



## The A to Z of Careers

### Accountancy

- Useful subjects include economics, maths, accountancy, business studies and ICT.
- You will need to research the area of accountancy that you would be interested in, for example: financial, managerial, industry and commerce, auditing and assurance services, tax, Government, non-profit and private practice.

#### There are several different routes into accountancy

1. **Academic** – school (GCSE maths, English and 3 others) – college (3 A levels, normally maths, accountancy, business or other related subjects) - university (these will have different entry requirements so you will need to do research (look on [www.ucas.co.uk](http://www.ucas.co.uk)) - work.
2. **Vocational** – school (GCSE maths, English and 3 others) – College (vocational qualifications like AAT at Levels 2 and 3) - university or work.
3. **Work based** – Apprenticeships working your way up to complete a higher or degree apprenticeship within a company.

[www.accountancyage.com](http://www.accountancyage.com)   [www.aat.org.uk](http://www.aat.org.uk)   [www.accaglobal.com](http://www.accaglobal.com)   <https://www.icaew.com/>  
[www.accountancycareers.co.uk](http://www.accountancycareers.co.uk)



### Air Cabin Crew

While there are no set qualifications many airlines would prefer GCSEs in English and maths at grade 4 to 9. Other qualifications which would help include modern languages, travel and tourism, customer service and first aid.



#### **Other requirements:**

- Experience of customer service type roles.
  - To be at least 18 (21 for some airlines).
  - A good level of fitness and the ability to swim.
  - Normal colour vision.
  - A valid passport with no restrictions for the countries the airline travels to.
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- Most airlines require you to be no shorter than 5ft 2in and no taller than 6ft 3in. This applies to both men and women. This is for safety, as you will be required to reach equipment that is carried on board the aircraft.

- You'll also need clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for airline security.

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/air-cabin-crew>

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/air-cabin-crew>

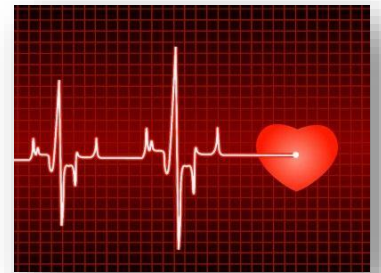
[www.careerthatmove.co.uk](http://www.careerthatmove.co.uk)

## Ambulance Service

To practise as a paramedic, you must be registered with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). To register with the HCPC, you first need to successfully complete an approved qualification in paramedic science.

You will need to:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have two years' driving experience with a clean, Category 1 UK licence.
- Employers may also expect you to have some relevant experience.



There are different routes to studying and qualifying as a paramedic.

1. You can take a **full-time approved qualification in paramedic science** at a university, then apply to an ambulance service fully qualified.
2. You can become a student paramedic and study while you work.
3. Apply for a **degree standard apprenticeship** in paramedic science with an ambulance service trust

**Full-time route** - several universities and a few other providers offer approved foundation degrees or degrees. To do one of these, you will need:

- Five GCSEs (grade 4 to 9), including English language, maths and science.
- 3 A levels for the degree route or 2 A levels for the foundation degree route including a science subject, a BTEC, HND or HNC which includes science content or a health / science- based access course.
- You will be expected to have some relevant experience in healthcare or first aid, either voluntary or paid e.g. St John Ambulance or The Red Cross.
- Most universities expect applicants to hold a full UK Category 1 driving licence by the time they attend the interview stage of the application process.

**Student paramedics** - Most student paramedic schemes only recruit once a year or every two years. The recruitment process often involves several stages. You may be asked to attend an assessment centre, which might include interviews, English and maths tests, problem solving tasks, a fitness assessment, and a practical driving task. You will need:

- At least five GCSEs, grade 4 or above, including English, maths and science or equivalent.
- A good level of physical fitness.

**Degree Apprenticeships** - To get onto a degree apprenticeship, you will need to apply for an apprentice position with an ambulance service trust. There are not many vacancies and competition is very high. These are normally advertised on the NHS Jobs website and Find an Apprenticeship website.

[www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk)

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)

[www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk](http://www.collegeofparamedics.co.uk)

## Architecture



Ideally you should have a broad secondary education encompassing a mix of creative and science subjects. It is not necessary to have studied art, but evidence of freehand drawing and design may be required.

- GCSE maths and English at grade 5 and above.
- Some universities may require maths or science at A level.

**It takes a minimum of 7 years to qualify as an Architect.**

- **Part 1** - an approved first degree in architecture, which typically takes three or four years.
- **Stage 1**- practical experience - usually 12 months of supervised and recorded professional experience.
- **Part 2** - two years of further study for a diploma, further degree or master's degree in architecture. The name of the course varies from school to school e.g. BArch, Diploma, and MArch. At this time, you will still be regarded as an undergraduate in the architectural education process.
- **Stage 2** - practical experience - a minimum of a further 12 months of supervised and recorded professional experience, to make up the 24 months required to sit the Part 3 examination.
- **Part 3** - an examination in professional practice and management, which students may take on completion of the above.

There is now an architectural **apprenticeship standard**, but you will still need to find an employer willing to take you on as an apprentice. This takes 8 years and is made up of two parts:

- Architectural Assistant (Level 6) includes Part 1 (4 years)
- Architect (Level 7) includes Part 2 & Part 3 (4 years)

Entry requirements vary, so check these with course providers directly. You will also usually need a portfolio of your drawings, sketches and photographs to get onto a course. The "Think Architecture" booklet on the **architecture.com** website is very useful. Alternative careers include architectural technologist, technician or structural engineers.

