

## Introduction

#### Welcome to World of Work Leicestershire, a guide to industries across the area, to help you to plan your future.

This resource also includes information on qualifications and pathways, and advice on looking and applying for jobs or apprenticeships.

If you are starting to career plan, it is helpful to be aware of the wide range of roles across work sectors, and trends on what skills are needed.

There are many large employers in Leicester and Leicestershire, such as Sytner, Barratt Developments, Breedon, Access Technology, IBM, Ceva Logistics, Next, Caterpillar, Triumph, Dunelm, Santander and Samworth Brothers. Along with well-known names, there are thousands of micro, small, and medium-sized employers, who also offer fantastic career opportunities.

With over 43,000 registered businesses in the area, read on and find out more!

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Did you know?

Over the last 12 months

over 120,000\* job

opportunities have been
advertised in the Leicester
and Leicestershire area





## The world of work

The world of work is continually changing, and you might wonder what future employment opportunities will look like. Looking at trends, the area around you, and the different ways in which we work can help you to plan your career.

#### What is the 'labour market'?

Labour market information can tell you:

- ↑What jobs and skills employers are looking for
- ↑Which industries are recruiting and where they are located
- ↑The number of people in certain types of jobs
- ↑Growing or declining job areas and general employment trends

See the grid opposite for some key factors that can affect the labour market.

#### Work facts for the 21st century

Lots of new jobs are going to be created over the next 15 years. How much do you know about the jobs listed below? They are all out there right now!

**NANO-MEDICINE TECHNICIAN** 

**ETHICAL HACKER** 

**AUTONOMOUS CAR MECHANIC** 

**AVATAR TUTOR BROKER** 

**AUGMENTED-REALITY JOURNEY BUILDER** 

PROMPT ENGINEER

**GREEN FUNERAL DIRECTOR** 

Many future jobs need at least level 3 qualifications because many roles are increasingly using advanced technology.

#### What is STEM?

STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and maths. Employers value the skills you develop in STEM subjects and careers. Why? Because there are going to be more skilled jobs available in these areas in the future and young people like you will be needed to do those jobs. Being creative is also important, to be innovative in solving challenges.

#### What kind of STEM jobs exactly?

Some really exciting ones, such as:

- ♠Creating a new clean energy source
- ↑Curing an illness or disease
- ↑ Forecasting earthquakes to keep people safe
- Designing the biggest rollercoaster in the world
- ♠Building an eco-friendly skyscraper





## The changing world of work



#### What is changing?

#### How can it affect jobs and careers?

#### Think about it!

## will be important?

New technology is being developed all the time.



New technology is the main reason for old jobs disappearing. Most jobs today involve using digital skills in some way.

Self-service machines. Robots on production lines. Greater demand for people with IT, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and engineering skills to fix them and develop new ones. Quantum computing **Automation and robotics** engineering Creative technology Data science and machine learning Aerospace Cyber security

People are living longer.



People will need more health and social care support.

More health and social care workers are needed. Demand for housing and leisure activities aimed at an older

population. More products and technology that assist the elderly.

Health care Social care Life sciences Pharmacology Health data analysts

The pace of change in the workplace is speeding up.



People need to be able to adapt to learn new skills quickly.

Amazing new jobs that have never existed before, along with current jobs evolving.

Being able to work alongside AI and new technology.

All sectors will innovate and evolve, so useful skills are: Creativity Adaptability Flexibility Problem solving

The skills of people around the world are improving.

More competition for jobs from other countries.

Higher numbers of graduates, degree-level apprentices and highlevel technically qualified people in other nations.

There are increasing numbers of remote and physical working offers open to a global employee pool.

Education Science Engineering Creative and media (including gaming) Manufacturing Digital Finance

Resilience

There is more awareness of environmental issues.



More research into saving energy and developing greener technologies across industries.

Low carbon transport options and skilled mechanics to maintain them. Greener construction techniques. Making processes and products more efficient and sustainable. Activities to reduce pollution.

**Engineering (including** motor vehicle) Chemical processing Recycling Agriculture Energy and utilities

Innovation

People are thinking carefully how they spend their money, especially on their well-being.

**Demand for services** such as catering, fitness, health spas and gaming.

Farms offering tourism experiences alongside agriculture. More hotels offering spa facilities. Fitness monitoring and nutrition. Workplace wellness.

Health and beauty Sport and leisure Hospitality and tourism Creative and media Sales and marketing

## **Looking at Leicester and** Leicestershire employers

Did you know? Just over 60% of area employment opportunities are with SMEs

99.6%



## **OF BUSINESSES LOCALLY ARE:**

MICRO: 0-9 STAFF **SMALL: 10-49 STAFF or MEDIUM ENTERPRISES:** 

**50-249 STAFF** 

These are known as SMEs



## TOP TIP

Most people don't walk straight into their dream job - look for stepping stones to help set you on your path. Starting in a junior or temporary role provides valuable work exposure, new skills and can lead to exciting things experience is rarely wasted!

#### Find a big opportunity in a small company!

Working for a small employer can offer unique advantages and experiences that might not be found in larger organisations.

#### Why work for a smaller business?

- ↑Your input will be valued; as part of a smaller team your contribution is more noticed
- **↑**Lots of variety; you will learn about the day to day aspects of how a business is run
- ♠Quick progression; for those who show potential

**↑**Contact with senior managers; you can build a good relationship and raise awareness of your work ethic



## Area businesses tell us:

- ↑Employers really value young people with good communication skills, knowledge about their business, a strong work ethic, commercial awareness, reliability, digital skills, and problem-solving ability.
- ↑Be 'open' to different sectors and areas of work; many organisations have a range of different roles and once employed, you can apply for opportunities to upskill or change department.
- ↑Ideally employers want young people with five good GCSEs including English, maths and a science, and some work or voluntary experience.

The East Midlands Chamber did some area skills research with employers; having people with the right behaviours is deemed most important for a business's success, over knowledge and skills. See: insight-unlocked.co.uk

## **Local sectors of work**

Over the next few pages you can see some of the main industries\* across Leicester and Leicestershire; many of which employ a lot of people. You will see that there are lots of career opportunities across the area.

\* An industry is a group of businesses or employers that produce similar goods or services.

#### A guide to the sector pages

The industry pages show:

- ↑An introduction to each sector
- ↑A range of job roles in that sector
- ↑Average national pay rates\*
- ↑What is happening in that sector locally
- **↑**Some local employers
- **↑**Useful skills
- ↑Websites where you can research more

Some pages show 'entry' roles, these are typical roles through which young people can enter a sector after school or college. There are lots of pathways into industries, be it apprenticeships, T Levels, college courses, on-the-job training or university.

Unsure of what a job role is?
Explore short films of different roles across industries on www.icould.com



\* Across the sector pages national average pay rates are shown; these indicate what you could earn once you are established in a role, but initially your pay will be lower! As experience, skills and progression evolves, pay will usually increase.



#### How much will I get paid?

Your pay will depend on your qualifications, skills, experience and whether you're doing an apprenticeship or other training programme. There are different levels of minimum wage:

£7.55 an hour for under 18 year olds (must be above school leaving age).

£10 an hour for 18-20 year olds.

£12.21 an hour for ages 21 and over.

£7.55 an hour for apprentices age 16-18 or in their first year (many employers pay more than this).

Based on the minimum wage, the starting salary for an 18 year old could begin at £19,240 a year for a job working 37 hours a week.

Pay scales correct as at 1 October 2025. Minimum wages increase each year (in April) see: www.gov.uk

See current apprenticeships at: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

TOP TIP!

You can 'earn as you learn' if you do an apprenticeship!





Health
There are over 350 di

There are over **350 different** careers in this sector. Many roles work with patients while others support behind the scenes, but they all make a difference to people's lives! Health is about the treatment, control or prevention of disease, illness, injury or disability, either in hospitals, health centres or the community. **Want variety and progression?** You could work in the NHS, a charity or a partnership between the NHS and a local authority department, such as children's services. There are careers in nursing, specialist consultancy, pharmacy, therapeutic roles or scientific roles in laboratories. There are also dynamic emergency services roles (paramedic, technician, control room) as well as wider support roles in IT, finance, data, security and maintenance.

Useful subjects for medicine, nursing or scientist roles

Maths, science, biology, chemistry, physics, English, ICT, psychology, sociology

#### What is happening?

- ↑The NHS is the employer that advertises the most jobs locally, and there is also a growing private healthcare market.
- ↑People are living longer and the population is growing; 37,289 people are employed in the sector locally.
- ↑The government recently launched a 10-year health service transformation plan, which includes making the NHS the most Al-enabled health system in the world.
- ↑The area is world-renowned for services in cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, and cancer and kidney disorders.
- ↑A £24.6m hi-tech Community Diagnostic Centre opened in Hinckley in 2025, the first in Leicestershire; a purpose-built facility to offer patients a range of diagnostic tests.
- ↑Technology use is growing, such as:
- Al and robot-assisted diagnosis and surgery
- Using data analytics to predict and prevent diseases
- Wearable health technology, home monitoring, and telecare reminders for medication.
- ↑Communication skills are important as well as softer, social and care-oriented skills to support an ageing population. Roles in mental health support are growing.
- ↑21% of roles locally are in nursing, with high demand for A&E, paediatric and theatre nurses.

#### **Getting** in

- ↑Routes into health are expanding, with growing numbers of apprenticeships available from level 2 to degree level. Doctor apprenticeships were piloted in 2024.
- ↑There are roles in health at all levels: Domestic and portering roles may require few or no qualifications. Administration, patient services, and HR roles may need GCSEs or higher. Scientific, technical and clinical roles need higher skills. Explore local work experience and jobs on the 'your future' website below.
- ↑Skills shortages include midwives, A & E doctors, GPs, psychiatrists, nurses, sonographers, occupational therapists, orthoptists, bio scientists and radiographers.

#### Explore career ideas at...

#### Local employers include:

A look at our key sectors

- ↑NHS hospitals (University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust)
- ↑Health centres
- ↑Private health care e.g. Nuffield Health or Spire Leicester
- ↑Community health (Leicestershire
- Partnership NHS Trust)

  Charities like LOROS

- ↑Local authorities and district councils
- ↑East Midlands Ambulance Service



#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN\*

Pharmacist	£39K-£63K
Optometrist	£39K-£63K
Hospital Porter	£24K-£26K
Paramedic	£31K-£47K
Dental Nurse	£22K-£30K
Nurse	£31K-£47K
Biomedical Scientist	£30K-£53K
General Practitioner (GP)	£70K-£110K
Clinical Psychologist	£48K-£63K

#### Skills and qualities

Communication and literacy, calmness under pressure, customer awareness, negotiation skills, ICT, team working

www.your-future.co.uk | www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk | www.emas.nhs.uk www.healthcareers.nhs.uk | www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

# **Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing**

This dynamic sector allows you to be at the forefront of innovation, working with new technology. Engineering uses scientific and practical knowledge to invent, design, and construct everything around us! Manufacturing produces goods from raw materials into finished products, often using high tech systems. **Many different products are made across Leicestershire**, from precision tools, electricals, motorbikes, packaging and adhesives; the area has a strong manufacturing heritage. Businesses include Caterpillar (construction machinery), Sofidel UK (tissue paper), Urban Apothecary (luxury candles), SPS Technologies, JJ Churchill (both aerospace components), and Hammonds Furniture. 68,287 people are employed in the sector locally, 55% above the national average.



