



Prepare for an Apprenticeship in Agriculture or Horticulture

If you are interested in working in Agriculture or Horticulture 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 I look for an Apprenticeship?

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

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Career Finder](#)

[Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

[Notgoingtouni](#)

[Getmyfirstjob](#)

[Indeed](#)

[Ratemyapprenticeship](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in Oxfordshire who cover Agriculture and Horticulture Apprenticeships:

[Abingdon and Witney College](#)

[University of Oxford Apprenticeships](#)

[Blenheim Palace Apprenticeship Scheme](#)

Who offers Agriculture and Horticulture Apprenticeships?

It is also worth approaching any Farmers or Horticulture companies/councils/universities that you would like to work for and asking if they are likely to take on apprentices when you are due to leave school.

Also, look at specialist websites and magazines for ideas of organisations to contact, for example, see below:

[Horticulture Jobs](#)

[Royal Horticulture Society](#)

[Jobs in Agriculture](#)

[Job Board - The Institute of Chartered Foresters](#)

[National Trust](#)

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, Stockperson Apprenticeship (beef, pigs, sheep, dairy) 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.
- Good communication skills, understanding tasks to be completed and dealing with other people/customers.
- Willingness to work in all weather conditions,
- Willingness to learn and train due to new products or fashions.
- Like problem-solving.
- Health and Safety conscious.
- Time management and being able to plan.

How can I demonstrate I have the skills? How can 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:

[LANTRA](#)

[Go-Landscape](#)

[BBC](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to have a passion for the land and outdoor life and a strong desire to work in the industry.

Do you read any blogs or magazines about farming/horticulture? If so, do mention this.

For general advice on interviews please see:

[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 agriculture and horticulture.

Where can a career in Agriculture/Horticulture take me?

Within agriculture, you could move to a more specialist area or management or into Sales for a related retailer. Within Horticulture, you could move into management, set up your own business or move into training.

Anything else I 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.

Have a backup plan.