

# Going to college

What can I do at college?

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Depending on what it is you want to do you can study various levels of courses at College. There is plenty of options and each has a different entry requirements. Make sure you know what you want to do and work towards that. You can always change your plan to fit your needs.

## Courses

A Levels - Maths, English, Psychology etc  
Vocational subjects - related to a broad subject area so can lead to a large variety of employment areas or university courses

Practical vocational courses - lead to specific jobs such as hairdressing, plumbing or engineering

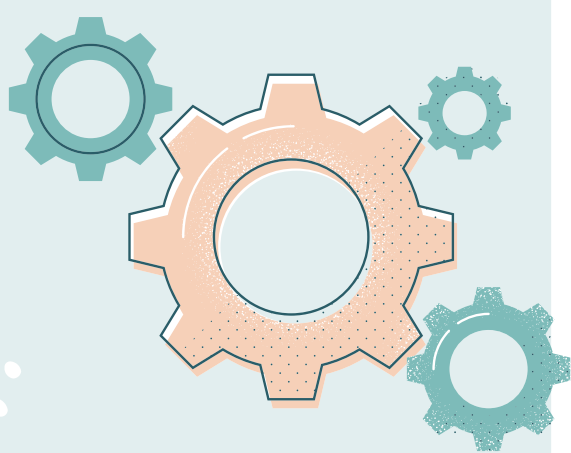
T levels and apprenticeships - Students can complete their study for these at college



## Getting the college that is right for you

Have an idea of the colleges that are in your local area, try to understand how you would be able to get there (many offer free travel).

Research and understand the courses on offer, do they fit your career path? Know the entry requirements so you can understand how you can work towards your goal



## Local college links to browse

Cheshire College South & West

<https://www.ccsw.ac.uk/course-search/>

Coleg Cambria -

<https://www.cambria.ac.uk/our-courses/>

WirralMet -

<https://www.wmc.ac.uk/courses>

Reaseheath -

<https://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/further-education/courses/>



# A Levels



## What are A levels?

A levels are advanced level qualifications. They are subject based qualifications that can lead to University, further study, training or work. You can normally study 3 or more A levels over 2 years. They are assessed by a series of examinations.

## What do I need to study A Levels?

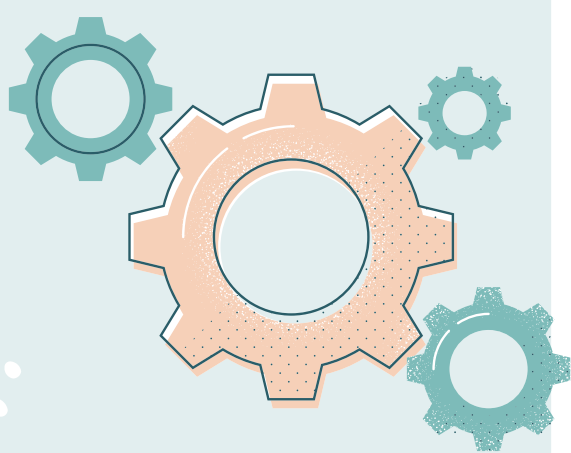
In order to study A Levels you will normally need at least five GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 and at least a grade 6 in the specific subjects you want to study.

There is considered a big jump in difficulty when moving from GCSEs onto A Levels so it is important to have done well in GCSEs when considering A levels.



## Advantages of studying A Levels

When deciding to do A Levels a big positive is the fact you can study more than one subject. For instance if you wish to be an engineer you may pick Math's, Chemistry and Physics. A Levels allows you to study each subject you choose in much deeper detail than you would at GCSE. A Levels are well respected academically.



## Things to consider if deciding to study A Levels

Firstly the jump in difficulty. A Levels are considered to be a lot more difficult than GCSEs. This is why it is often expected you obtain a GCSE level 6 in the subject area you want to study. A Levels are not assessed throughout the year. Instead they finish with one final exam. If you struggle with exam stress you may wish to consider this.



# Vocational/ technical courses



## What are vocational/ technical courses?

These courses are designed to help you get the skills you need to start your career or go on to higher levels of qualifications. These focus on a specific job or broad employment area such as childcare, hospitality, catering or hair and beauty. These courses vary in length but the minimum is one year.

## What do I need?

These courses are offered across a much wider level range meaning they are a lot more accessible than A Levels.

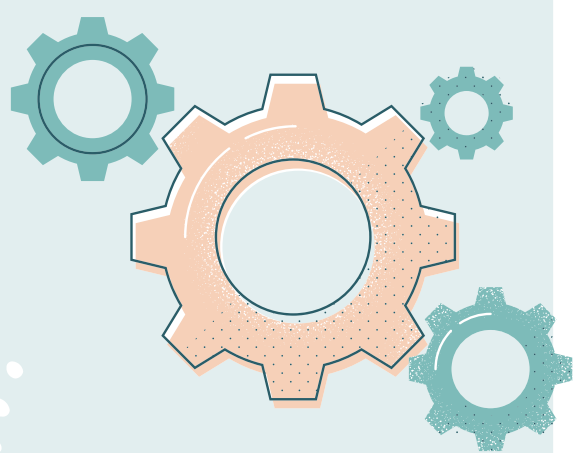
If you don't achieve great GCSEs you may still be able to access a vocational or technical course at a level one. You can work your way up through to level 3 (Nationals) many of which are well regarded by Universities, colleges and employers as they are a similar standard to A levels.



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Research and understand the courses on offer, do they fit your career path? Know the entry requirements so you can understand how you can work towards your goal



## Something to consider

You may be able to access these course at various levels but it is still helpful to do the best you can in your GCSEs. You may have to work your way through from level 1 to 3. However with better GCSE grades you could begin your desired course at level 3 saving you a lot of time and even money in the future. If you do not get a grade 4 in your GCSE Math's and English you will have to study these alongside your course in college.





# Apprenticeships



## What is an apprenticeship?

Apprenticeships are real jobs that allow you to earn a wage while you learn. They can take between 1 and 5 years to complete depending on the level. Apprentices learn a skilled trade or profession by working with a professional in that field. It involves a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction.

## Being an apprentice

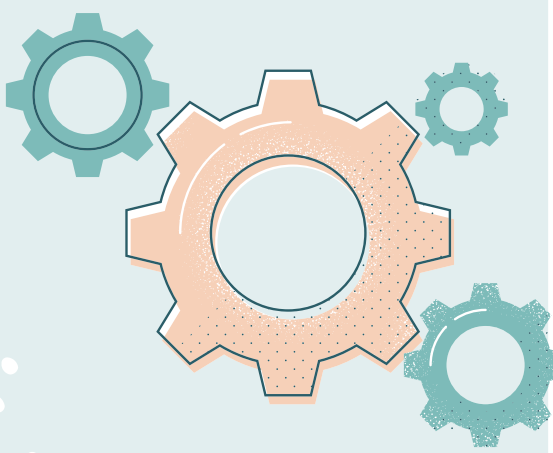
You can start an apprentice at the age of 16 if you are not in full time education.

You can however apply for an apprenticeship whilst you are still at school. You will earn a wage as you work alongside experienced staff and gain job-specific skills. You will also get time for training and study related to your role.



## Types of apprenticeships

There are over 600 different apprenticeships so no matter what career you're interested in there's likely to be an apprenticeship for you. There are 4 different apprenticeship levels; intermediate (level 2), advanced (level 3), higher (level 4 or 4) and degree (level 6 or 7). This means there could be an apprenticeship suitable for you regardless of your qualification level.



## Searching for apprenticeships

Apprenticeships can be competitive, a lot of people want to do them. Because of this it is never too early to search for different apprenticeships and get an idea of what you would need to be a successful candidate.

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

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/#>



# T Levels



**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

## What are T Levels

T Levels focus on vocational skills and can help students into skilled employment. T Levels include a 45 day (at least) industry placement. T Level students spend 80% of the course in their learning environment gaining the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement where these skills are put into action.

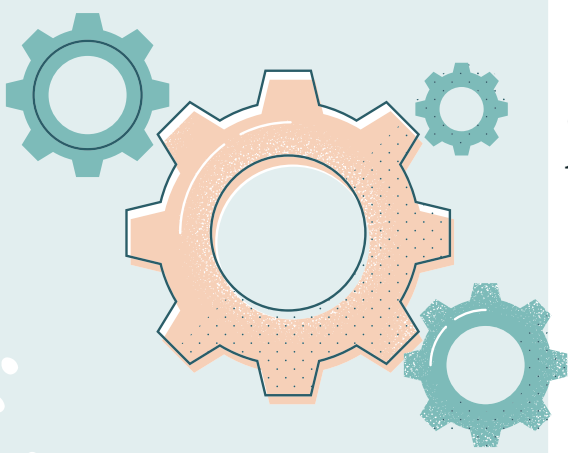
## Grades

T Levels are a level 3 qualification and require a minimum of 5 GCSEs (grades 9-4) including a 5 in English and Math's. If you just miss out on the grades you'll be able to spend a year topping up your grades. The T Level Transition Programme is a 1-year post-GCSE study programme designed to prepare you for your chose T Level.