Useful subjects Maths, physics, chemistry, English, biology, ICT, languages, design

#### What is happening?

- ↑ Area employment in the sector is set to grow 6.5% by 2030. It is the **third highest paying industry**, also offering useful skills, knowledge, and pride in seeing the final product.
- ↑ Careers can involve research, testing, developing prototypes, production engineering and maintenance. Facilities are often hi-tech and cover a range of sectors such as chemicals, space, and health products.
- ↑Locally, Triumph is the largest UK-owned motorcycle manufacturer, and Ibstock Brick is the UKs largest brick producer.
- ↑Robotics and digitalisation are boosting productivity and safety across the sector, with UK adoption up 50% in 5 years. Medical technology, low carbon transport, green energy products and future food products are key growth areas.
- ↑Saint-Gobain are building a new low-carbon plant in Melton to produce stone wool insulation for the construction sector.
- ↑Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park houses 90 high-tech companies; many link to manufacturing.
- ↑MIRA Technology Park (Hinckley) is the largest automotive research and development park in Europe. The site is expanding, and will create 2,500 new skilled jobs.

#### Getting in

- ↑There are routes in at all levels; some production line roles prioritise hands-on vocational learning and skills over academic qualifications. Engineering and manufacturing is the third highest sector for apprenticeship starts in the area, and there are graduate schemes too.
- \*Roles in demand include electrical, mechanical, digital and artificial intelligence engineers, production managers and engineers, 3D printing technician, process operators, research and design engineers and machine programmers.
- ↑Progression opportunities are excellent, especially for those with technical skills.
- ↑Creativity and problem solving skills are very important across the sector.
- ↑The sector welcomes more females; it is 74% male at present.

## Other local employers include:

- ↑Michael Smith Switchgear
- ↑Taylor Hobson
- ↑Emerson
- ↑Fisher Scientific
- **↑**Bostik
- ↑Preci-Spark ↑Druck
- ↑Nylacast
- ↑Coba ↑Winbro Group
- ↑ITP Aero
- ↑Ametek ↑Crown
- Bevcan

#### ↑Blackrow Group

- ↑Babcock International
- ↑Plastic Omnium
- ↑Blanson Ltd
- ↑Cook Optics
- ↑Oadby Plastics
- ↑KJN Automation
- **↑**Kaby



## WHAT YOU COULD EARN

Materials Technician	£20K-£30K
Robotics Engineer	£27K-£54K
Project Manager	£25K-£50K
Auto Electrician	£23K-£38K
Manufacturing Systems Lead	£26K-£50K
Aerospace Engineer	£27K-£60K
Welder	£25K-£45K
CAD Technician	£23K-£40K

Skills and qualities

Problem solving, communication, creative thinking, leadership, attention to detail

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

www.thisisengineering.org.uk | www.lusep.co.uk | www.makeuk.org/future-makers www.miratechnologypark.com | miratechnologyinstitute.co.uk www.theiet.org | www.engineeringuk.com | www.themanufacturer.com

Also see our Enterprise Zone page 25 to read about the MIRA Technology Park (Hinckley) and LUSEP.



#### **Useful subjects**

Health and social care, psychology, sociology, science, English, maths, ICT, business studies

## **Social Care**

Want a meaningful and rewarding career enhancing the lives of others?

Social care means you make a real difference - providing a vital service across society with personal, practical care and support to help people live their lives. We are all living longer with a range of needs. You could support people with physical or learning disabilities, autism, or care for older people. A role in social care could also include supporting people with acquired brain injuries and mental health conditions. This could be within their own home, in the community, in a residential home, supported living apartments or within retirement housing.

#### What is happening?

- ↑A career in social care offers long term employment and career progression prospects, with 35,500\* people employed in adult social care alone. 75% of roles are in direct care.
- ↑Different jobs within the sector include front line care staff to seniors, co-ordinators, team leaders, service managers, area managers, directors and even owning your own business! Other careers include social workers, nurses, occupational therapists, housing support officers, activity co-ordinators and support roles such as HR, recruitment, finance, IT, catering and many more!
- ↑Health and social care services are working more closely so there are lots of new roles and opportunities to progress.
- ↑Technology is increasing to enhance care, such as: -Motion sensors to detect and alert falls
- -Video telecare to allow remote appointments with doctors and carers
- -AI to automate routine tasks like note taking or predict patient trends.
- ↑Training and development options are very good in this fulfilling sector.

#### Gettina in

- ↑The Inspired to Care project, from Leicestershire
  County Council, and part funded by Leicester City Council
  is a great start, with multiple ways of entering the sector
  including a free Level 1 introductory Pathway to Care course
  and a Begin a Career in Care course, see: inspiredtocare.
  co.uk/education
- **†Employers value applicants** with the right values, behaviours and attitudes to work well with people, you do not always need prior experience or qualifications.
- ↑Many career pathways can be fully funded through apprenticeships, for example, in adult social care, becoming a nursing associate, social worker, or occupational therapist.
- ↑Good social skills are important; you interact with the people you help, along with their relatives and colleagues. Additional languages are also useful across communities.
- ↑Care vacancies are in the top five most advertised jobs locally. Only 22% of the workforce is male.

#### **Local employers include:**

- ↑Local care organisations and nursing homes
- ↑Supported housing organisations and day centres
- ↑Domiciliary care agencies
- **↑**Community services
- ↑Individual employers who recruit their own staff
- ↑City, county and district councils (local authorities)



# WHAT YOU COULD EARN Social Worker £32K-£48K Care Home Assistant £20K-£25K Residential Home Manager £25K-£55K Mental Health Nurse £31K-£47K Advocacy Worker £19K-£30K Housing Officer £23K-£35K Occupational Therapist £31K-£47K

Skills and qualities
Treating people with dignity and
respect, calm, motivated, responsible,
good team worker, committed to
improving lives, good communication

skills, kind, trustworthy

Explore career ideas at...

www.skillsforcare.org.uk/thinkcarecareers www.inspiredtocare.co.uk | www.everydayisdifferent.com www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

## **Creative**

The creative industries are all around us, seen in the clothes we wear, our buildings, books, music, apps we use and much more! The sector is all about generating original ideas and products and is split into three parts: arts, culture and creative media. Job areas include design, film and video, marketing, advertising, music, crafts, photography, computer games and animation, plus museums, galleries and performing arts. Locally 21,688 people are employed across the sector, with large areas of design and digital. Broadcasting, performing arts, film, music and VFX (visual effects) are all growing here. 43% of regional creative businesses are in the city.

#### **Useful subjects**

English, maths, ICT, engineering, art, music, science, psychology, design, chemistry, media

#### What is happening?

- ↑Many people are freelance or self-employed; for example, freelancers make up 70% of the UK's theatre workforce so there's less job security. Some work is project based, so collaboration, team work and negotiation skills are useful.
- ↑Graphic and multimedia designers, arts officers and directors, and marketing and advertising directors are roles with the most expected employment growth to 2030.
- ↑CreaTech is growing the merging of creativity and emerging technologies such as virtual reality and AI to create new cultural experiences or to solve problems.
- ↑Leicester is home to many creative businesses at the LCB Depot (which provides workspace for creatives), Curve, Canopy, Curve, Makers Yard and Phoenix Square.
- ↑Harborough has an Artists Cluster to promote art, and other county creative offers include the Ferrers at Staunton Harold, the Atkins Building (Hinckley), Charnwood Arts and Melton Space.
- ↑Holovis, in Hinckley, use state-of-the-art technology to design and install world-class experiences for global themed entertainment and visitor attractions.
- ↑Leicester has a cultural and creative industries' strategy Leicester Leading:2025-2030, which aims to enhance the sector and grow employment. There is also a Government led Creative Industries Sector Plan.

#### Getting in

- ↑Technology in the sector is evolving so skills need to adapt. The growth of virtual production has changed job roles, creating areas such as virtual production supervisor.
- ↑Area festivals, music and art events can offer valuable work experience or paid work in the sector.
- ↑Creative entry level roles include production assistant, visual effects (VFX) artist, apprentice light technician, apprentice animator, community arts assistant and stagehand assistant.
- ↑Job competition can be high. You need to be tenacious with strong networking skills. Opportunities are often with very small businesses or non-profit organisations. Combined skills sets are valued, such as artistic and scientific skills, passion, motivation, a creative spark, and a willingness to learn.
- ↑There's a high percentage of graduates in the sector and growing technical routes in, with apprenticeships and T Levels.

#### Other local employers include:

- **↑**We-Fab
- **↑**Orange Fox Studios
- ↑Matchingham Games
- ↑Bradgate Films
- ↑Rock Kitchen Harris
- ↑Twist and Shout Communications
- ↑Pyramid
- International • VeriVide
- ↑Go Inspire
- ↑Rare Ltd
- ↑Affixxius Films
- ↑Soar Valley Press
- **↑**Seed
- ↑Bulb Studios
- ↑Colab Creation ↑Blueprint Interiors

#### ↑Caged Fish

- ↑Galleries
  ¹
- ↑Cinemas
- ↑Local theatres



#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN

TV, Video and Audio Engineers	£25K-£45K
Computer Games Developer	£25K-£70K
Make-Up Artist	£19K-£30K
Exhibition Designer	£19K-£38K
User Experience (UX) Designer	£24K-£38K
Graphic Designer	£22K-£40K
Advertising Art Director	£24K-£40K

Sector employment set to grow 3.1% by 2030 Skills and qualities ICT, problem solving, attention to detail, team work, communication, planning, creativity, presentation skills, leadership, innovation, business and entrepreneurial

www.screenskills.com | www.lcbdepot.co.uk | https://getintotheatre.org/ www.thecreativeindustries.co.uk | themightycreatives.com | discovercreative.careers

\*2025 data, from Lightcast.



