

Prepare for an Apprenticeship with Motor Vehicles

If you are interested in working with Motor Vehicles 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 Motor Vehicle apprenticeships happening near you. Register [here](#).

Other national apprenticeship websites to register with include:

[Notgoingtouni](#)
[Getmyfirstjob](#)
[Ratemyapprenticeship](#)
[Career Finder](#)
[Indeed](#)

You can also register with local Colleges and Training Providers in Berkshire that cover Motor Vehicle Apprenticeships.

[Berkshire Opportunities](#)
[Slough & Langley College](#)

Who offers Motor Vehicle Apprenticeships?

It is also worth approaching any garages 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 Car Dealerships such as:

[Ford](#)
[Jaguar Landrover](#)
[Mercedes Benz](#)
[BMW](#)
[Renault](#)
[Stellantis](#)
[Motus Commercials](#)

Which area would you like to specialise in? As a [Mechanic](#), [Body Repairer](#), or in [Parts](#)?

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, Motor Vehicle Service and Maintenance Technician (Light Vehicle) Level 3

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?
- Good customer services skills, - the ability to make your client feel that their car is with a safe pair of hands and that you know what you are talking about.
- Willingness to learn and train as this will never end with continuous developments in the automotive industry.
- Like problem-solving.
- Health and Safety conscious.

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:

[Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders](#)

[Institute for the Motor Industry](#)

[The Motorsports Industry Association](#)

[Motorcycle Industry Association](#)

How can I prepare for interviews?

Employers will expect you to have a passion for cars and a strong desire to work in the automotive industry.

Do you read any blogs or magazines about the motor vehicle industry? 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 the motor vehicle industry.

Where can a career in the Motor Vehicle industry take me?

Within a garage, you could progress to a senior mechanic/repairer or supervisor. You might also want to set up a garage or as a mobile mechanic and become self-employed. You could specialise in vintage or electric cars. You also might consider a move to work as an MOT tester or work within Motorsports.

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.

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