

Options after Year 12

The Department for the Economy's Careers Service provides professional and impartial careers advice and guidance to help you make informed choices about your future career.

Year 12 is a very important year for you to research all the options available to you. The Careers Adviser in your school will be in contact with you during the year to offer you advice via a career guidance interview, brief interview or group session.

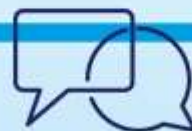
There are several options available to you at the end of Year 12. This leaflet explains each option and gives you advice on what you need to do next.

Key Action Points

- ✓ Research your post 16 options and possible future career ideas.
- ✓ Explore your likes and dislikes and consider how they fit in with future options.
- ✓ Explore the skills you have and those you might like to have in the future.
- ✓ Speak to your teacher for information on subjects and exams.
- ✓ Visit local college / school / training provider open days and check out their websites, always ensuring you apply for any courses on time.
- ✓ Explore what careers are out there, using online resources to help you identify where the jobs are now and where they are likely to be in the future.
- ✓ Attend talks provided by your school or given by employers and take an interest in jobs around you.
- ✓ Discuss your plans at home, with teachers and your Careers Adviser.
- ✓ Consider applying for more than one option as it is wise to have a back-up plan.
- ✓ Consider all your options early. Applications for some pathways may open as early as autumn of Year 12.
- ✓ Be open minded as there are many paths and careers available to you.
- ✓ Have revision plans in place so you can maximise your chances of securing the option you want.
- ✓ If you change your mind about your choices, or need additional help, you can contact your Careers Adviser at any time.

What careers are available?

Use the Careers A to Z tool at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/careers-z-list> to explore careers you're interested in. You can learn more about what it's like to work in your chosen career by watching videos and reading real life case studies.



What careers would suit you?

Try some useful online assessments:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/buzzquiz>

<https://www.16personalities.com/>

www.sacu-student.com

www.sacu-student.com/help

What skills do you need for the future?

There are many jobs that need transferable skills. These are abilities, aptitudes and qualities that can be transferred from one job or activity to another and are gained in a range of ways e.g. through work, interests, volunteering, hobbies, sports.

Transferable skills include:

- ☒ communication - being able to communicate effectively through speaking, writing and listening.
- ☒ teamwork - being a constructive team member.
- ☒ leadership - motivating and leading others.
- ☒ initiative - seeing opportunities and achieving goals.
- ☒ willingness to learn - being open to new ideas.
- ☒ solving problems - thinking things through in a logical way.
- ☒ flexibility - being able to adapt.
- ☒ being self-aware - knowing your strengths and skills.
- ☒ commitment and motivation - having energy and enthusiasm when carrying out projects.
- ☒ interpersonal skills - relating well to others.
- ☒ numeracy - understanding and using information such as numbers, statistics and graphs.

You probably have many of these skills already. The next step is to try and identify them.

What Skills are in Demand?

To fully explore all your options, you should know where the jobs are now and where they are likely to be in the future. You can find out more at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/skills-demand> and <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/topics/employment-and-skills-programmes-including-apprenticeships/careers-occupational-information>



What are the main options available after Year 12?

- + **Staying at school** - If you are thinking about staying on at school or transferring to another school for further study, you will need to decide which subjects to choose and what grades you will require to get into a particular sixth form.

To help with your research you could:

- ☑ Attend school sixth form events and sixth form open days to help you decide which school best suits your needs.
- ☑ Speak to teachers and other students for additional information on subjects and the workload involved. This will help you to decide whether the subject and topics covered interest you and if the learning style / method of assessment will suit you.
- ☑ Read information provided by the school in their post 16 options booklet.
- ☑ Explore careers you are interested in and what subjects are required or preferred for these careers. Check out the [Options after Year 12](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers) on <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers>

- + **Going to a Further Education College** - If you are thinking about going to a further education college, you will need to decide which course to choose.

- You can visit college open days (look out for them from October to April) where you will be able to speak to tutors about the courses you are interested in, the content, qualifications required, application process and pathways after the course.
- It is important to get your online application in early when the application window opens as some courses are very popular.
- If you have not fully decided whether doing a further education course would suit you, it is advisable to apply even as a backup plan. You can always withdraw your application at a later date.

- + **Training and Apprenticeships** - If you are thinking about training for a specific job or completing an apprenticeship, you will need to choose an occupational area in which to train or work.

○ **Training** –

- **Skills for Life and Work** is a programme for young people who need workplace experience along with qualifications at Level 1 or Entry Level. The programme involves a significant amount of time spent in a workplace as well as training with a training organisation for the rest of the time. These programmes are delivered by further education colleges and training providers.
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/skills-life-and-work>



- **Traineeship** A traineeship gives you the opportunity to gain a L2 qualification in a specific career related subject. It provides you with the skills and qualifications you will need to progress on to work, further learning or an apprenticeship. Traineeships are delivered in Further Education Colleges throughout NI.
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/traineeships>
- **Apprenticeships** offer opportunities in many occupational areas with a variety of employers. An apprenticeship will let you earn as you learn. You will need to be employed or be about to take up employment to start as an apprentice with a Northern Ireland based company. Some apprenticeships will require specific qualifications. To find an apprenticeship, check local and national press, social media and vacancy websites. Investigate any contacts provided by family or friends, check company websites and contact employers directly, or visit <https://www.jobapplyni.com/> to check for vacancies.
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/apprenticeships>
- **Employment** opportunities can be found using www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/finding-job

How do I contact the Careers Service

The Careers Adviser will work with your Careers Teacher to arrange a time to see you for a careers intervention during Year 12. This may be via a career guidance interview, brief interview or group session.

-  By **telephone** on 0300 200 7820 (available Monday-Friday 9.30-4.30)
-  Using **webchat** at www.nidirect.gov.uk/chat-with-a-careers-adviser (available Monday-Friday 9.30-4.30)
-  **Email** a question using the online **Ask Careers** form on our **Careers Contact** webpage.

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Website: www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers