainability.

Electrical Engineering: Ever wonder how electricity flows through our homes, or how your smartphone works its magic? Enter electrical engineering. These engineers delve into the study of electricity, electronics, and electromagnetism to create and maintain the systems that power our modern world. From designing circuit boards to developing renewable energy solutions, electrical engineers are at the heart of technological advancements that shape our daily lives.

Environmental Engineering: Environmental engineering is a hot topic in today's world. As we face pressing environmental challenges, these engineers step in to design sustainable solutions. They work on projects related to waste management, pollution control, renewable energy systems, and more. Environmental engineers play a crucial role in ensuring that our actions today protect and preserve the planet for future generations.

Mechanical Engineering: Mechanical engineering is like a symphony of moving parts. Imagine designing powerful machines, intricate devices, and cutting-edge systems that make life easier and more efficient. Mechanical engineers are the creators of innovation, working on everything from manufacturing processes to robotics. If you're fascinated by the mechanics of how things work and enjoy problem-solving, mechanical engineering is your gateway to a world of endless possibilities.

Material Engineering: Materials engineering is the hidden hero behind the scenes, playing a pivotal role in shaping our world through the discovery, design, and development of new materials. This field combines the principles of chemistry, physics, and engineering to create substances with specific properties and functionalities.

Nuclear Engineering: Nuclear engineering harnesses the immense energy released by nuclear reactions for various applications. This field is critical for generating electricity through nuclear power plants, as well as for medical and industrial purposes. Nuclear engineers ensure the safe utilization of nuclear technology, including radiation therapy for cancer treatment and non-destructive testing of materials. Their work revolves around controlling and harnessing nuclear energy for beneficial purposes.

Software Engineering: In today's digital age, software engineering is the backbone of our technological landscape. Software engineers create, develop, and maintain the software applications that power our devices, from smartphones to complex systems. They write the code that enables us to communicate, work, play, and explore in the digital realm. If you're passionate about technology and innovation, software engineering offers an exciting path to shape the digital future.

Education Pathways

To become an engineer in the UK, there are a number of paths you can take! Subjects like Mathematics and Physics are your best allies. They'll help you build a solid foundation for your engineering studies. Whether you're looking for A Levels, an Apprenticeship, University, Access Courses, Graduate Schemes or Postgraduate Study, each one will help get you ready for the exciting challenges ahead.

School & College Leavers

Work Experience

Gaining relevant work experience is a great route for aspiring engineers to take. It not only enhances your understanding of the field but also provides valuable insights into real-world applications of engineering concepts. Some of the UK's largest employers offer engineering work experience such as BAE Systems, British Airways, Royal Mail, National Grid, as well as others. Many smaller companies will also offer engineering work experience so make sure to ask around!

A Levels

If you're aspiring to become an engineer, choosing A Level subjects that provide a strong foundation in mathematics and science is crucial. A Level subjects such as Mathematics and Physics are highly relevant to engineering disciplines and will equip you with the necessary analytical and problem-solving skills.

Many universities in the UK require specific A Level subjects for engineering degrees. For example, to study mechanical engineering, universities might require A Levels in Mathematics and Physics. Each university is different so be sure to check the entry requirements beforehand.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships combine work experience with formal education, allowing you to earn while you learn. They are available at various levels, from advanced apprenticeships to degree apprenticeships.

Duration: Varies (typically 12 months-5 years depending on the qualification level)

To see the different apprenticeship standards available, you can search [The Institute for Apprenticeships](#).

A BEng Degree

A BEng degree provides a foundational understanding of engineering principles and typically lasts 3-4 years. It's suitable for those aiming to start their engineering career after college.

Your future self will thank you for making an informed decision!

Industry professional bodies for engineering

There are a wide range of industry professional bodies in the UK, specifically the engineering industry. These include:

Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET):

Whether you're interested in electrical, electronic or manufacturing engineering, the IET covers all. They offer a wide range of support from professional development, networking events, technical publications, and resources to help engineers advance their careers. It's like having a trusted friend by your side, cheering you on every step of the way!

Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE):

The IMechE offers support on mechanical engineering and creates a space where fellow engineers can come together to connect, learn, and share their wealth of knowledge.

Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE):

ICE stands out as a hub of excellence for civil engineers. It's like a friendly guide for those immersed in civil engineering. Whether you're crafting cityscapes, building bridges, or paving paths of transportation. Expect opportunities to sharpen your professional toolkit, and networking where connections spark.

Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS):

The Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) is a true haven for aerospace enthusiasts. Passionate professionals, whether they're designing groundbreaking aircraft or exploring the mysteries of space, come together.

The Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE):

CIBSE focuses on building services engineering, encompassing areas like HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning), lighting, and energy efficiency in building design and construction. The institution provides resources, training, and professional development for building services engineers.

Institution of Chemical Engineers (IChemE):

IChemE supports chemical engineers and professionals in process industries. It's a space where innovation thrives and skills are nurtured, creating a bridge towards success for those in the chemical engineering journey.

Institute of Structural Engineers (IStructE):

IStructE is the overarching body for structural engineering and provides resources and guidance for professionals involved in the design and construction of structures. The institute offers training, events, and technical publications.

The Institution of Engineering Designers (IED):

Supporting design professionals like engineers, product designers, and industrial designers through networking, training, and resources for those involved in various aspects of engineering design.