[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)    [www.arb.org.uk](http://www.arb.org.uk)

<https://www.architecture.com/-/media/files/Education/Think-Architecture-PDF.pdf>

## Armed Forces

British Army, Royal Navy, Marines or Royal Air Force

- Numerous trades and therefore many different entry requirements.
- Useful subjects can include public services, sport, science, law, history, maths, engineering and English.



- You need to be able to demonstrate fitness, team working, leadership, problem solving skills, discipline and the ability to stay calm under pressure.
- Need to research medical and fitness requirements, as you will be expected to pass a swim and fitness test, plus a medical prior to joining.
- Should be happy to travel and stay away from home for long periods of time.
- Could enter many trades in the ranks straight from school or college. It is also possible to enter after qualifying in a specific profession such as medicine.
- Extra activities such as cadets, guides, scouts, first aid or doing voluntary work will also help your application.

[www.army.mod.uk](http://www.army.mod.uk)

<https://www.raf.mod.uk/recruitment/roles/>

[www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/joining](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/careers/joining)

## Art and Design



Creative industries include fashion, design, publishing, advertising, film & TV, cultural heritage, games and music.

- Useful subjects include art, textiles, design, computer design, maths, graphics, photography, English and history of art.
- Very competitive area. Entrants should be able to demonstrate creative flair and the ability to work at speed under pressure.
- You will need to be able to accept criticism and learn from it.
- Better career prospects with a relevant HND or degree qualification.
- Some **apprenticeship** opportunities available in certain areas like graphic and web design.
- Must build a portfolio of work and for some degree courses the Foundation Diploma in Art & Design may be required.

<http://www.designdirectory.co.uk/fas.htm>

<https://www.ccskills.org.uk/>

<https://targetcareers.co.uk/career-sectors/arts-and-creative>

## Business Studies

- Related subjects include economics, maths, languages, ICT, and business administration.
- You can also mix business studies with every other industry sector, to give you another element to your career, for example art or photography, sport or languages.
- There are many opportunities in business, but to increase your success in this industry work experience will help.



- Popular areas of employment for business and management graduates include: HR, finance, marketing, procurement, PR and sales. Check out apprenticeship opportunities in these areas.
- Careers in consultancy are another option. Consultants can specialise in a range of fields which includes strategic, project management, IT, HR and business process management.

[www.breakintobusiness.com](http://www.breakintobusiness.com) [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

## Childcare

- Roles in childcare can include nanny, child-minder, nursery practitioner, pre-school assistant, playgroup assistant, nursery supervisor, nursery nurse, pre-school manager, playgroup leader, nursery manager, or early years teachers. Opportunity to get into this sector through an **apprenticeship** route.



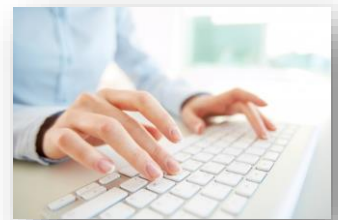
- GCSEs in English and maths at grade 4 to 9 would be an advantage. (Science is needed for primary teaching).
- Useful subjects include early years level 2 and 3, health and social care, psychology and sociology.
- HE courses are available in Childhood Studies or Early Years Education as well as T Levels in Childcare and Education

[www.pacey.org.uk](http://www.pacey.org.uk) [www.cache.org.uk](http://www.cache.org.uk)

[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

## Computers

- Many job roles in this sector including web developer, IT security specialist, health information technician, software engineer, cyber security or game designer.
- The most compatible subjects include maths, science, business studies, electronics, graphics, ICT, art and design.
- There are opportunities to enter this field from school via an **apprenticeship**, after college as an apprentice or after completing an HND or degree. More opportunities are open to those who have relevant degrees and HNDs.
- Higher and degree apprenticeships are available in this industry.
- Need analytical, technical and commercial skills.
- Work experience is also very useful.



<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/job-profiles/> <http://www.bcs.org.uk>

[www.thetechpartnership.com](http://www.thetechpartnership.com) [www.cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk](http://www.cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk)

## Counselling



- Useful subjects include sociology, psychology, health and social care, philosophy and religious studies.
- No specific entry requirements, but clients are more likely to choose a counsellor who holds a recognised qualification.
- Degrees in social sciences, psychology or human sciences may be useful (but not essential).
- Competition for full-time paid work is strong. Unpaid/voluntary work or combination of paid and voluntary is common.
- Many people enter a counselling career later in life after working in areas like social work, nursing or teaching. These roles help to develop the required personal skills and qualities, for example a non-judgemental attitude, active listening, tolerance and the ability to work with people from a variety of backgrounds. Disclosure and Barring background checks required.

[www.bacp.co.uk](http://www.bacp.co.uk)

## Dentistry

- Applicants need a minimum of 3 A levels, normally chemistry and at least 1 from biology, physics or maths. High grades are expected usually A\*AA to ABB.
- High grade GCSE passes are essential i.e. 7-9 grades.
- Some universities also expect applicants to have successfully completed the UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test) entrance test that can be taken between July and October towards end of first year of A levels and start of second year.
- There are sixteen dental schools in the UK of which two require graduate entry, so competition for places for the 5- year bachelor's degree is fierce. Some universities offer a 6-year option for those lacking science A levels.
- Dental schools expect all applicants to have had work experience in a dental practice.
- UCAS closing date for applications for dentistry is the 15<sup>th</sup> October; only 4 out of the 5 choices can be used for dentistry degree courses.
- Consider dentistry-related apprenticeships - Dental Nurse, Dental Technician, Dental Laboratory Assistant.



