



# What's next after Level 3?

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A guide for young people  
with SEND



# There's more than one route to success



There are many progression pathways after Level 3\*. The right one for you depends on your goals, needs, and how you like to learn.

Knowing which jobs will be in demand and the skills employers are looking for can really help you plan your future.

## Let's explore your options.

\*Level 3 courses are advanced qualifications like A-levels or BTECs that prepare you for university, an apprenticeship, or skilled work.



# University

University offers a range of opportunities for further study. For many, it's a pathway to achieving aspirations while accessing support for study. However, uni isn't for everyone. If you don't fancy the financial and location challenges it may bring, you might want to consider some of the following options.



For all things University:  
[ucas.com](https://ucas.com)



# Apprenticeship

As an apprentice you can earn a wage whilst studying for a nationally recognised qualification and receive on the job training from industry experts. There is a wide range of apprenticeships in most job sectors and at different levels from intermediate to degree level. The training provider will offer you support for any additional needs. It's a great way to kick-start your career, earn qualifications, and avoid student debt.



Explore more:  
[amazingapprenticeships.com](https://amazingapprenticeships.com)



Find an apprenticeship:  
[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)







# Supported Internship

Structured work-based study programmes designed for 16-24 year-olds with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). They will equip you with the skills and confidence you need for sustained, paid employment, while providing tailored support through job coaches and education providers.

For more about supported internships:  
[bucksskillshub.org](https://bucksskillshub.org)



# Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

Practical, employer-led training at Level 4 or 5. Combining classroom learning with industry experience, it's a great option if you want to progress without committing to a full university degree.

Explore more about HTQs:  
[amazingapprenticeships.com](https://amazingapprenticeships.com)



# Alternative Provision

Specialist providers and settings that offer personalised learning programmes if you have an EHCP. You will receive flexible learning in a supportive environment, where you can gain qualifications and skills, access mentoring and bespoke support as well as improving your social and employability skills.

## Adult Education

If you're aged 19 or older, you may be able to access free courses. A choice of part-time courses and workshops available from one-day sessions to year-long programmes, beginner to advanced.

Curious to know more?  
[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



## Skills Bootcamps

Flexible 16-week training programmes in high-demand job areas with a guaranteed interview after.

Find out more:  
[bucksskillshub.org](https://www.bucksskillshub.org)



## Self-Employment

Do you have an amazing idea for a business? You can find lots of support about how to start your own business or become a contractor.

Explore more:  
[kingstrust.org.uk](https://www.kingstrust.org.uk)



## Voluntary Work

Whichever route you decide to take, remember volunteering can add value to your CV by putting some of your spare time to good use.

Find out more about volunteering:  
[communityimpactbucks.org.uk](https://www.communityimpactbucks.org.uk)





# Find jobs in your local area

It's good to know which jobs are in high demand in Buckinghamshire. Right now, there's a real need for skilled people in sectors like:

- **Construction**
- **Digital**
- **Engineering**
- **Film and TV**
- **Health and Social Care**

These areas are growing fast, and there aren't enough trained people to fill all the roles, which means there are loads of opportunities for young people like you.

Explore real opportunities in Buckinghamshire:  
[www.gov.uk/find-a-job](https://www.gov.uk/find-a-job)



Take a look at the job sector profiles on the National Careers Service website. They'll give you a better idea of what each job is like and whether it could be a good match for your interests and skills.

You can also get careers advice through your school or college. Or, you can chat with a National Careers Service adviser who can help you figure out your next steps.

Explore job sector profiles:  
[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)





# Interview Support

It's entirely your choice whether to share any additional needs with a potential employer during an interview. Letting them know can help them support you, remember, they want you to do your best.

## You can ask for:

- Interview questions to be provided in advance
- Clear details about the location, structure, and timing of the interview to help reduce anxiety.
- A quiet, private room with minimal lighting and few distractions.
- Interviewers to be aware of differences in your body language, so you don't feel pressured to mask your natural behaviour.

# Disability Confident Employers

Some companies have made a commitment to support people with disabilities and long-term health conditions by joining the Disability Confident scheme.

When searching for apprenticeships you can filter results to show only Disability Confident employers.

Find an apprenticeship:  
[gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](https://gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)



# Employment and Training Support Passport

The Employment and Training Support Passport is a document you can use to share important information about yourself in a workplace or training environment.

## It can include:

- **Your strengths, skills, and experience**
- **Your interests and hobbies**
- **Any diagnosis, disability, or health condition**
- **Information to help others understand you better**
- **A personal emergency plan**
- **Any reasonable adjustments you may need**



## Before you start

You can read the guidance on how to fill it in.

How to complete your support passport:  
[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



When you're ready, download a blank passport to complete.

Download your support passport:  
[view.officeapps.live.com](https://view.officeapps.live.com)



## Need help?

Your school, college, or education provider should offer access to independent, professional careers advice. Ask your careers adviser for support and check out the links below.

More support:  
[bucksskillshub.org](https://www.bucksskillshub.org)



Career guidance:  
[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)