The Institute of Highway Engineers (IHE):

Dedicated to professionals working in the highways and transportation sector. You'll gain access to support, training, and professional development opportunities for engineers involved in road and transportation infrastructure.

Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB):

The ECITB is dedicated to the training and development of professionals in the engineering construction industry such as oil and gas, petrochemicals, power generation, and nuclear. The ECITB provides training programmes, qualifications, and apprenticeships that are tailored to the needs of the engineering construction sector.

Skills

Let's uncover the essential skills that'll make your journey through the world of engineering both thrilling and successful. From crunching numbers to thinking creatively, here's the ultimate checklist of skills you need to become an engineer:

1. Problem-Solving

Whether it's designing a bridge or optimising a manufacturing process, solving complex challenges and crafting ingenious solutions will be your superpower.



2. Maths whizz

Get ready to make friends with numbers. Engineers are masters of mathematics, using equations and formulas to model and analyse everything from fluid dynamics to structural stability. Say hello to your trusty allies, algebra and calculus!



3. Creative Innovators

Engineering isn't just about crunching data; it's about unleashing your inner inventor. Your ability to think creatively and come up with innovative solutions will set you apart in a world of constant technological evolution.



4. Attention to detail

From designing microchips to crafting intricate blueprints, your attention to detail ensures that every element aligns perfectly, leaving no room for errors.



5. Team work

Collaborating with fellow engineers, architects, and professionals from diverse fields is required as you work together to bring ideas to life.



6. Communication

Whether it's presenting a design concept to clients or collaborating with colleagues, your knack for clear communication will be your secret weapon.



7. Adaptable

Engineering landscapes shift constantly, so your ability to adapt and learn is vital. Whether it's a new software update or an unexpected project twist, you'll tackle challenges with grace.



TOP TIP!

Research, research, research!



Look into universities that offer the engineering program you're interested in. Consider factors like course content, industry connections, entry requirements and faculty expertise.

Task: Can you think of any examples where you've shown these skills?

Becoming an engineer is a fulfilling journey that involves dedication, education, and practical experience. Whether you're drawn to building bridges, designing cutting-edge technology, or solving complex problems, the engineering field offers a wide range of opportunities to explore and make a meaningful impact on the world.

A 7 Step Guide to Talking Careers With Your Teenager

Talking to teenagers about careers options can be a challenge, especially since the world of work is constantly changing. With technological changes, new emerging jobs and careers that don't even exist yet! It can often feel like a minefield trying to navigate the UK job market but we're here to help.



Step 1:

Ask your teenager what they enjoy at school or college

Subjects at school and college link to a whole host of careers. First off, ask your teenager what do they really enjoy studying? For example, do they have a love for maths and numbers? Perhaps a career in accountancy, software engineering or as a data analysis could be right up their street. Are they a wordsmith who loves writing? Careers in journalism, web content management or advertising could be the perfect match.

Ask your child to create a list of all the different subjects they study and give each one a rating 1-5, 1 being what they least like and 5 being their favourite. Then focus on their most enjoyable subjects and research careers related to them.

Step 3:

Suggest they do a psychometric test

Psychometric tests are a great way for your teenager to identify their skills, knowledge and personality. Some employers use them as part of their recruitment process too! There are lots of free psychometric tests that your teenager can find online to help them to learn more about themselves to support their career search.



Step 2:

Understand their strengths and weaknesses

Ask your teen to write a list of their strengths and weaknesses. Perhaps they are caring and a career in health and social care could be of interest. Maybe they are a tech whizz and would love to pursue a career in ICT. Or perhaps they are a fashion guru and a job in buying and merchandising could be the perfect fit for them.

Once your teen has created a list of their strengths, talk to them about careers that match well with their skillset. Additionally, look at your teens weaknesses and see which ones may need development if the skills is required for a career of interest to them.



Step 4:

Explain what opportunities are available to them in your area

If you're based in a rural area there is likely not to be as many opportunities available on the doorstep. Talk to your teenager about what opportunities are available, such as agriculture, gamekeeping etc and if they are interested in a particular career that means travelling outside of their hometown they understand the time involved travelling.

Step 5:

Encourage your teenager to carry out research

Research is essential to helping your teenager to discover what an industry is really like. They should think about the average salary, working hours, types of roles and responsibilities they'll have, industry growth projections and the entry requirements. Does the role require a degree? Can it be entered via the degree apprenticeship route or is traditional university a necessity? Answering these questions will help your teen to understand their next steps. Careerometer is a great starting point: <https://careermap.co.uk/careerometer/>



Step 7:

Encourage them to speak to their school or college careers team

Your teenager should make use of their school or college careers team, they can help your teen to:

- Develop their CV
- Understand the job market
- Identify skills
- Discover various career paths
- Connect you with employers

If your teenager knows what they want to do, they can search and apply for opportunities on Careermap.



Step 6:

Encourage your teenager to apply for work experience

Think of work experience as a try before you commit. It's a great opportunity for your teen to learn about what an industry is really like and the roles and responsibilities that they could undertake. Work experience will help your teenager to:

- Develop transferable skills and further develop skills they already possess
- Confirm if they are actually interested in a particular career or decide if it's not for them
- Build confidence in a workplace environment
- Bring careers to life
- Impress future employers and show their commitment to the world of work
- Makes a UCAS personal statement stand out from the crowd by showing evidence of being interested in a specific subject/industry

For further information on work experience, read our go to guide: <https://careermap.co.uk/why-take-up-work-experience/>



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