[www.bda.org](http://www.bda.org)   [www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk)   [www.gdc-uk.org](http://www.gdc-uk.org)   [www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)



## Engineering



- Useful GCSE and A level subjects include maths, physics, chemistry, resistant materials, ICT, business, design and technology.
- There are also many level 2, 3 and 4 vocational qualifications in engineering, which offer a more practical option but can still lead to university or work.
- There are many types of engineering including mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, economic, aeronautical, marine and aerospace – applicants need to start thinking about which type they want to do or apply to study a general engineering course that offers experience in different areas.
- This career can be entered at 16 or 18 after school or college through an **apprenticeship**. Apprentices can now work their way up to a degree level apprenticeship depending on the employer.
- Sponsorship opportunities for degree study are sometimes available in engineering.
- Engineering and maintenance engineering are two different careers: plumbers, electricians, gas fitters and mechanics all come under maintenance engineers. This can get confusing when applying for work, so research each opportunity/course carefully.

<http://semta.org.uk>

[www.theiet.org](http://www.theiet.org)

[www.tomorrowengineers.org.uk](http://www.tomorrowengineers.org.uk)

## Events Management

Also see wedding planner, conference and banqueting manager.

- No set requirements or definite career path into this growing area of work.
- There are many degree courses available in events management. With a good general education, you may be able to start at assistant level in marketing, or events management and work your way up. **Apprenticeships** are available for those who wish to train through a work- based route.
- Useful subjects include leisure studies, business, travel and tourism, ICT and hospitality management.



[www.hospitalityguild.co.uk](http://www.hospitalityguild.co.uk)

[www.aeo.org.uk](http://www.aeo.org.uk)

## The Fire Service



- The minimum age is 18.
  - You may need GCSE maths and English at grade 9-4 depending on the fire service you want to join (recruitment is done regionally, not centrally). You'll need to pass a series of physical and written tests, a medical and an interview.
  - You will need good eyesight and cannot be colour blind.
- Preferably applicants to hold a full driving licence (minimum class B manual).
  - You will undergo background security checks.
  - Local community involvement is encouraged.

### Other requirements – you need to:

- Be confident working at heights and in enclosed spaces.
- Be happy working outdoors in any weather.
- Have the resolve to get the job done despite challenges and obstacles.
- Be happy to work a shift system including nights and weekends.
- Be confident to engage with people in your local community.
- Be able to deal sensitively with people in difficult and emotional situations.
- Be able to work under pressure to support your colleagues.
- Be prepared to follow instructions from others and think on your feet to solve problems.
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[www.hantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.hantsfire.gov.uk) <http://www.cfoa.org.uk> [www.dwfire.org.uk](http://www.dwfire.org.uk) [www.westsussex.gov.uk](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk)

## Games Technology

- Roles include computer games designer, programmer, producer, technical artist, sound designer and quality assurance technician/tester.
- Useful subjects include ICT, computing, art and design, graphics, maths, media studies, media production, English and creative media technology.
- Designers need to be creative and imaginative with drawing and 3-D design skills. They will normally need a degree in related subjects and some employers will prefer A-levels as opposed to vocational qualifications.
- Programmers need to be highly skilled in C ++ programming, with excellent problem- solving skills. They may study computer games programming, software development or games technology. Some study general programming or maths, then later specialise in games design.
- Testers need excellent written and spoken communication skills, persistence, patience, an analytical and methodical way of working, willing to play games for long periods and to be good



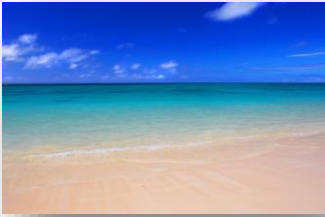


team players. Knowledge of programming is useful and some employers prefer candidates who have a degree in computing or related subjects.

- This is a very competitive market and many graduates will diversify into other industries or set up their own businesses.

<https://www.screenskills.com/> [www.tiga.org](http://www.tiga.org) [www.thetechpartnership.com](http://www.thetechpartnership.com)

## Holiday Representative



- Employers usually require previous customer service, administrative or sales experience.
  - It would be an advantage to have GCSE grade 4 to 9 in English, maths, geography or a foreign language.
  - Useful subjects include travel and tourism, leisure studies, foreign languages, geography, customer service and business or business studies.
  - Many jobs require representatives to be at least 20 years old.
- A first aid certificate would be useful.
  - Children's representatives normally need a minimum of 6 to 12 months practical experience looking after children, a childcare qualification and must undergo checks through the disclosure and barring service (DBS).

[www.careersintravel.co.uk](http://www.careersintravel.co.uk) [www.people1st.co.uk](http://www.people1st.co.uk)

<https://careers.ba.com/work-experience>

## Journalism

- Different areas of journalism including newspaper, broadcast and magazine.
  - Useful subjects include English, ICT, media, history, photography and subjects relevant to journalistic interest i.e. sport, music, fashion etc.
  - Mainly a graduate profession (80% of entrants).
  - Some employers look for a degree, postgraduate qualification or MA in broadcasting, radio, multi-media, TV or online journalism.
  - Alternatively, you can do a degree in another area, then a post graduate degree in journalism or an NCTJ course. Some organisations offer fast-track options for those changing careers or who have previously graduated from university e.g. Highbury College
- <https://www.highbury.ac.uk/diploma/nctj-diploma-in-journalism-fast-track-157azmuj/>
- **Apprenticeships** are available and apprentice journalists study towards the NCTJ Level 3 Diploma in Journalism which takes around 18 months to achieve.



