

Prepare for an Apprenticeship in Construction

If you are interested in working in Construction via the apprenticeship route you may want to find out more about what you can do to strengthen your application. The following will help with this.

Where can you look for an Apprenticeship?

One of the first things to do is to register with the Government apprenticeship website. This will alert you to Construction apprenticeships happening near you. Register [here](#).

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Career Finder](#)

[Notgoingtouni](#)

[Getmyfirstjob](#)

[RateMyApprenticeship](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in Cornwall that cover Construction Apprenticeships:

[Cornwall Opportunities](#)

Cornwall College Group apprenticeships <https://www.cornwall.ac.uk/apprenticeships/>

Truro and Penwith College <https://www.truro-penwith.ac.uk/apprenticeships/>

Who offers Construction Apprenticeships?

It is also worth approaching any builders that you would like to work for and asking if they are likely to take on apprentices when you are due to leave school.

You can also try Construction companies such as:

[Taylor Wimpey](#)

[Persimmon](#)

[Redrow](#)

[Barratt](#)

[Bloor Homes](#)

[Crest Nicholson](#)

[The Army](#)

Which area would you like to specialise in? As a Bricklayer, Electrician, Plumber, Tiler, Demolition, Plasterer, Scaffolder, Painter, Decorator, and many others. For further information and ideas click [here](#).

What should you check for?

What's the Level of apprenticeship?

Level 2 Intermediate, Level 3 Advanced, Level 4/5 Higher or Level 6 Degree

What are the entry requirements?

Will you need GCSE passes? How many? Or A-Levels or BTECs? Are there any grades and subjects needed?

Where is the employer's location?

How will you get there - by walking, bus, train? Will you need to move and find accommodation?

What qualifications will you gain with the apprenticeship?

For example, Carpentry and Joinery Level 2

What training provider or college is linked to the apprenticeship? Where are they based and how will you get there?

What will they be looking for?

Employers will look for:

- Practical skills, able to work well with your hands, are you good at Design Technology, decorating, tinkering with machinery or repairing things that will show your skills?
- Attention to detail, completing tasks well.
- Willingness to learn and train as this will never end with continuous developments in the construction industry.
- Problem-solving skills.
- A good team player and communication skills.
- Health and Safety conscious.
- Self-belief
- Good time management skills

How can I demonstrate I have the skills? How do I stand out from the crowd?

You will need an excellent CV to sell you and your skills and strengths.

For an example of a school leavers' CV see [here](#).

Look at industry websites to find out what they are discussing, for example

[CITB](#)

[Go Construct](#)

[Housebuilding Careers](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to have a desire to work in the construction industry and to learn about it.

For general advice on interviews please watch [this](#) and read these below:

[National Careers Service](#)

[Apprenticeships.gov](#)

[UCAS](#)

Be friendly and polite and remember to smile.

YouTube has lots of clips on the work of apprentices in the construction industry.

Where can a career in the Construction industry take you?

When qualified and with experience, you could progress to become a site supervisor. You might also want to set up your own company and become self-employed. You could move to a more specialist role or move into training.

Anything else you should know?

Be well prepared, start your search early, and keep a list of where you have applied to. Practice interviews. Be confident in yourself.

Check if you will need a Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card before you are allowed on a building site.

Have a backup plan.