Biology, maths, PE,

psychology, physics,

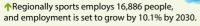
English, IT and data

analytics

## **Sport and Physical Activity**

In the **exciting world of sports**, careers extend far beyond the playing field! From coaching teams, analysing data to drive up performance, or developing business opportunities for sports organisations, there are many diverse careers. Leicestershire has some fantastic opportunities in its vibrant, growing, sports and physical activity sector. It is home to local research-driven expertise, globally recognised sports teams, athletes and facilities. The area has 13 major sporting venues/clubs hosting national and international events, including Leicester City Football Club, Leicester Tigers, Leicester Riders, Leicester Hockey Club plus motor racing at Donington Park and Mallory Park, and horse racing at Leicester Racecourse see: www.active-together.org/premierlocation

#### What is happening?



↑The sector comprises mainly of sports clubs, sport and fitness facilities, sports manufacturing and the sale/rental of sports equipment, but also online and virtual reality sports activities. The interest in health, wellness, fitness wearables or fitness apps, weight management and cycling will increase career opportunities.

↑Sports and Leisure Management (SLM), a huge leisure and sports company, has its headquarters in Hinckley.

**↑**Loughborough University is ranked number one in the world for sports-related subjects, with specialisms including health, engineering, rehabilitation and sports performance. SportPark, at Loughborough University, is home to many of England's top sports governing bodies and national sports organisations.

**↑Careers include** coaching, teaching, nutritionist, leisure assistants, green keepers, social media and marketing roles, retail sales, data analytics, project management, sports development roles, physiotherapist and design and manufacturing roles.

#### **Getting in**

↑Volunteering is one great way in; the sector has lots of sports clubs and businesses who have volunteers working with them, who could be approached for experience to enhance your skills, and your CV.

↑The workforce is young! 46% of employees are 34 or younger and there are many 'first job' opportunities in leisure centres, sport and fitness clubs, plus hospitality and events.

↑The most advertised sports roles\* locally are sports coach, personal trainer, fitness instructor and lifeguard.

↑Sector employers\* rank recruiting through 'word of mouth' as positive in the sector, so if you already know people working in sports do ask if any vacancies are coming up.

↑The top two skills\* most valued by area employers in sport are communication skills and teamwork.

↑Apprenticeships include community sport and health officer, sports turf operative, and sports coach.

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

#### Local employers include:

**↑Leisure operations** such as Everyone Active, Fusion, Places for People, Active Leicester

**↑Exercise and fitness** such as Hot Pod Yoga, fitness

studios and gyms

↑Adventure sport such as Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Beaumanor Hall Activity Centre, Field Sports UK, motorsports employers

**↑Community sport** such as the Active networks across districts (Active Blaby, etc). TayPlay Sport, Rocket Youth Sports, GNR8 Academy

**↑National Sports organisations** such as Sport England, the Youth Sport Trust, CIMSPA, Swim England, England Volleyball

**↑Health and wellbeing** such as Life Links, Leap, My Solution Wellbeing, Live Well Leicester

**↑Professional sport** which includes 13 major clubs (see introduction for link to full list).







Leisure and Sports Manager	£24K-£60K
Coaches, Instructors, and Officials	£19K-£70K
Fitness and Wellbeing Instructors	£19K-£35K
Sports and Leisure Assistants	£19K-£27K
Sports Psychologist	£25K-£48K
Sports Development Officer	£23K-£35K

Skills and qualities Coaching, business development, communication, teamwork, leadership

www.active-together.org/careers | www.sportpark.org.uk | www.careers-in-sport.co.uk www.cimspa.co.uk | www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

## **Food and Drink**

Leicestershire is one of the key regions for the food and drink manufacturing in the UK, offering innovative and varied careers. From farm to fork, roles include ingredient growing, product development, food manufacturing, quality assurance, sales and distribution. Area businesses span from micro handcrafted goods companies to large producers such as **Pukka Pies, Walkers (PepsiCo)** and **Samworth Brothers**. The global diversity of the area offers a number of producers of spices, sauces and traditional ethnic foods. **Trends include the increasing use of manufacturing technologies** – data analytics in forecasting needs, food processing technologies (robots or automated production), and the use of eco-friendly or refillable packaging.

# \*

## Useful subjects for technical roles:

English, maths, chemistry, biology, business, catering, ICT, nutrition

#### What is happening?

- ↑Many area start-ups are in food manufacturing, with a huge variety of foods made here- from American style cookies, artisan cheeses, speciality breads, through to Chinese delicacies.
- ↑14,958 people are employed in the sector locally, 109% above the national average.
- ↑Many area producers want to offer healthy products; for example, Belvoir Fruit Farm uses fresh local ingredients and no artifical flavourings. Other manufacturers are reducing sugar and adding protein or fibre to foods.
- ↑Geary's Bakery has unveiled a new, £36m, custombuilt bakery in Glenfield due to national demand for its sourdough bread.
- ^Area specialisms include bakery, dairy, meat products, snacks, confectionery, chilled and frozen products.
- ↑There is a growing artisan food market, focusing on hand-made and locally-sourced goods. For area producers a go-to destination in Melton is the Stockyard.
- ↑The drinks sector is growing fast, with niche spirits, craft beers and new flavours in soft drinks.
- ↑The Leicester Food Park provides high quality food manufacturing space with purpose-built units, to support new and established food businesses.
- ↑Local produce such as Red Leicester, Stilton cheese and pork pies are internationally known, and Pukka Pies are nationally sold across fish and chip shops, and football grounds.
- ↑ Aarti Sweet Centre is expanding as the demand for vegetarian South Asian treats grows.

#### **Getting in**

- ↑There are over 100 different job roles across the sector, and a range of skills levels, so something for everyone.
- ↑Careers include product development technician, production operative, quality assurance technician, production planner, chef, chocolatier, brewer, and food scientist and a wide range of apprenticeships such as baker, butcher and food technologist.
- ↑There are vital engineering roles to support production lines, and desk roles in sales and marketing.
- ↑Roles can be very hi-tech and creative; companies look for ways to be one step ahead of the competition!

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

#### Other local employers include:

- ↑Geary's Bakeries
- ↑Refresco Drinks
- ♠Delifrance
- **↑**Everards
- ↑Belvoir Fruit Farms
- ↑Everest Dairies
- ♠Fiona Cairns Bakery
- ↑Yummy Yum Foods
- ↑Leicester Bakery
- ↑Bramble Foods ↑Cofresh
- ↑Tuk in Foods

- ↑KP Snacks
- ↑Blackfriars Bakery
- ↑Kirtons Bakery
- ↑Long Clawson Dairy ↑Charnwood Brewery
- ↑Pladis Global
- ↑Vittles Foods
- Area farms, dairies,





#### **WHAT YOU COULD EARN**

	Horticultural Technician	£22K-£40K
	Business Development Manager	£22K-£38K
	Baker	£19K-£35K
	Food Scientist	£24K-£45K
	Technical Manager	£30K-£50K
	Quality Assurance Technician	£24K-£35K
	Food Production Operative	£21K-£29K
1	Consumer Analyst	£22K-£45K

Sector

employment set to grow 6.5% by 2030 Skills and qualities Problem solving, team work, customer awareness, creativity, communication, people management, negotiation

www.tastycareers.org.uk | www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship nsafd.co.uk | jobs.foodmanufacture.co.uk



#### **Useful subjects**

English, maths, ICT, languages, business sociology, psychology

## **Business, Finance and Professional Services**

The high-powered business, professional and financial services covers a range of activities - including head office functions, finance, insurance, digital services, accountancy, legal services, property services, research, design, scientific, and business consultancy; and support roles such as business administration and customer service. Companies welcome young people with motivation, enthusiasm and strong communication skills. Many areas rely on the expertise of staff to win clients, so good interpersonal skills and continually updating your sector knowledge are key. There are 79,927 people employed locally, with an even split of males (51%) and females (49%).

#### What is happening?

- ↑Key employers based here include Melton Building Society, Berkeley Insurance, Santander, Mattioli Woods and Hastings Direct. Other employers include area lawyers, accountants, architects and surveyors.
- ↑Legal businesses like Freeths, Gateley, Howes Percival and Shakespeare Martineau have offices here. The area also hosts regional offices for national accountancy firms like KPMG, PWC and Grant Thornton as well as head offices for Newby Castleman, Mazars and Cooper Parry.
- **↑Finance and investment analysts and advisers** are in the top 20 career roles with the most expected employment growth to 2030.
- ↑Al is increasingly being used across financial services, especially in fraud detection (spotting patterns), and credit risk; but also to analyse client needs and assess market trends.
- ↑ Across the sector, the use of IT, software and business analytics to enhance and personalise services has increased.
- ↑Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG), cyber security, risk management, compliance, legal services, data protection, tech-led innovation and management software services are all thriving areas.
- ↑International finance dealing with the financial interactions that happen between two or more nations is thriving as global services grow; it is helpful if you are multilingual.

#### **Getting** in

- **↑Entry roles** include trainee positions in sales, payroll, insurance, marketing, property services and accountancy roles. There are a wide range of apprenticeships across the sector.
- ↑Specialist positions in the sector require specific qualifications, such as lawyer, accountant or financial adviser and once you have completed your degree or apprenticeship, you will need to study further in your role.
- ↑In other roles employers are willing to recruit and train people on the job' if they have good customer skills, resilience and flexibility. Some companies will take on school and college leavers.
- ↑Accounting, law and business development roles feature in the top 12 most advertised job roles locally.\*

#### Other local employers include:

- **↑**WBR Group
- **↑**Global Payments UK
- ♠AXA PPP Healthcare
- **↑**Nelsons
- **↑**Knights
- **↑**Croner
- **↑**Fisher German
- **↑**Dodds
- **↑**PPL PRS
- ↑Anthony James Insurance

- **↑**Cheyettes
- **↑**Macildowie
- ↑Meridian Mortgages
- **↑**RSM UK
- **↑**Cambridge and Counties Bank
- **↑**Bright Legal
- ↑EMB Group
- ♠Blvthin and
- Brown
  - ↑Nest Estate Agents



## WHAT YOU COULD EARN

Tax Adviser		£25K-£55K
Human Resources	Officer	£22K-£35K
FinTech Solutions	Architect	£32K-£55K
Business Research	Professional	£22K-£45K
Insurance Account	t Manager	£24K-£60K
Solicitor		£30K-£70K
Mortgage Adviser		£24K-£45K
Contact Centre Ad	lviser	£22K-£28K

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

www.cipd.co.uk | www.efinancialcareers.co.uk www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship | www.icaew.com www.lawsociety.org.uk | www.insurancecareers.co.uk Skills and qualities Communication, problem solving, presentation, analytical skills, organisational, negotiation, calm under pressure

## **Education**

You can inspire and make a difference every day in the education sector! This is extremely rewarding work as you see your students succeed! Numerous opportunities in Leicester and Leicestershire link to the many schools, academies, colleges and area universities. There are also several training providers here, and local authority offers that provide training, skills or learning support roles. Teaching assistant vacancies feature in the areas top ten most advertised roles. Locally 50,121 people are employed in the sector, 17% above the national average. There is a growing use of digital and technology in teaching, also known as EdTech, which is beneficial as it mirrors real working life.



#### **Useful subjects**

English, maths, sciences, languages, ICT, history, geography, RE, design & technology

#### What is happening?

- ↑Sector employment is set to grow 3.4% by 2030.
- ↑There is a shortage of teachers in subjects such as maths, technology, physics, chemistry, history and design technology.
- ↑In FE and HE, tutors with an industry background linked to their specialism are highly sought after to enhance technical and worklinked education, particularly within construction and engineering.
- ↑Information needs to be put across to learners in a dynamic, engaging and clear way which involves lots of creativity, collaboration and planning, but this can help students to succeed.
- ↑The use of AI and Augmented Reality can help to monitor student progress and support with diverse learning experiences.
- ↑The take-up of online courses has increased across all ages, and can fit around peoples lifestyles. This also means opportunities to design and develop content, marketing and e-product user support.
- ↑There is a shortage of male teachers in early years, primary and secondary education. 72.5% of the workforce is female.
- ↑There are training roles in the workplace, helping employers, as there is an ongoing need to upskill and reskill adults in the workforce as new technologies are introduced across industries.
- ↑SMB College Group and Loughborough College have merged, creating the Loughborough College Group. Other area colleges include Leicester College and NWSLC.

#### **Getting** in

- ↑The most advertised jobs in the sector locally are from universities, colleges, schools and adult skills support.
- **Roles include** secondary education teachers, teaching assistants, adult tutors, English as a foreign language (EFL) tutors, primary and nursery education teachers, adult education and senior education professionals, plus areas such as student support.
- ↑For most teaching roles you need a degree but wider roles can be entered at a lower qualification level, such as learning support assistant. Apprenticeship options in the sector are growing.
- ↑Colleges can support teaching qualifications for candidates with relevant good industry experience.
- ↑There are fulfilling careers in employability support to help people with barriers when seeking work, such as ex-offenders.

#### **Local employers include:**

- ↑Sixth Form and Further Education colleges
- ↑Primary and Secondary schools, academies, special
- schools

  ↑De Montfort
  University
- ↑Loughborough University
- ↑University of Leicester

- ↑Leicester City Council
- ↑Leicestershire County Council
- ↑Language schools
- ↑Children's centres ↑Training providers
- ↑Private tuition
- organisations
  ↑East Midlands
  Institute of Technology





#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN

Nursery Worker	£16K-£24K
Secondary Teacher	£32K-£49K
Head Teacher	£56K-£130K
Education Technician	£19K-£32K
EFL Teacher	£21K-£32K
Training Officer	£22K-£40K
Adult Tutor	£20k-£30K
E-Learning Developer	£22k-£45K

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

getintoteaching.education.gov.uk | www.eteach.com www.tes.com | www.tefl.org.uk | www.et-foundation.co.uk Skills and qualities
Presentation skills, creativity,
problem solving, communication,
people management, planning,
patience, digital skills, listening



#### **Useful subjects**

Engineering, maths, physics, science and computing skills (especially in programming and data analysis/management). Geography is useful for Earth observation.

## Space

Space is one of the fastest growing sectors of the local economy and will give you a career that's out of this world! Leicester and Leicestershire is the UK's leading **location for space**, and as our reliance on space technology and applications grows, we need a strong workforce to support it. Space information supports our modern life, including areas like medical devices, SatNav, climate monitoring, high-speed communications and technology "spin-offs" including new camera technologies. The region has local university expertise, the iconic National Space Centre attraction, the globally recognised National Space Academy, Space City Leicester and an existing business base. Space Park Leicester is the 2nd largest campus-based cluster with a dedicated space focus in the UK.

#### What is happening?

♠Regionally the sector is one of the highest paid. with an average wage of £48K pa for established professionals. Area employers have strengths in product innovation and research and development.

↑The space sector is broadly made up of:

Science and research: including astronomy and astrophysics, cosmology and planetary science, and Earth observation science. Space engineering: planning, building and maintaining spacerelated instruments for exploration or communication systems. Business: using satellite data for business products (such as weather forecasts, precision agriculture, and cyber security).

**↑Space City Leicester** is part of the UKs 'space spine', and home to multiple space-related UK organisations such as Rolls-Royce, the UK Space Agency and the National Centre for Earth Observation. Businesses at the Dock\* work spaces at the site link to downstream space, in high tech, sustainability and innovation.

↑The Leicester University Space Research Centre has specialist space missions expertise. Every year since 1967 has seen a Leicesterbuilt instrument operating in space, including current involvement in the first telescope (HWO) designed to search for sign of life on planets orbiting other stars.

↑Space Park Leicester is a world-leading space hub, translating Earth Observation (EO) data into commercial services, plus space research and satellite production. Space engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs will be trained onsite, creating 2,500 jobs.

#### **Getting in**

↑Careers in space cover everything from building spacecraft and designing satellites, to co-ordinating disaster relief.

↑Most careers in space need high-level engineering, physics, maths, science or computing skills, but there is also a need for engineering, or roles using entrepreneurial and sales skills. There may also be support roles in areas like finance or marketing.

↑The UK's first ever post-16 Space Engineering course is offered by Loughborough College jointly with the National Space Academy. The UK Space Systems Engineering degree apprenticeship was developed in Leicester.

↑Emerging tech is in high demand, with skills in Al, machine learning, software and data analysis mentioned most often as needed by sector employers in 2025 research.

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

#### Other local employers include:

**↑**Open Cosmos satellite production and data

↑Magna Parva - space

hardware company **↑**Catapult - satellite

applications

**↑**Gardner Aerospace ↑Third Planet Orbital

↑Dynamic Aerospace **Fabrications** 

♠Bromford Precision

↑Maxar

↑SafeTTy Systems software for spacebased systems

♠Airbus - aerospace services

↑Bluesky - aerial survey services

↑Hownet Aerospace



#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN

Propulsion Engineer	£25K-£55K
Space Lawyer	£24K-£55K
Communications Engineer	£22K-£50K
Data Scientist	£25K-£55K
Planetary Scientist	£24K-£50K
Electronics Technician	£24K-£45K
Business Development Lead	£24K-£50K
Disaster Response Coordinator	£25K-£45K

#### Skills and qualities

Innovation, creativity, adaptability, problem solving skills, team work, communication skills. Additional languages are useful as projects may use international collaboration. Business skills are useful for the commercial sector.

www.spacecareers.uk | space-city.co.uk\* | www.space-park.co.uk | www.nceo.ac.uk https://nationalspaceacademy.org | www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship | www.spacecentre.co.uk

## Construction

This **dynamic**, **critical sector** includes the planning, design and creation of buildings or infrastructure such as roads, bridges or railways. **Construction offers amazing career opportunities to develop and travel**, and has **higher pay rates** than most other sectors. Ongoing demand comes from housing, environmentally friendly construction, commercial buildings and improving infrastructure - due to population growth, increased economic activity, and meeting new regulations. There are over **180 different roles**, not just those on a building site! There is also growth in large offices and empty retail space being converted into smaller units, or housing. There can be a lot of travel, with early starts, but great opportunities to progress.



**Useful subjects** 

Maths, sciences, ICT, geography, design and English

#### What is happening?

- ↑Employing 24,743 people locally; most businesses in the sector are micro sized, with under 9 employees.
- ↑Energy efficiency brings more retrofit roles such as heat pump installers, along with insulation and solar panel fitters. Sector innovation includes the use of modular and off-site construction, and using digital technology to construct buildings as 3D-models before they are built in reality.
- ↑With the increasing use of hi-tech machinery the need for technical and digital skills are growing, but traditional, skilled trades are still vital.
- ↑Allison Homes and the Vistry Group have both opened new regional headquarters in Castle Donington in 2025.
- ↑ Area construction consultants Pick Everard will design the UK's future prisons under a new appointment from the Ministry of Justice.
- ↑The East Midlands Freeport's (EMF) sites offer construction opportunities across industrial, commercial and infrastructure. There are thousands of new houses being built across the region, area demand for logistics centres, and ongoing railway and highway upgrades.
- ↑Local companies lbstock Brick, Aggregate Industries, Caterpillar and Breedon Group support construction with products and services.

#### Getting in

- ↑The area roles in highest demand are: technical officebased staff, civil engineers, project managers and labourers, but also needed are: plumbers, floor fitters, electricians, roofers, ground workers, wood trades, surveyors, architects, interior fit out, smart building technicians, crane operators, scaffolders, plasterers, painters and decorators and bricklayers. All areas will need IT and office-based staff like buyers, legal, design, sales and HR.
- ↑There are over 30 different apprenticeships in construction, and a range of graduate schemes.
- ↑The area Construction Skills Hub can help local people into the construction sector. See: www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

#### Other local employers include:

- **↑**Davidsons Homes
- ↑DAB Civil
- Engineering
- ↑Stonewater
- ↑Jelson Homes ↑East Midlands
- Housing Group
- ↑C3 Construction
- ↑William Davis
- **↑**EE Smith
- ↑Barratt Redrow
- ↑Galliford Try ↑Walter Miles
- ↑Central Flooring
  Services

- **↑**Bloor Homes
- ↑Danaher and Walsh
- ↑Mellor Bromley
- ↑CR Civil Engineering
  ↑Company Image Ltd
- ↑Taylor Wimpey
- ↑SML Group





WHAT YOU COULD EARN	
Carpenter/Joiner	£28K-£40K
Architect	£30K-£55K
Project Manager	£26K-£60K
Painter and Decorator	£20K-£40K
Electrical Trades	£25K-£60K
Civil Engineer	£28K-£60K
Quantity Surveyor	£25K-£80K
3D Visualiser	£22K-£35K
Plumber	£24K-£45K
Energy Assessor	£20K-£35K

Skills and qualities
Problem solving, attention to detail, communication, team working, leadership



#### **Useful subjects**

**English**, business and admin, maths, languages, sociology, **ICT**, sciences

## **Logistics and Distribution**

The logistics sector is at the heart of modern life! This exciting, innovative and vital industry supports everything we need or use, from medicine supplies, food, international trade, and everything else in-between. Products need to be delivered to the right place at the right time, involving the efficient flow of goods and services locally, nationally or internationally across road, rail, air or sea. This is a global 24-7, 365 days a year industry. Driving and delivery roles are in demand. but there are also options in supply-chain, ICT, engineering, front-line operations and support; these include transport planning, rail freight, aviation, finance, HR, customs, warehouse management and security.