- Very competitive field, so evidence of relevant work experience is essential. This could be involvement in a school/college magazine production.
- Students should build a portfolio of work to demonstrate their interest and ability, in the same way that art students will.
- Employers will look for any interest in current affairs and evidence of an interest in people places and events. Shorthand, keyboard and desktop publishing skills are also useful too.

[www.bjtc.org.uk](http://www.bjtc.org.uk) [www.nctj.com](http://www.nctj.com) <https://creativeskillset.org/> [www.pressgazette.co.uk/](http://www.pressgazette.co.uk/)  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/academy> <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/magazine-journalist>

## Languages



- French, Spanish, German, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese etc.
- Many different career areas including interpreter, translator, teacher of English as a foreign language and bilingual secretary. Also careers where language is useful include journalism, cabin crew, army officer, travel agent, tourist information, hotel work, the diplomatic service and business.
- Interpreting is the transfer of one spoken or signed language, to another. It is a specialist skill and, in most cases, you need specialist training and qualifications to work at a professional level.
- Translation is the process of transferring written text from one language into another. There are no set entry requirements, but a translation qualification is preferred by most of employers. Specialisation in a subject matter is very valuable.
- Living, working or studying abroad to improve language skills would be an advantage. Most language degree courses include this option.

[www.itl.org.uk](http://www.itl.org.uk) [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org)

## Law

- Careers include barrister, solicitor, legal executive, legal secretary and paralegal.
- There are many different areas of law to work in, Business Civil rights, Criminal, Environmental, Family, Health and Immigration law.
- Ideally you would need at least two traditional academic subjects at A level i.e. maths, science, social science, English, foreign languages or humanities. No need to have A level law but you do need to demonstrate written and analytical skills.
- Most universities will accept vocational qualifications equivalent to 3 A levels in law or applied law, but it is important to investigate the entry requirements for each degree.
- Very competitive career area and academically rigorous.



- Entry requirements for many law degrees would be: five GCSEs + 3 A-levels or equivalents with high grades in academic subjects. Many universities also require applicants to sit the LNAT (Law National Aptitude Test).
- Students are also required to pass the character and suitability assessment set by the Solicitors Regulation Authority before they can become a solicitor.

This subject area has been criticised in the past for being “academically snobbish” as some law firms only recruit graduates with a minimum of 2:1 from a traditional university. To make legal professions more inclusive, the training route is changing in 2021.

**New route to become a Solicitor:** Students first need a three-year degree or equivalent (this does not have to be in law). Then the student would need to pass the new “Solicitor Qualifying Exams”. Unlike the previous training pathway these are not courses, they are a set of exams which the student is required to pass to become a solicitor. Universities are, at present, working on a course to run alongside these exams to help students prepare. Like the old system, students will still have to complete two years’ work experience before they qualify, but unlike the traditional training contract, this can now be split over placements with up to four firms/organisations. Other forms of experience e.g. volunteering in a law centre and work placements at university as part of a sandwich degree course, may also count toward the total experience needed to qualify.

**New route to becoming a Barrister:** There are 3 stages.

- **The academic stage** – an undergraduate law degree or any non-law degree plus a graduate law conversion. The minimum undergraduate requirement is a 2.2, but you are realistically likely to need at least a 2.1.
- **The vocational stage** – a postgraduate Bar course
- **The pupillage/work-based learning stage** – a year practising as a pupil barrister at a barristers’ chambers or other organisation, with the first six months spent shadowing a senior barrister and the second six working on cases as a junior.

In addition, prospective barristers must join one of the four “Inns of Court” which can be thought of like a school house group for barristers.

**Legal Apprenticeships** can now offer a route to qualifying as solicitors and barristers. Most employers look for applicants with three A levels at high grades (B or above). Competition for these positions are very high.

### Other legal careers

- You can become a **chartered legal executive**. To qualify you need to complete the CILEX Level 3 and 4 Professional Diploma in law and practice. Typically, both are done in conjunction with each other and will take four years. The chartered legal executive is a similar level as a solicitor, often able to do the same kind of work. They normally specialise in one area of law, and to become a full solicitor would need to pass further exams.
- Lastly you can also work as a **paralegal**. These are professionals who work in law firms but are not qualified as solicitors or chartered legal executives. They are able to do some but not all of the work of solicitors.

## Management



- Most subjects can be used as entry requirements, but the most useful are business, ICT, psychology, sociology, languages, maths, law or other academic subjects.
- Some opportunities exist for young people to enter junior management trainee positions, once they are 18 and after doing A-levels or vocational level 3 qualifications, particularly in retail management.
- Most management roles require applicants with higher level qualifications and experience in their chosen field. There are many degree courses available in management and several companies offer graduate management training schemes.
- Working your way up with a company through an **apprenticeship** or work is also a popular route. Apprenticeship standards in **aviation operations manager and associate project manager** are now available at Level 4.
- Evidence of relevant skills could be demonstrated through activities such as student union, D of E, college magazine/radio or voluntary work.

