

## **Applying for Vocational Courses**

### **Vocational Courses – *what are they?***

A vocational qualification is one that is specifically related to a particular job role or career path. Vocational qualifications tend to be very practical, providing hands-on experience and training that will equip you to join the working world in your chosen field. They also give you a theoretical grounding in the subject.

#### ***At a Glance:***

- Further Education Colleges and specialist providers offer vocational courses that range from entry level to Level 3 which is the equivalent to 3 A Levels.
- Learn knowledge of a specific subject, whilst gaining practical skills and work experience.
- Often more coursework based, with less emphasis on exam assessment.
- Students are typically in college 3 days a week with the opportunity to re-sit Maths and English where necessary.
- Follows GCSE study at Post 16 but can be accessed at 19 years+.

### **What types of Vocational courses are available?**

A huge variety of courses are available, which cover almost every area of industry. Vocational course areas include:

- Health and Social Care
- Computing and Digital Technology
- Business Management and Finance
- Uniformed Public Services
- Construction
- Theatre and Performing Arts
- Sport and Fitness
- Engineering
- Hospitality and Catering

Vocational courses start at Entry level, Level 1 or Level 2, before moving onto a Level 3 course. A Entry requirements differ at each provider but as a guide:

Level 3 – 4/5 Grade 4s

Level 2 – 4/5 Grade 3-4

Level 1 – 2/3 Grade 1-3

Entry Level- no formal qualifications needed

If you are considering making an application to college it is important to research courses and entry requirements on individual college websites and sign up to attend open/taster days.

### **Where can I study?**

Vocational courses are offered at various local colleges and specialist colleges:

[Harrogate College \(harrogate-college.ac.uk\)](http://harrogate-college.ac.uk)

[Home | York College](#)

[Full Time or Part Time Education - Leeds City College](#)

[Apprenticeships & Courses | Construction & Building & Engineering | LCB](#)

[Homepage | Leeds Arts University \(leeds-art.ac.uk\)](#)

[Askham Bryan College | Agricultural and Animal Science Courses \(askham-bryan.ac.uk\)](#)

[Home - Craven College \(craven-college.ac.uk\)](#)

[Home \(bishopburton.ac.uk\)](#)

## The Application Process

All applications are made directly to the college and are completed online. There are some great resources to help with the application process, such as York College How to Apply guide - [How to Apply Guide - Vocational Courses](#)

Whilst there is no set deadline to apply, it is important to do this early as courses do fill up. The college will arrange an interview to discuss your application and may ask for additional supporting evidence e.g. a portfolio of work. The careers department can help you with this process and can arrange a mock interview.

You may wish to apply to more than one college and/or to a Sixth Form or Apprenticeship. You can hold offers until you are ready to decide which is right for you.

## Other Considerations

It is important to research areas such as:

- Transport and travel costs
- Costs for any specialist uniform or equipment that is required
- Pastoral support
- Careers advice
- Learning support

## What can a Vocational Course lead to?

From vocational courses, you can progress onto further study, higher education, employment or apprenticeship pathways.

## Further Reading

[Careerpilot : Get information : Your choices at 16 : Vocational qualifications](#)

[Post 16 options - what are your vocational options? - Youth Employment UK](#)

[Careers advice - job profiles, information and resources | National Careers Service](#)

***Please contact the Careers Department at [careersstaff@staidans.co.uk](mailto:careersstaff@staidans.co.uk) if you would like individual information, advice and guidance on Vocational course applications – we are happy to help.***

**Careers Department  
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