#### What is happening?

↑The sector employs 44,253 people, (76% above the national average), and this is set to grow 10.3% by 2030.

♦ With Leicestershire's central location, 95% of the UK population can be reached within a four-hour drive, so companies base

↑Many sites are automated and IT and engineering teams play a huge part to keep centres running: the kit inside is very hi-tech and offers some exciting roles!

↑A lot of logistics companies are moving to cleaner fuels, such as LNG (Liquid Nitrogen Gas) to reduce carbon emissions; Asda has the largest number of LNG trucks and has invested into the refuelling infrastructure.

↑There are many distribution sites across the area, including Mercia Park, Optimus Point and Griffen Park.

↑Magna Park is Europe's largest distribution centre and is growing - likely to employ 15,000 people! It includes employers such as Unipart, Primark, and BT; an onsite training centre CLEAR (Centre for Logistics, Education and Research), has opened.

↑East Midlands Airport is the UK base for FedEx, Royal Mail, DHL and UPS; it is the UK's busiest pure cargo airport, and part of the East Midlands Freeport, bringing new jobs.

**↑SEGRO Logistics Park**, by East Midlands Airport, provides thousands of jobs: it is rail, road and air connected, with state-ofthe-art facilities from employers like GXO and The Very Group.

#### **Getting in**

**↑The sector welcomes young people** with a range of skills; progression prospects are excellent for those with a 'can-do' focus. Vacancies in logistics often appear in the top five most advertised jobs locally.

↑Entry-level roles include distribution clerk, some transport, warehouse and delivery roles, sales, IT and customer services which provide a stepping stone to career progression. The sector also has apprenticeships, and graduate schemes.

↑State-of-the-art logistics sites offer interesting roles mechanical or electrical engineering skills are useful, along with computer science, robotics or artificial intelligence qualifications.

#### Explore career ideas at...

#### Other local employers include:

**↑**Bleckmann

**↑**Ceva Logistics

**↑**Rhenus

**↑**Tovota Logistics

♠HW Coates

♠Fred Sherwood group ↑Pall-Ex

**↑**BS Handling

↑Maersk

**↑**Armstrong Logistics ♠Neovia

♠Pinnacle International Freight

↑Moran Logistics

**↑**Stephen Sanderson **↑**Crowfoots Carriers

**↑**East Midlands Trains

**↑**Oakland International

♠Kuehne and Nagel ↑Translink Express

♠Emkat solutions

**↑**Maritime

#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN

Air Traffic Controller	£40K-£70K
Transport Coordinator	£22K-£35K
Rail Engineering Technician	£24K-£40K
Automation Engineer	£30K-£55K
Supply Chain Manager	£24K-£48K
Warehouse Operative	£22K-£32K
Import Export Clerk	£22K-£30K
Software Development Lead	£28K-£55K
Airport Baggage Handler	£23K-£30K
Large Goods Vehicle Driver	£24K-£48K

Skills and qualities

Team work, communication, attention to detail, problem solving, good organisation, leadership, driving skills

generationlogistics.org | www.eastmidlandsairport.com | lutterworth.magnapark.co.uk www.novus.uk.com | www.ciltuk.org.uk | www.slp-emg.com | www.ioc.uk.com nwslc.ac.uk/the-centre-for-logistics-education-and-research-clear

## **Low Carbon**

This groundbreaking, evolving, growing sector offers a range of exciting careers along with supporting the protection of the environment! Jobs vary and include a countryside ranger apprentice, smart energy expert, solar panel installer, recycling operative and wind turbine technician, data analyst and farm manager. The sector covers employment in an activity that contributes to protecting or restoring the environment, including those that mitigate climate change. Locally the area has key strengths in wind, low carbon building technology, alternative fuels and photovoltaic. The area universities of De Montfort, Leicester, and Loughborough all have excellent low carbon research centres.





Useful subjects Maths, English, ICT, geography, physics, chemistry, biology

#### What is happening?

- ↑4,462 people are employed in energy locally, 140% above the national average; it is a well-paid part of the low carbon sector with average wages of £45K pa.
- ↑Government initiatives Clean Power 2030 and GB Energy are driving renewable energy, with lots of grid infrastructure engineering going on.
- ↑MIRA Technology Park (Hinckley) has globally innovative clean energy generation and hydrogen electrolysis on-site.
- ↑Cavendish Nuclear in Leicester lead the development and operations of new nuclear projects to support UK net zero.
- ↑ Alltruck plc, an area commercial vehicle contract hire specialist, has introduced its first all-electric truck to the leasing sector. As EV vehicle usage grows, servicing, repairs and charging installation roles will grow.
- ↑Other growth work areas will be in household energy efficiency, sustainable food production, animal welfare, carbon zero construction, and wind turbine maintenance.
- ↑Commercial solar panel costs have reduced by 90% over the last 10 years, so more local businesses and residents are investing in them to reduce energy costs. This increases manufacturing and installation roles.
- ↑The area is home to much of the National Forest providing sustainable timber and environmental/eco-tourism.

#### **Getting** in

- ↑Skills in demand are scientists, production engineers, power distribution engineers, civil engineers, plumbing and heating engineers, wind and solar energy technicians and electric vehicle engineers.
- ↑Graduates in physics, chemistry and geology are needed for research into greener technologies. Engineering and practical skills, as well as design, ICT and project management are also useful.
- ↑Apprenticeships are growing in areas such as sustainability advice, electric vehicle technician, forestry and low carbon heating engineer.
- ↑The top 'green' advertised job roles locally\* are safety managers, low carbon construction professionals, and health and safety coordinators.

#### Other local employers include:

- ↑Trina Solar
- ↑Smart Power Systems
- ↑Intelligent Energy
- ↑Flogas Britain
- **↑**CENEX
- ↑Bakers Environmental
- ↑National Grid
- ♠British Gas
- **↑**Octopus Energy
- ↑Elmhurst Energy
- ↑Environmental Energies Ltd
- ↑Herd Energy
- **↑**DNV

Low carbon skills will play an important role across all industries, so future jobs could be in any sector. It is worth researching a wide range of employers.

<b>↑</b> Severn	Trent

- ↑Casepack ↑EarthSense
- ↑Sav-eco Packaging



#### WHAT YOU COULD EARN £24K-£38K Climate Monitoring Technician **EV Charge Point Installer** £24K-£44K £22K-£35K Forestry Worker Wind Turbine Engineer £25K-£45K **Recycling Operative** £20K-£27K £24K-£40K **Energy Data Analyst** Gas/Heating Appliance Installer £24K-£35K £25K-£40K **Environmental Consultant**



Skills and qualities
Practical skills, design, ICT, project
management, problem solving,
innovation, attention to detail, creative
skills, customer service skills

#### Explore career ideas at...

www.greencareershub.com | www.euskills.co.uk/careers/ | www.tcv.org.uk www.environmentjob.co.uk | thisisengineering.org.uk www.greenjobs.co.uk | www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship



## **Tourism and Hospitality**

The dynamic, thriving Leicester and Leicestershire **tourism and hospitality sector offers an exciting, flexible and varied** area to work in, with many career opportunities, plus the possibility **to travel and progress quickly.** The sector employs **31,013 people** and city and county areas continue to grow their visitor numbers. The National Space Centre and King Richard III Visitor Centre both won Visit England awards in 2025. The sector includes indoor and outdoor tourism attractions, events, accommodation from glamping to hotels, restaurants, cafes, pubs, travel agents and tour operators, and festivals. Twycross Zoo is an award winning attraction that helps conservation, or how about working in a castle, theme park, exclusive restaurant or being a tour quide?

#### What is happening?

↑Sector employment is highest in tourism retail, and food and drink, however all areas continue to see growth in employment (i.e. accommodation, recreation and transport).

↑Tourism is very competitive, with 95% of attractions using social media or apps, especially Facebook, Instragram and Pinterest. Customer-centric skills are key, with high customer expectations, and review-driven markets.

↑Locally, staying in self-catering accommodation (holiday cottages, caravans, glamping and camping sites) is growing in popularity, and outdoor attractions such as the National Forest and Bradoate Park are also busy.

#### **↑**There's lots happening locally:

- Twycross Zoo's £25m Global Conservation Centre is expected to generate 90 jobs after its estimated opening date in late 2026
- Jewry Wall Museum and Leicester Cathedral Heritage & Learning Centre opened in 2025
- The Grand Hotel in Leicester is reopen after refurbishment
- Bosworth 1485 Sculpture Trail launches in 2025
- There are plans for a 120-room hotel at Everards Meadows

↑Local exciting experiences for visitors include: brewery tours, gin schools, pork pie making experiences, kayak and camping breaks, alpaca walks with afternoon tea, hovercraft and tank driving, holidays on a boutique narrowboat, and E-bike holidays.

↑Organisations are growing customer numbers by enhancing facilities, such as play areas, tea rooms, new exhibition spaces; but also increasingly adding virtual or augmented reality offers.

#### **Getting in**

↑Loughborough College have a travel and aviation course where students can train in an airline cabin simulator. Travel & Tourism courses are also offered at NWSLC and Leicester College.

↑Attractions are increasingly using volunteers, which is a great opportunity for young people to gain experience and skills.

↑37% of employees are 24 or under. Many companies train people on the job, with apprenticeships and management schemes.

↑Skill shortages include chefs, management roles, language skills, front of house, catering support, housekeeping, tour guide, and airport ground handling staff.