[www.i-l-m.com](http://www.i-l-m.com) [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

## Media Studies

- Relevant subjects include English, history, sociology, psychology, media, ICT.
- Many diverse careers within media – need to be clear about specific career interests.
- Need relevant work experience, such as college magazine or radio/drama productions/using technical media equipment.
- Very competitive career area. Must demonstrate commitment, persistence, determination and resourcefulness.
- For non-technical areas employers often are more interested in work experience than subjects studied.
- Digital, business, secretarial, IT and finance skills are very useful.
- Be prepared to start at the bottom, be badly paid, work 16-hour days and be engaged in short-term contracts when you start off.
- Need to think flexibly and be able to offer transferable skills and multi-skilling.

[www.screenskills.com](http://www.screenskills.com) [www.bbc.co.uk/jobs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/jobs) [www.radioacademy.org](http://www.radioacademy.org)  
[www.bbc.co.uk/academy/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/careers/work-experience>  
<http://www.itvjobs.com/workinghere/entry-careers/>



## Medicine



- Entry is very competitive and is usually through a five-year approved medical degree followed by two years of foundation training before choosing a specialism.
- Must have at least seven GCSEs at grade 6/7 or higher, including maths, English and science.
- 3 A levels including chemistry and at least 1 from biology, physics or maths ideally achieved at grades at AAA. Most universities specify biology and chemistry A levels.
- Subjects such as humanities or a modern foreign language are acceptable as a fourth subject. Most medical schools do not accept general studies or critical thinking; avoid subjects that overlap i.e. biology/sport studies or maths and further maths.
- Those without relevant A levels could consider the widening access course. You will still need one science A level.
- Volunteering or work experience in a health/care setting is required by most universities and applicants must be able to demonstrate their understanding of the role of a doctor and their commitment to medical training.
- 23 universities including Southampton also require applicants to sit the UKCAT (UK Clinical Aptitude Test). 4 universities (Imperial College London, University College London, Cambridge and Oxford) require applicants to sit the BMAT (Bio Medical Admissions Test). Some students may need to sit both.
- UCAS closing date for medical applications is 15<sup>th</sup> October.  
[www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk) <https://www.admissionstesting.org/for-test-takers/bmat> [www.bma.org.uk](http://www.bma.org.uk)  
[www.gmc.org](http://www.gmc.org) <https://university.which.co.uk/> [www.medschools.ac.uk](http://www.medschools.ac.uk)  
[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)

## Midwifery

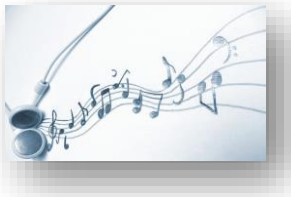
- Entry is usually through a three- year degree course in midwifery.
- A level subjects include biology, chemistry, physics, maths, psychology, health & social care and sociology. High grades from AAA to BBB are required.
- Vocational level 3 qualifications include health and social care or applied science. Childcare courses are not acceptable for midwifery. It is important to check with each university if a level 3 qualification is acceptable on its own or whether an A level in a science/ social science is required as well.
- Qualified adult nurses can undertake a shorter post graduate qualification (18 months) to qualify as a midwife.
- Very competitive and demanding career.



- Must be interested in the health of the pregnant mother, not just babies.
- Must be 100% dedicated to midwifery – students have been declined if they apply to do midwifery and nursing due to their lack of commitment to midwifery. You will be expected to demonstrate how your personal qualities reflect the NHS's core values.
- There are many opportunities within the NHS to work as a Maternity Support Worker (MSW) for which there are no set entry requirements other than those for healthcare support.

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk) [www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk) [www.rcm.org.uk](http://www.rcm.org.uk)

## Music



- Music (ABRSM grades may be accepted as an alternative), English, history, languages and for some courses maths and physics. Other useful subjects may include dance, drama, music technology and performance studies.
- Many different career paths including performing, education, composing, publishing, music therapy, arts administration, broadcasting, libraries and museums, press, recording companies and instrument technology.
- If considering music therapy career, may like to consider psychology.
- If applying to any of the music conservatoires, you now do this through UCAS Conservatoires. Closing date is normally around 1<sup>st</sup> October, auditions usually start on or near to the 14<sup>th</sup> of October.

<https://www.screenskills.com> [www.accesstomusic.co.uk](http://www.accesstomusic.co.uk)  
[www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/ucas-conservatoires-apply-and-track](http://www.ucas.com/ucas/conservatoires/ucas-conservatoires-apply-and-track)

## Nursing

- Useful subjects include chemistry, biology, psychology, health and social care, sociology and a diploma in childcare and education for child nursing.
- All degree professions from 2013.
- Students need to decide which branch of nursing to choose from - adult, child, learning disability or mental health.
- Some universities offer dual branch degree courses which add a further year.
- Work experience and voluntary work in a caring or health environment are encouraged; this is usually essential for entry to degree courses in nursing. You will be expected to demonstrate how your personal qualities fit with NHS core values.
- Could gain entry to nurse training after working as a healthcare assistant if standard entry requirements have not been achieved. Applicants would need to hold a level 3 qualification like





the NVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care and have GCSEs in English and maths at grades 4 or above.

- Nursing apprenticeships are now available at four levels:

**Intermediate apprenticeship:** work-based learning leading to level 2 apprenticeship standard/qualifications equivalent to GCSE

**Advanced apprenticeship:** work-based learning leading to level 3 apprenticeship standard/qualification equivalent to A level

**Higher apprenticeship:** work-based learning leading to level 4/5 apprenticeship standard/qualification equivalent to HNC/HND, foundation degree

**Degree apprenticeship:** work-based learning to apprenticeship standard/qualification equivalent to a full bachelor's or master's degree.

