

Applying for Vocational Courses

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.

- 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, including:

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

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

Where can I study?

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

[Harrogate College](#)

[Home | York College](#)

[Askham Bryan College](#)

[Leeds City College](#)

[Leeds College of Building](#)

[Leeds Arts University](#)

[Craven College](#)

[Bishop Burton College](#)

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.

The Application Process

Applications are made directly to the college and completed online. There are some great resources to help with the application process, such as York College's [How to Apply Guide](#). 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. You may 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. It is also important to research other considerations such as:

Travel costs

Pastoral support

Careers advice

Equipment costs

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](#)

Careers Department

St. Aidan's and St John Fisher Schools