**↑Work can be seasonal**, and additional languages are useful.

## Local employers include:

↑The National Space Centre

**↑**De Montfort Hall

↑Stoney Cove

↑The National Forest and Conkers

**↑**Cattows Farm

↑Bosworth Battlefield

↑Belvoir Castle

♠Everards Meadows

↑Great Central Railway

↑The King Richard III Visitor Centre

↑Twin Lakes

↑Wistow Maze

↑Local museums and tourism centres

↑Hotels, B&Bs, camping and glamping

↑Bars and restaurants
↑Major sporting and

**↑**Conference centres

leisure venues

Casual work is often available through festivals, seasonal and sporting events



#### WHAT YOU COULD FARN

WHAI YOU COULD EARN	
Business Development Officer	£24K-£34K
Barista	£19K-£25K
Hotel Manager	£30K-£55K
Events Manager	£23K-£40K
Chef	£22K-£40K
Visitor Attraction Manager	£22K-£45K
Travel Consultant	£22K-£28K

#### **Explore career ideas at...**

careerscope.uk.net | www.visitleicester.info | www.eastmidlandsairport.com www.goleicestershire.com | www.ukhospitality.org.uk | www.abta.com

## Other key local sectors

## **Life Sciences**

- ↑The sector in Leicestershire is booming, with 14,200 people employed, and workforce growth of 4.7% by 2030.
- ↑The sector is one of the highest paying locally, with average wages of £42K per annum.
- ↑ Health life sciences uses biology and technology to improve health, including medical technology, genomics (DNA), diagnostics and digital health, generating products using precision medicine and technology (like Al). Work is fulfilling changing lives via new medical discoveries.
- ↑Charnwood Campus, Leicestershire is the UK's first Life Sciences Opportunity Zone an innovation site focussed on the biopharmaceutical sector; with over 800 scientists, and the potential for 5,000 jobs. It is home to Medilink Midlands who support medtech and life sciences innovators to grow, from early ideas to selling services.
- ↑Area employers include Almac, who have contributed to over 50% of new medicines approved over the last 5 years, Kindeva Drug Delivery who invented the first pressurised Meter Dose Inhaler (pMDI) for asthma, and lead the way in greener inhalers, Solventum (formally 3M, with 70 years of delivering healthcare innovation, and Weiss Technik, world market leader for environmental simulation systems.
- ↑Other employers are Inspiration Healthcare, Aspire Pharma, Spirit Healthcare, Thermo Fisher, Bioxhale and Myonex.
- ↑The area has an Institute for Precision Health, a joint venture between the University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester, to enhance health research.
- ↑The region is well-known for clinical research on chronic disease treatment and prevention, sport and exercise science and rehabilitation, drug development, and medical device manufacturing.
- ↑DNA fingerprinting was discovered in Leicester\* in 1984

#### **Getting** in

- ↑Roles include research scientist, laboratory technician, microbiologist, medical sales lead, wildlife biologist, data manager, ecologist, and engineering roles like biomedical, process and mechanical.
- ↑Loughborough College and Charnwood Campus Talent and Skills Institute help learners access careers through placements, T Levels, apprenticeships, and other training.
- ↑Degrees in biology, pharmacology, ecology, environmental science, life science or chemistry are useful, but not essential; many pathways in exist – including apprenticeships. There are also roles in research and development, drug manufacturing, and quality control, or areas like HR, accountancy, and management.

www.charnwoodcampus.com www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/ healthcare-science/life-sciences le.ac.uk/research/institutes/precision-health

#### \*At the University of Leicester by Professor Sir Alec Jeffreys

# Textiles and Fashion

- ↑The Leicester and Leicestershire area is at the heart of garment making in the UK, with diverse, talented, businesses including dyers, designers, printers, knitwear manufacturers, garment makers, fashion houses, and fabric and label services. 9,092 people are employed in the sector locally, 665% above the national average.
- ↑This creative, fast-moving sector offers great career progression. UK designers are some of the best in the world and British manufacturing offers heritage and quality.
- ↑Clothing retailers are increasingly offering repair services, and people want alterations, so demand for tailoring is growing.
- ↑Some UK retailers now manufacture locally for speed; turnaround for items to appear in the shops is now 2-3 weeks!
- **↑**Smart textiles technology is advancing, with the increasing use of high-technology in print, knitting, design, dyeing, pattern-cutting and some pre-programmable stitching, along with a growing market for eco-friendly garments and 'Made in Britain' products.
- ↑The area produces some globally-known products: Freed (Blaby) is the world's leading designer and maker of professional dance shoes; Urgo (Shepshed) manufacture and sell 'healing' medical bandages and compression hosiery.
- ↑Speed of response fashion is a significant part of area textiles, (including knitwear). Designers need a high commercial awareness to minimise costs and reduce waste.
- ↑There are increasing numbers of fashion starts-ups locally.
- ↑Local employers include Barrie Knitwear, TDP Textiles, Meesha Graphics, Avinci Ltd, Basic Premier, Charnwood Ties, Techknital Fabrics, Fashion Fabrics, and Fashion UK.

#### Getting in

- ↑There are some entry roles like trainee machinist, trainee designer, marketing, administration, packaging or pressing and the opportunity to gain skills and advance.
- ↑Jobs In demand include: product technologist, multi-skilled machinist, pattern cutter, CAD designer, print technologist, knitting machine technician, marketing and social media roles.
- ↑The Leicester-based Fashion Technology Academy offers courses with accredited training from Level 1 to Level 4 in industrial stitching, garment construction, pattern cutting, and tailoring, plus apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps.
- ↑De Montfort University has a contour fashion department, with acclaimed textiles courses.

fcfta.com (Fashion Technology Academy)
www.ukft.org
www.drapersjobs.com
leicestermade.co.uk

## Other key local sectors



↑Employing 37,882 people, retail is a significant sector here with large shopping centres, like Highcross and Fosse Park, boutique areas like St Martins and market towns with attractive shopping offers. There is a trend to shop more locally.

↑This is a dynamic, fast-moving, vibrant industry as retailers try to respond to - and predict - customer demand and trends.

↑Al-powered smart shelves and video analytics in stores give insights into shoppers' behaviour and help retailers with queue management, stock replenishment and optimizing store layout.

↑Many shops sell online as well as in-store, and offer delivery services. The use of self-service is also growing.

↑Next, Topps Tiles, Watches of Switzerland, Marks Electrical and Dunelm have their headquarters here. Sytner in Leicestershire is a huge retailer of very prestigious car brands.

↑Physical stores are enhancing in-store shopping with facilities like cafes, beauty treatments, music events and the use of virtual reality.

↑Area districts and boroughs are investing in enhanced shop fronts, market areas and events to attract shopping footfall.

↑Rental of goods is increasing, in areas like fashion, furniture and white goods. There's a shift towards sustainability and the repair and refurbishment of products is growing.

↑Online shopping offers opportunities in digital marketing, coding, website development, user experience, online security and cyber security. Customer data helps retailers to offer tailored services.

↑Online shopping is growing but there is still demand for in-store spending, as customers appreciate the tangibility of assessing products, and retail parks have fared well.

#### Getting in

↑25% of the sector is aged 24 or under, and young people can progress through on-the-job training or apprenticeships.

↑Retail roles include sales, customer care and behind-thescenes jobs such as buying, merchandising, stock control, logistics, accountancy, store operations and data analytics. Customer service, marketing and management skills are useful.

↑Supermarkets offer a wide range of roles and there are options to progress to management.

↑Many retailers have a X (Twitter) feed posting vacancies. Roles may include weekend, shift or seasonal work; shops are often open seven days a week.

> www.retailchoice.com www.highcrossleicester.com/jobs fossepark.co.uk/jobs www.leicestermarket.co.uk www.fashionretailacademy.ac.uk



## **Digital**

### ↑This is a fast-growing, future proof sector,

as technology is revolutionising how we live and work. It includes the operation of computers, networks, data analysis, cyber security, and the trading of goods and services online.



↑Al is increasingly used in Healthtech, Foodtech, and Climatetech. Al is driving automation, enhancing decision-making, creating new business opportunities, and creating demand for Al developers, machine learning engineers, and data scientists.

↑ Locally 12,373 people are employed in the sector, which is relatively young; 41% of employees are 34 or under. The sector is 68% male and 32% female.

↑Area employers are investing in online offers alongside their face-to-face work; some are investing in digital offers to operate more efficiently or grow services.

↑Software company The Access Group has a head office in Loughborough; other local employers include Jadu, Anicca Digital, TESTQ Technologies, CloudCall, IBM, Mobius Networks, Welcomm, Hermitage Innovation and Intercede.

↑Area digital skills shortages include: IT technicians, programmers, web developers, cloud engineers, data analysts and computer support roles.

↑The East Midlands Cyber Security Cluster is a key component in addressing the growing demand for cyber security professionals, tackling threats.

#### **Getting in**

↑With the rapid pace of technological evolution, continuous skill development is essential.

↑All sectors need digital so you could work in any area - in MI5, space, or the NHS, for example.

↑Digital entry level roles include: apprentice IT technician, digital marketing assistant, IT assistant, helpdesk support, and digital content roles.

Next and other large employers such as BAE and Amazon advertise regularly for digital roles.

↑Software development, computer support and systems engineer are the areas most advertised job roles in the sector.

2nd highest average wage across all local sectors (£39K)

www.bubble-jobs.co.uk www.techuk.org/pathways-into-digital-careers www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticehip www.youthemployment.org.uk/digital ukcybersecuritycouncil.org.uk/careers-route-map/



## Public Services

- ↑Progression opportunities are great in this varied and rewarding sector. It currently employs 20,899 people across the area and includes the civil service, local government, emergency services, tax, libraries, immigration, and prisons.
- **↑Local authorities and district councils\* have a wide range of careers**, including roles in culture and tourism,
  housing, transport, schools, business support and
  regeneration, leisure and recycling. Improving services offers
  the opportunity to innovate and can be very fulfilling.
- ↑Employment in the sector is set to grow 4.3% by 2030.
- ↑The army, navy and airforce also have multiple career options within them, both in frontline roles and support services, such as engineering, intelligence, IT support and medicine.
- ↑Jobcentre Plus (DWP) is working closely with careers services, and provides interesting roles helping people into work or training.
- ↑In prisons, probation and courts, AI will be used to better track offenders and assess risks. The region has three prisons -- Gartree, Fosse Way and HMP Leicester with unique roles to reduce reoffending.
- ↑Fraud, cyber crime and shoplifting are increasing and are a focus of police work. Algorithms, data analytics and facial recognition tools are increasingly used to aid police work, for example by using data to identify crime patterns.
- ↑In the fire and rescue service, a lot of focus is on community safety and fire prevention.

## Early Years

**^Looking for a job where you can truly make a difference?** Working with young children might be your calling!

- ↑Early years focuses on helping children learn and grow in their first few years, offering a fun, creative, and rewarding career, while making a positive impact on the lives of children and families.
- ↑Jobs in early years are hands-on and diverse and no two days are the same! Activity includes supporting the children's learning and development, in line with the early years curriculum to provide structured learning opportunities to support children's progress and development.
- ↑Work is monitored through the completion of observations, assessments and end of term reports, with policies and procedures to keep children safe.
- ↑Progression opportunities are excellent! Additional skills and qualifications offer scope to progress into early years advisors, school improvement advisors, Ofsted inspectors, trainers, lecturers, or tutors.
- ↑The early years teams at Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council offer help and support to get into the sector and to access roles across the region.

#### **↑**Employers include:

- Nurseries and preschools
- Primary schools (including before/after school clubs)
- Childminding or nannying
- Holiday clubs and play schemes, both in the UK and abroad!