Employers will want to make sure that you can cope with the level of work involved, so the entry requirements will depend on the employer and the type and level of apprenticeship.

[www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk) [www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk)  
<https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-Roles>

## Pharmacy



- A level subjects include chemistry plus one or more from biology, physics or maths. High grades AAB to BBB are usually required. For example, Portsmouth University ask for grade BBB in chemistry, ideally biology and another subject preferably science or mathematics.
- It is important to look at the different entry requirements because each university will be different.
- All courses leading to an MPharm (Master of Pharmacy) are four years. After their MPharm, graduates must undertake the one-year pre-registration GPhC (General Pharmaceutical Council) approved training. Students must pass the GPhC exam at the end of the year.
- Only a Master of Pharmacy degree leads to qualification as a pharmacist, other courses such as pharmaceutical science and pharmacology do not. Level 3 Pharmacy Technician (integrated) **apprenticeship** standard now available

[www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk) [www.rpharms.com](http://www.rpharms.com) [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

## Physiotherapy

- You'll need a physiotherapy degree or postgraduate award approved by the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
- You will need three A levels including biology/human biology. Very high grades are required AAA to ABB.
- Some universities will accept Level 3 vocational qualifications, either mixed with A levels or in relevant subjects that have a strong biology content.
- If you're a physiotherapy assistant practitioner, you may be able to take a part-time degree in physiotherapy while you're working. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) and HCPC have details of course providers.
- Need a minimum of five GCSEs at grade 4 to 9 including maths, English and science. Some universities may require maths and science at higher grades. Competition for places is very high.
- Physiotherapists work with the elderly, disabled, children, expectant and new mothers, sports people in a range of settings.
- Most NHS physiotherapists work in hospitals, GP surgeries, residential care homes or in patients' own homes.
- Outside the NHS opportunities include private practice, sports clubs, health spas, charities, social services, prisons and training for private companies.
- Gaining relevant work experience and visiting a physio department is very helpful. The CSP website provides more information about how to obtain work experience.
- Some degree apprenticeship opportunities are available but are not often advertised so the best route into this option is through work experience.
- [www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/careers-development](http://www.csp.org.uk/professional-union/careers-development)  
[www.nhscareers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhscareers.nhs.uk) [www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk](http://www.stepintohenhs.nhs.uk) <http://www.hpc-uk.org>



## Pilot



- You will need to take a course to get your Airline Transport Pilot's Licence (ATPL) or "frozen" ATPL.
- Full-time pilot training courses last around twenty-two months and are usually residential.
- The average cost to achieve the full licence and undertake the required number of flying hours is around £100,000. Courses are offered at flight schools. The CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) website includes a list of approved training schools in the UK. Most pilots fund themselves through their training. Loans may be arranged through some training schools.
- Entrants must be aged 18 or over, have a minimum of five GCSEs at grades 5 or above including English language, maths and science. All entrants to become a commercial airline pilot must pass aptitude tests and medical assessments and continue to undergo these throughout their pilot careers.

- Some universities offer degree courses in aviation that include pilot training (Buckinghamshire, Kingston and Middlesex) but in these cases students would have to fund the flying costs as well as the usual tuition fees.
- The Honourable Company of Air Pilots offer the opportunity to take a set of aptitude assessments which are specifically designed to indicate whether you have the potential to succeed in professional flying. Aptitude assessments cost around £150 and will give you a very good indication of your innate ability to become a successful pilot – or save you a lot of heartache and very considerable financial investment [www.airpilots.org](http://www.airpilots.org)
- Apprenticeships are being developed for pilot training; these are likely to be higher or degree level and delivered through partnerships between flight schools, airlines and universities.
- Some airlines (British Airways and Virgin Atlantic) offer cadet sponsored training schemes but entry to these is extremely competitive and is usually with three A levels; preferred subjects include maths and physics. Geography, technology subjects and foreign languages are also useful. For both schemes, successful applicants need a substantial security deposit, but once they have passed all their training and are working as a first officer, this is repaid to them in monthly instalments over the first seven years of their employment.
- Useful to join the Air Cadets or Air League to get an insight into this career.

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)     [www.bafuturepilot.com](http://www.bafuturepilot.com)     [www.l3airlineacademy.com](http://www.l3airlineacademy.com)  
<http://careersuk.virgin-atlantic.com/pilots-and-future-flyers/future-flyers-pilot-training-programme.html>     [www.balpa.org](http://www.balpa.org)     [www.airleague.co.uk](http://www.airleague.co.uk)  
[www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets](http://www.raf.mod.uk/aircadets)     [www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry](http://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-industry)  
<https://www.airpilots.org/career-matters/careers-information/aptitude-tests/>

## Police

- Be 18 years old.
- Be a British or Commonwealth citizen, a European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA) citizen, or a foreign national with the right to stay and work in the UK for an indefinite period.
- Pass background and security checks and give details of any previous convictions.
- Will need to sit an entry test including maths, English, information checking, reasoning, observation as well as fitness and medical.
- Public services, history, law, criminology and PR, useful but not essential.
- Hampshire police requires applicants to have a full manual driving licence.
- Most forces accept applicants with glasses or contact lenses, but unaided vision must be of reasonable standard.
- Evidence of physical fitness, communication skills, interest in current affairs and being a team worker are all important. Voluntary work, Duke of Edinburgh Award, team sports or holding a position of responsibility will all help with the application process, as would joining the Police Cadets.



Policing has recently undergone changes to its training and recruitment to professionalise the service and to make entry requirements more consistent. A raft of new professional training for all police staff has been introduced and there are three ways to prepare new recruits for the role of constable:

**Apprenticeship:** join as a constable and enrol on a professional policing practice course where you earn while you learn. This route normally takes three years and includes both on and off-the-job learning. On successful completion of the programme you complete your programme and achieve a degree.

**Degree-holder entry:** If you already have a degree in any subject you can join and follow a work-based programme supported by off-the-job learning. This route normally takes two years and on successful completion is recognised in a graduate diploma in professional policing practice when you complete your probation.

**Pre-join degree:** if you want to study first, you can do a three- year degree in professional policing at your own expense and then apply to a force and follow a shorter on-the-job training programme. Being a special constable, PCSO, the TEmPForce or another emergency service can be included in this route.

[www.hampshire.police.uk](http://www.hampshire.police.uk) <http://www.college.police.uk>

## Psychologists



- Useful subjects include English, biology, maths, sociology and psychology.
- Some Bachelor of Science (BSC) courses require biology and/or maths at A level.
- No requirements to have psychology A-level, but this will provide useful knowledge.
- Popularity of psychology has risen in recent years; therefore, university entry grades have also risen.
- 1<sup>st</sup> degree must be accredited by the British Psychology Society (BPS).
- After this, a further course specialising in one area of psychology is required. This can take a further three years.
- You will need to be registered with the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) and undergo Disclosure & Barring checks.
- There are seven recognised areas of psychology including: clinical, educational, occupational, health, forensics, counselling, sports and exercise.
- No direct entry to child psychology; those interested in working with children usually train in educational counselling psychology.
- Neuropsychology can be entered after further post graduate study and completing specialist training in educational or clinical psychology.

[www.bps.org.uk](http://www.bps.org.uk) <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

## Sciences

- Many of the professional roles in the different scientific sectors require degree/post graduate level qualifications.
- Most roles at GCSE/A level entry standard involve doing routine laboratory work. Equivalent BTEC level 3 courses may be accepted e.g. Applied Science.
- Ideally at least two A-levels from biology, chemistry, maths or physics.
- Other useful subjects may include environmental science, electronics, geography, computing, ICT, statistics and foreign languages – depending on career choice.
- Consider apprenticeship roles such as Laboratory Technician, Manufacturing Service, Pharmaceutical Technician – [www.targetcareers.co.uk](http://www.targetcareers.co.uk)  
[www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)      [www.rsc.org](http://www.rsc.org)      [www.rsb.org.uk](http://www.rsb.org.uk)      [www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org)



## Social Work



- Useful subjects include sociology, psychology, law and health and social care at A level and five GCSEs at grade 4-9.
  - Will need to do a three-year approved social work degree course. These are available on a full-time, part-time, distance learning basis or through an apprenticeship route, followed by registration with the Health and Care Profession Council (HCPC).
  - Minimum age of qualification is 21.
  - Preferred: applicants with life experience and therefore many mature students on university course.
  - Prior relevant paid or voluntary work is extremely useful and often a requirement before applying for a social work degree. There are opportunities for those who wish to work in support roles as a social care assistant.
- [www.healthcareers.nhs.uk](http://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk)    [www.hcpc-uk.org](http://www.hcpc-uk.org)    [www.skillsforcare.org.uk](http://www.skillsforcare.org.uk)

## Sports Coach

- You'll need a coaching qualification that is recognised by the national governing body (NGB) for your sport.
- Useful subjects include sports, PE, psychology, biology, Community Sports Leadership Award (CSLA) and Higher Sports Leadership Award (HSLA).



- A first aid certificate may be required. All sports coaches must have a recognised qualification in coaching. This may be gained directly through a sports NGB, or part of a college or university course.
- An **apprenticeship** in active leisure and learning is available.
- The UK coaching certificate (UK CC) is a five - level framework based on national standards. It gives coaches a national recognisable qualification. Sports Coach UK also offers personal development courses for all coaches from different sports and at every level of experience.
- Progression in the career is very much down to building up a reputation and developing new skills.
- With experience, coaches may move to lecturing, sports development, management or administration.
- Coaches can become scouts for professional teams. It is important to remember that most sports coaching in the UK is undertaken on a voluntary basis by people in the community so entry to paid opportunities is very competitive.

[www.skillsactive.com](http://www.skillsactive.com) [www.sportscoachuk.org](http://www.sportscoachuk.org) [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)

## Sport Science



- Offers a wide range of job roles including helping sports professionals to improve performance, research into methods for improving exercise, biomechanics, physiology and psychology.
- Useful subjects include biology, chemistry, maths, physics, psychology and PE.
- Applicants are more likely to cope with the course if they have a science or maths subject, rather than just PE.
- A BTEC qualification in sport may be acceptable for some courses,

better if offered with A level biology. It is important for BTEC/OCR students to ensure that their courses include the appropriate science units. Usually colleges will suggest students complete the BTEC/OCR in Sports Science.

[www.cimspa.co.uk](http://www.cimspa.co.uk) [www.uksport.gov.uk](http://www.uksport.gov.uk) [www.bases.org.uk](http://www.bases.org.uk)

## Sports Therapy

- Sports therapists can work in local authority owned leisure centres, private exercise clubs, and professional sport.
- The Society of Sports Therapists has links with several universities to provide sports therapy, sports science and sports rehab courses, including three-year BSC courses and a range of foundation degrees. Those graduates working to gain membership of The Society of Sports Therapists must have graduated from an accredited course. Only qualified physiotherapists can work as sports therapists with the National Health Service (NHS).