## Types of T Levels

There are more than 20 T Levels available covering everything from agriculture to catering and engineering to science. T Levels are a relatively new qualification and the availability of them are likely to grow. They are offered in a number of colleges. The number of places they are offered and the subjects they are offered in are likely to grow.



## Searching for T Levels

T Levels can be competitive, a lot of people want to do them. Because of this it is never to early to search for different T Levels and get an idea of what you would need to be a successful candidate.

<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/find>  
<https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/students/subjects>



# Traineeships



## What are Traineeships?

Traineeship is a skills development programme that includes a work placement. It can last from 6 weeks up to 1 year.

Traineeships can help you prepare and get you ready for an apprenticeship or job.

## Who are they for?

Traineeships are for those aged 16 to 24 or 25 with an education, health and care (EHC) plan.

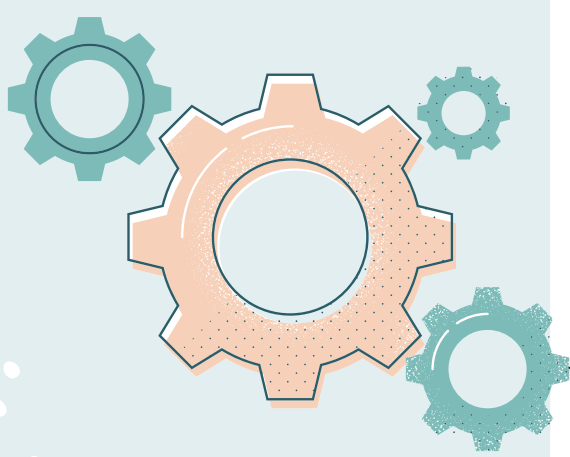
In order to apply for a traineeship you will have little or no work experience but be motivated to work. You will need to be between the age of 16 to 24 with an EHC and be qualified up to level 3 (diploma, A level, T level).



## Types of Traineeships

Traineeships can lead onto other full time jobs however bigger firms can view them as a stepping stone to placements on their apprenticeship programmes.

Traineeships are offered in a wide variety of sectors including automotive, construction, hair & beauty and hospitality & catering.



## Finding a Traineeship

There are a wide range of traineeships available. In order to find out which is right for you will require some independent research.

<https://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship>





# Supported internships



## What are Supported Internships?

These are a structured, work-based study programme for 16 to 24 year-olds with SEND who have an educational health care plan (EHCP). They aim to provide substantial work placement, facilitated by the support of an expert job coach. Supported interns are in full time education with work placements as part of their course (around 70%).

## Who are they for?

People aged 16 to 24 with SEND who have an EHCP.

They are for those above who want the opportunity to achieve sustained, paid employment by being equipped with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.

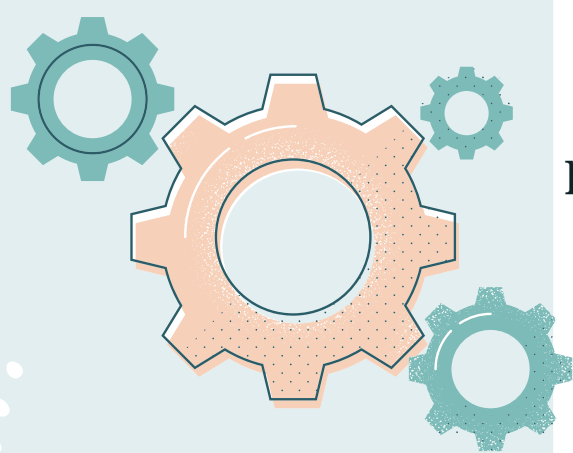
These are great for those who want to gain experience, matched to their capability, through direct work.



## Types of Supported Internships

The job coach will aim to get the right young person into the right work placement with the right employer through job matching.

Job matching enables providers to ensure that the individual supported intern is placed in a job role that matches their abilities, interests and ambitions in a working environment that suits their needs.



## Finding a Supported Internship

Supported internships are offered by various councils and colleges. In order to find out which is right for you will require some independent research.

[https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Information/Supported\\_Internship\\_Programme#](https://www.livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Information/Supported_Internship_Programme#)

<https://www.pettypool.org.uk/vocational-courses/supported-internships/>