#### **Getting** in

- ↑There are a broad range of entry roles and apprenticeships across the sector, from IT support, customer services, and trainee finance, housing or project roles.
- ↑Good communication skills are essential across roles, as many involve dealing with the public. Chatbot use is growing, to allow staff to focus their efforts on more complicated queries.
- ↑Digital skills are key as new technology is used throughout organisations to monitor and enhance services.
- ↑ Leicestershire Police, Leicester City Council, Leicestershire County Council, district and borough councils, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the army, navy and airforce regularly feature in area analysis of employers who advertise the most jobs locally.
- \*The seven area district and borough councils are: Hinckley and Bosworth, Charnwood, Melton, North West Leicestershire, Harborough, Blaby, and Oadby and Wigston.

www.civilservice.gov.uk/recruitment https://leics-fire.gov.uk/ www.leics.police.uk www.leicestershire.gov.uk/jobs www.leicester.gov.uk/jobs www.prisonandprobationjobs.gov.uk

#### **Getting in**

↑There are opportunities to get in post school, college, or seeking a change, with plenty of ways to get started. A great start is being good with people, patient, creative, and communicating well.

↑Employers often value life experience and teamwork, especially with children.

↑Skills can be built through apprenticeships, childcare qualifications in colleges, parttime work, or volunteering. Some roles do not require formal qualifications, and you can learn as you go.



www.leicestershire.gov.uk/earlyyears-and-childcare earlyyearscareers.campaign.gov.uk resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/jobsin-childcare

## Be an entrepreneur

Starting your own business might sound daunting, but it can be a lot easier than you might think. Businesses come in all shapes and sizes, and you can sell your time or expertise as a service or sell products, online, or face to face.

Starting a business needs some thought, consider some of the pros and cons:

#### Running your own business:

- → Independence: You can choose what work you want to take on, and how you deliver it - whilst incorporating the needs of your clients.
- → Satisfaction: Running a successful business is a personal and financial achievement.
- → Time: A business can be time-consuming, but it may also give you the flexibility to work when it suits you.
- → Financial success: There is financial risk involved in setting up a business, but if successful, what you earn is yours.

#### **Employment:**

- → Safety net: There can be greater job security working for someone else; you sign a contract, outlining the conditions of your role.
- → Benefits: You may have benefits such as a pension scheme, paid annual leave and paid sick leave. Tax is also sorted
- are given a period of notice if the job has to end.
- → Sociable: If you work for a company with several staff, you can make new friends, and a network of contacts.

#### **Some top tips** from Leicester Startups (www.leicesterstartups.com) include:

- → Try running an experiment or a 'side-hustle' to test your idea before you jump in.
- → Get to know other business owners through local networks.
- → Get training and mentoring support.
- → Look for a co-founder you don't need to go
- → Doing good research on the area of your start-up idea.

#### **TOP TIP!**

Want to run your own business? Get FREE impartial advice and help on www.bizgateway.org.uk



## **About Enterprise Zones!**

Enterprise Zones are designated areas across England that provide tax breaks and government support to businesses basing themselves within the zone. They are great places to work, with lots of exciting jobs across dynamic sectors with new and growing firms.

## Leicestershire has two Enterprise Zones which are:

## Loughborough and Leicester Science and Innovation Enterprise Zone (three sites)

- ↑Loughborough University Science and Enterprise Park (advanced manufacturing, digital, sports science and low carbon)
- ↑Charnwood Campus (life sciences/biomedical)
- ↑Leicester Waterside covers two City areas offering office space and hi-tech employment including Space City Leicester.

## The MIRA Technology Park – (automotive research and development)

- ↑Europe's leading automotive technology park, with fantastic £300m test facilities; the site is expanding and will offer lots of new jobs.
- ↑Over 35 renowned companies onsite and 40 major testing laboratories.
- ↑Home to MIRA Technology Institute (MTI), a bespoke facility for engineering and automotive apprenticeships and courses. See: miratechnologyinstitute.co.uk



www.lusep.co.uk | www.charnwoodcampus.com | www.space-city.co.uk www.leicester.gov.uk/waterside | www.miratechnologypark.com

## **Qualifications and pathways summary**

Qualification	Description	Length of Time	Assessment	
Apprenticeships	A real job with training and a salary	Minimum of 8 months (new shorter apprenticeships)	End point assessment: can include observations, interviews, tests, projects and portfolio reviews	
A Levels	An academic qualification, similar in style to GCSEs that prepares you for further study	2 years	Mostly exams at the end of the course	
T Levels	A technical study programme, equivalent to 3 A Levels, with an industry placement that makes up 20% of the course.  T Levels are designed to give you the skills that employers need	2 years	Exams, projects and practical assignments	
Vocational Technical (VTQs)	Qualifications that teach you how to do tasks specifically related to the industry and role you want to be in	Course dependent	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	
Supported Internships*	A structured study programme/ partnership based mostly with an employer	6 months - 12 months	A formal job or exit interview with written feedback. Coursework/ exams depending on any courses done as part of the programme.	
Entrepreneurship	Setting up your own business, as either a freelance service, a registered company, or a sole trader	N/A	N/A	
You can also go straight into work at 16! But you will still need				

You can also go straight into work at 16! But you will still need to be doing part-time training or study at the same time.

<sup>\*</sup> A supported internship can be accessed by 16-24 year olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

## World of Work Leicestershire

Level of Study	Award UCAS Points	Entry Requirements	Work Experience	What does it lead to?
2 to 7* (subject to criteria)	Yes	Employer dependent Age 16+ Evidence of interest and ability to complete	Yes paid role with off the job hours - dependent on apprenticeship	Higher level or degree Apprenticeship University/College Work
3	Yes	For individual schools and colleges to decide (commonly 5 GCSEs at grade 4 and above)	No	Apprenticeship University/College Work
3	Yes	Set by each school / college	Yes (80% classroom, 20% work)	Apprenticeship University/College Work
1+	Yes	Course dependent (coursework and exams)	Course dependent	Apprenticeship University/College Work
N/A	Yes	There are no formal entry requirements, it is up to the employer and the college	Yes	Work College/Apprenticeship
N/A	No	Industry dependent	Recommended before setting up your own business	Self-employment Funded support for research and development Product or service development and collaborations

Explore your options further at: skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/young-people

**Looking for work & apprenticeships** 

## You can search for jobs and apprenticeships in lots of places:

**Apprenticeships:** Learn about apprenticeships and search for vacancies on the National Apprenticeship Service website: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

The Leicester Employment Hub: Local apprenticeship and job events: www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk

**Youth Hubs, careers and jobs centres**: Some areas have Youth Hubs to help young people. Job Centres and the National Careers Service can also help.

**Social media and the internet:** Many companies have a website with a careers section. Some companies advertise positions through Facebook, LinkedIn or X (Twitter). Or try a job search site such as Indeed or Reed.

A **recruitment agency:** Looks at your skills and experience and then matches you to a suitable job. Search **www.yell.com** or **www.agencycentral.co.uk** 

**Local and national newspapers and magazines:** May have job pages and online job search facilities.

\*A speculative cover letter and CV can be sent to a company that isn't currently advertising for staff. They outline your skills, experience and potential should any notential vacancies arise.



Family, friends or other contacts: Might have a vacancy going at their

workplace that would suit you. Let them know you're looking!

**Speculate:** Not all jobs are advertised, so try targeting companies that you are interested in working for; send in a CV and speculative letter.\*

**Seasonal work:** There are vacancies over the summer (such as events or fruit picking) and at Christmas (retail, warehouse, production lines, hospitality).

## Looking for work if you have a disability

You may be able to access a **supported internship** or **work experience** which can help you to gain employment.

If a job advert displays the disability confident symbol, you may be guaranteed an interview if you meet the basic conditions for the job.

It means the employer is committed to employing disabled people. See www.gov.uk/looking-for-work-if-disabled. Increasing numbers of local employers are signing up to be disability confident.

If you need support before you start to apply for jobs, a Disability Employment Adviser at your local Jobcentre can help you to gain skills, and give support and advice on any funding that might be available.

For advice see www.gov.uk or www.disabilityrightsuk.org or www.evenbreak.com/uk Leicester and Leicestershire – Your Futures. Also see: the National Careers Service - national careers.service.gov.uk/careers-advice





## Show your skills!

As well as qualifications, employers also look for the skills people have when they're applying for jobs. Here are some of the attributes that employers are most looking for and how to highlight them:



Build a 'tool-box' of skills over time that you can take from one job to another.

that employers	are most looking for and now to nightight them:	you can take from one job to another.	
Employers like someone who	What you can do		
Has good communication skills	Speak calmly and confidently, making eye contact with the employer. Answer questions 'fully', not just 'yes' or 'no'. If you've a presentation at school, explain how you presented it clearly what the impact was.		
Is keen and enthusiastic	When applying for a job, think carefully about how you put y across. Be open to different tasks and ideas in the workplace.		
Is adaptable	Show examples of how you've adapted to change, such as leaving school. Make it clear that you're willing to learn new s	skills.	
Can work well in a team	Use examples of how you contributed as part of a team from school, groups you may be in (such as Air Cadets, sports team youth boards etc) or your hobbies to show how you can get others. Explain how you listened, discussed and negotiated a of a team to complete a task.	ns, on with	
Is reliable	When you get a job or an apprenticeship, be on time every d Ring into work if you're unwell (but not just a headache) to le them know you won't be coming in.		
Has commercial awareness	Research how the company you are applying to works, and makes a profit, and think about how it could grow.	Can you speak another language?	
Has customer awareness	Dealing with the public involves a range of skills and qualities. Show that you understand the need to communicate well and can remain calm in difficult situations.	Many companies trade globally so it can be a real asset.	
Can problem solve	Explain how you would identify a problem and how you wou solve it. Try to come up with different ways of tackling it and who else you would need to involve. If you can think of something you've had to resolve that was difficult then it shows that you're not afraid of a challenge	uld	

Work can sometimes be challenging, and your boss

a time when you bounced back from difficult times.

wants to know how you cope with set backs. Think of

Skills Builder is a great website on building essential skills to get on in life, see: www.skillsbuilder.uk

Has resilience

Do you have good IT skills? Virtually all companies value strong IT skills, make sure you convey your skills and expertise in this area.



You can learn new skills and explore information about an industry by spending time in a workplace, seeing if a type of work will suit you. See some suggestions below about how you can get some work experience.

- ↑Get a part time job (see next page).
- ↑Take up work experience opportunities offered by your school or college, some employers also offer virtual (online) work experience.
- ↑Does a family contact or friend run a business? You could ask if you can help out to get some experience.
- ↑Attend school or college careers events to meet lots of employers in one go; sometimes employers have open evenings so you can explore the workplace.
- ↑Volunteering for a charity or project is a great way to gain experience and skills and in doing so you can gain valuable contacts. You can choose a charity that you are passionate about. See: valonline.org.uk
- ↑Extra curricular activities like a theatre group, Air, Army or Sea Cadets or sports group will give you valuable team and problem solving skills.
- ↑Help out at neighbourhood or community events, for example helping with the planning of a fete, or working on a stall.