- Sports therapy is not currently a statutory regulated profession, but regulation is being proposed by the HCPC (Health Care Professions Council).
- Entry requirements vary hugely. Recommended subjects include biology, PE, sports studies, sports science as well as psychology, maths chemistry or physics.

[www.society-of-sports-therapists.org](http://www.society-of-sports-therapists.org) [www.basrat.org](http://www.basrat.org)

## Teaching



- Entry to an initial teacher training (ITT) degree requires GCSE maths, English and science at grade 4 to 9, plus at least two full A levels or recognised equivalents. If taking a subject specialism during the degree, one of the A levels must be relevant to this.
- Choose from school - led or university - led training programmes, the latter is based at a university learning the method and practice of teaching before you apply this to your school placements; you'll spend plenty of time in two contrasting schools – a minimum of 24 weeks and the former a combination of practical classroom teaching with theoretical learning throughout the academic year ensuring you become an effective teacher.
- Entry to a postgraduate certificate in education (PGCE) requires a degree that contains at least 50% of the subject you hope to teach. If you don't have a relevant degree or need to refresh your knowledge you could complete a fully funded subject knowledge enhancement course (SKE) before starting your training.
- If you want to teach at primary level the degree subject should relate to the primary national curriculum. National curriculum subjects include English, maths, science, design and technology, ICT, history, modern languages, geography, art and design, music, physical education.
- Alternatives for some subjects include a level 3 qualification in childcare or health and social care.
- Must have a minimum of two weeks school-based work experience in the two years prior to applying for teacher training. All entrants to teaching degrees/post graduate courses must pass the professional skills tests in literacy and numeracy.

[www.tda.co.uk](http://www.tda.co.uk) <https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk/>

## Veterinary Science

- Entrants must be registered as a member of the RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) and have completed a degree course in Veterinary Medicine or Veterinary Science.
- Requirement is A levels in chemistry and biology and /or maths and physics.
- Degree courses last five or six years. Must have high-grade A-level passes A\*AA to AAB and be supported by high grade GCSE passes. Only 9 universities across the UK offer the degree course.



- Applicants will need to prove a long-term interest in working with animals and have some work experience. Minimum work experience requirements vary for each university, so you need to check these. Must have experience of handling a wide range of animals not just small domestic pets. See: [www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/courses/vetinary/vetinary-work-experience](http://www.thestudentroom.co.uk/university/courses/vetinary/vetinary-work-experience)
- Competition for places is very high.
- Royal Veterinary College and University of Cambridge will expect applicants to sit the BMAT (Biomedical Admissions Test) entrance test. UCAS closing date for veterinary medicine / science applications 15<sup>th</sup> October. [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk) [www.bvna.org.uk](http://www.bvna.org.uk) [www.tobeavet.com](http://www.tobeavet.com)
- Edinburgh University has produced a free on-line course “Do you have what it takes to be a veterinarian?” Aimed at A level students it outlines what’s involved in the first year of a veterinary medicine degree – [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

## Veterinary Nurse



- Entry requirement is five GCSEs at grade 5 to 9 including: maths, English and science.
- All veterinary nurse vocational training is conducted through veterinary nursing approved centres (the VNACs) or universities, and their linked training practices, which are registered with the RCVS awarding body. Entry to training is very competitive as the turnover of staff is very low.
- Foundation degrees /HNDs and degrees in veterinary nursing are available; these usually take longer than vocational training and involve more skills and knowledge.
- Entry to university is usually with two or more A level subjects such as biology and chemistry, or a level 3 vocational diploma in animal management / animal science.
- Work experience in a veterinary surgery would be very useful.  
[www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk) [www.bvna.org.uk](http://www.bvna.org.uk)

## Wedding Planner

- Could also be interested in conference and banqueting manager or event organiser.
- Useful college subjects include English, business, customer service qualifications, leisure studies, RE and ICT.
- Need to be good at multi-tasking and very flexible. Each couple is different, so you need to adapt fast and translate their ideas into a plan. You need to be diplomatic and able to relate to people. You should have a good eye for design and be well prepared and organised. You also need a really good business head.



- Diplomas in wedding planning are available through the Institute of Professional Wedding Planners, or The Wedding Planners School, but a diploma is less important than a portfolio of beautiful weddings – so try to get much experience as possible.
- Work experience in a hotel alongside a hotel manager with experience of organising weddings would be beneficial.

<https://www.inst.org/wedding-planner-courses/index.htm>    [www.theweddingplannerschool.org.uk](http://www.theweddingplannerschool.org.uk)

## Zoologist



- This career is not about becoming a zookeeper, but to scientifically study all living things from molecules right through to the global environment. Much of the work is research-based.
- The closest university offering Zoology is the University of Southampton, with entry requirements of BBB from three science A levels or ABB from two sciences and one other subject.
- Must have biology at A level with at least one otherscience. Subjects considered as a science include chemistry, physics, maths, psychology or environmental science.

Most zoologists have a degree. Relevant subjects include zoology as a single subject or as part of a joint degree including animal behaviour and animal biology, animal science, animal psychology, biological science, marine zoology, parasitology and virology.

[www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org)    [www.futuremorph.org](http://www.futuremorph.org)

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