Make a note of any skills you learn as part of your work experience, whether it is working to a deadline, customer service skills or resolving a problem. You can use examples as part of a formal job application process.

When can I get a part-time job?

The earliest that young people can start work is 13 years old. There is more scope for longer hours at 14 and then at 15, and restrictions on the types of work they may do. All young people of compulsory school age between the ages of 13 -16 require a work permit to work on a part-time basis and/or during school holidays.



#### What job can I do?

You could undertake newspaper deliveries, car washing (by hand in a residential area), domestic work in hotels (and other premises such as offices and shops), retail work, office work, hairdressing salon support, riding stables help, work in kennels and catteries (depending on the nature of the work) and cafes and restaurants (front of house only).

Other work areas (e.g. kitchen porter) may be possible but the child employment licence team will need to assess what is feasible, see the links at the base of the page to find out more.

#### Other paid roles to consider:

- ↑Babysitting ask relatives, neighbours or family friends if they need any help.
- ↑Dog walking ask around to see if anyone you know needs a dog walker.
- ↑Helping neighbours with gardening.

You do not require a work permit to do odd jobs at your home or a neighbour's home, babysitting or work experience organised by your school.

'Word of mouth' is a powerful tool; let family/friends/neighbours know that you are looking for work; lots of people gain employment through knowing somebody else who is hiring!



#### Local case study:

One student got her first job by asking in her local cafe if she could help with serving customers at weekends. She was taken on immediately and after a few weeks got more hours and pay. At 16 she helped with the family business during school holidays and now works part-time at the Co-op whilst at college, it all looks good on her CV!

There's also a growing trend for young people to sell clothing or goods online to make some money, and some youngsters are also helping out in family businesses.

Businesses intending to employ school-age children must apply for a **child employment permit** (no charge). Contact either Leicester City Council or Leicestershire County Council (see links below) to download the relevant permit.

www.leicester.gov.uk/business/licences-and-permits/child-employment-licence www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/child-employment

## Job applications – covering letters and CVs

Many job adverts may ask you for a CV and/or covering letter.

#### What is a covering letter?

This is a summary letter capturing why you are applying for a role and to highlight how your skills and experience fit that role. There are online tools that can give you sample covering letter outlines for you to add to.

A professional covering letter, with a tailored CV can really make your application stand out! Most recruitment is online nowadays so the covering letter and CV can be done in Word and emailed to the company.

Employers will be impressed if you know something about them! Do some research on their company and tailor your covering letter to the job you are applying for.



#### **Covering letters**

↑Write or type the letter out in rough first and check for mistakes.

↑If you're replying to an advert, include the job title and reference.

↑Include your full address, phone number, email address and the date.

↑Highlight the skills and experience that you bring to the job, and how they match the specifics that the company is looking for.

↑Be enthusiastic about why you want to work for that particular company - employers may get several CVs, so make sure yours stands out.

↑Gain knowledge of the company or service and show it off! Do some research on the role and organisation and find out about the company goals.

↑Check your spelling.

↑Practice makes perfect! Once you have mastered one covering letter, the next one should be easier.

#### TOP TIPS!

Adapt your job search to maximise your chances of finding employment.

- 1) Develop your online presence
- **2)** Boost your skills through work experience, and free online courses
- 3) Use a range of websites to source vacancies
- 4) Be open minded to different opportunities

#### Olivia Jones

Address: 123 Another Street, Anytown, AA15 0XX
Tel: 01799 010101 Olivia.jones@email.com

I am a hardworking person who is looking for a career in events management. I have good communication skills which make me a good team player and I enjoy talking to people. I enjoy organising and problem solving as my work experience shows. I would like to be able to use my creativity in the workplace.

#### Achievements, skills and qualities including work experience

- I was editor of my college magazine showing that I am prepared to take on responsibility, can make decisions and work to deadlines. I enjoyed the chance to be creative.
- I helped to fundraise for the school by organising a 'bake-off' showing that I have good organisation and team-work skills. I also promoted this event to pupils, parents and staff by designing and distribution a fiver.
- As a member of the county orchestra I travelled to several European cities, meeting the and showing commitment.
- My Year 10 work experience placement was with a local magazine where I learnt about the importance of deadlines, how desktop publishing works and how to put a magazine together. I returned for a short placement after I finished school.

#### Education

#### 2023-2025 East College, Anytown

Media A level Grade B Business Studies A level Grade B Photography A level Grade B

#### 2018-2023 Sandfield School, Anytown

GSCE Grade 8 English Business Studies GSCE Grade 8 Psychology GSCF Grade 7 Maths GSCF Grade 8 ICT GSCE Grade 8 GSCE Grade 8 Biology Art and Design GSCE Grade 7 French GSCE Grade 7 GSCE Grade 7 Geography

#### **Employment history**

#### Waterside Funpark

I worked in the cafe at weekends and in the holidays. This involved taking money, serving customes and learning the importance of food hygiene. It was very busy at times and I enjoyed working under pressure.

#### sample CV layout

- ↑Keep it brief and to the point no more than two pages of A4.
- ↑Use a computer, use the same font throughout and use clear headings.
- ↑Start with your name, address, telephone number and email address. Ensure that your email address looks professional.
- ↑Write your current position or qualification first and work backwards.
- ↑Include any achievements or courses you've been on outside of school (for example, passing music exams, getting a driving licence, getting a first aid certificate or doing voluntary work).
- ↑Words that you use in a CV can help convey a positive message to the reader, words such as: reliable, trustworthy, logical, and hardworking.
- ↑Include a covering letter with your CV. Read and check both for spelling or mistakes.
- ↑Many websites, such as the National Careers Service (nationalcareers.service.gov.uk) and www.barclayslifeskills.com have sample templates of CVs and more hints and tips.

### Writing your CV

#### What is a CV?

A CV (short for Curriculum Vitae) is a summary of your qualifications, skills, achievements and career to date, and is used to highlight relevant information to a prospective employer, to see if you are a good fit for a job.

## **TOP TIP!**

Tailor your CV to the job that you are applying for! Use key words from the job advert, job description and person spec and give examples of how you meet these.



There is an increase in the use of digital CV's and video CV's, especially for creative jobs. Put a link in your contact details section to work you have produced and are showcasing on Instagram or YouTube.

#### World of Work Leicestershire

## Job and apprenticeship applications

#### **Application forms**

Some employers give you application forms to complete as part of the recruitment process, and most applications are done online.



Ensure that your email address is professional. Avoid an inappropriate email address; it will create a negative impression and may result in your application being rejected.



#### Whether you apply online, or using pen and paper, the following tips will help!

- ↑Read through the form first and the notes that go with it.
- ↑Make a rough copy of your answers first, and be careful not to use 'text speak' on your final application.
- ↑Make sure your answers are neat and clear and that you don't have any spelling mistakes.
- ↑Make sure that your skills and abilities meet those needed for the job or apprenticeship. Demonstrate under each heading how you meet the criteria, giving examples.
- ↑Get a friend or family member to check your application and give feedback.
- ↑For your first referee, use your head teacher or principal if you are at school or college, and your current or last employer if you are working. For your second, use an adult who knows you well but not a relative. Don't forget to ask them first.
- ↑Make sure you fill in every section of the form use the space to sell yourself and what you can bring to the job or apprenticeship.
- ↑Sometimes an employer brings the closing date forwards if they have already received enough applications, so send yours back as soon as possible.
- ↑Keep a copy of the form to remind you what you stated in case you get selected for an interview!
- ↑Don't be discouraged if you do not get an interview at first, stay positive and keep trying.
- ↑There's lots of help on applying for apprenticeships here: www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices

The way some employers recruit is changing! Many as X, LinkedIn, Snapchat and TikTok. Recruitment can involve a range of processes, so be prepared.



#### World of Work Leicestershire

There is a lot of helpful job search and interview support online, look on: www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize or www.youthemployment.org.uk

look on YouTube for 'job interview questions'



Preparation can win you the job or apprenticeship; you can shine if you do some company research, rehearse interview questions and be enthusiastic!



#### Applying for a job or apprenticeship by phone

- ↑Make sure you know the name of the person you need to speak to. If you're not sure, ask for the personnel or human resources department or main reception.
- ↑Do some research about the company.
- ♠Prepare the questions you want to ask beforehand and have them written down in front of you. Practice what you will say.
- ↑Have a pen and some paper ready to write down anything you feel is important.
- ↑Introduce yourself clearly and thank the person at the end of the phone call.
- ↑Make sure you have enough credit on your phone!

#### Interviews

- ↑Make sure you know where the interview is being held and that you can get there on time leave some time for delays.
- ↑Be polite, friendly and punctual and dress smartly.
- ↑Research the company first, for example what they do and how big they are. Find out what their company values are.
- ↑Prepare some questions that vou want to ask about the job or apprenticeship.
- ↑Research common interview questions and prepare answers. Practice with a friend or relative.
- ↑Try to answer all the questions with more than just 'yes' or 'no'. For example, tell them about a time when you have solved a problem, or worked as part of a team.
- ↑Make sure you have everything you need for the interview such as certificates.
- ♠Speak clearly, smile and thank the interviewer at the end.
- ↑Be positive-show your spark and personality!

Online interviews are increasing! Make sure you practice potential that your IT works properly.

© This guide was collated by Anna Cyhan at the Leicester and Leicestershire Business and Skills Partnership. An online version of this guide is available on: Ilbsp.org.uk



Useful websites for further help or research

#### **Job or apprenticeship vacancies**

National Apprenticeship Service www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship Find a job

www.jobhelp.campaign.gov.uk

Leicester Employment Hub

www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk LEBC

www.leics-ebc.org.uk/young-people/apprenticeships

Leicester Mercury Jobs

www.leicestermercury.co.uk Indeed - www.indeed.co.uk LinkedIn- www.linkedin.com

#### **Recruitment agencies**

Find an agency www.agencycentral.co.uk

#### **Careers information and advice**

National Careers Service www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk Amazing Apprenticeships

www.amazingapprenticeships.com
The Student Room

www. the student room. co. uk

Not Going to Uni www.notgoingtouni.co.uk Barclays Life Skills

www.barclayslifeskills.com

Youth Employment UK - www.youthemployment.org.uk

Careermap - www.careermap.co.uk

#### **Starting your own business**

LLBSP Business Gateway www.bizgateway.org.uk

#### **Higher Education and graduates**

UCAS - www.UCAS.com Guide to university www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk Prospects - www.prospects.ac.uk



