

Qualifications

Qualification Level				
Level 8	Doctorate (PhD)			
Level 7	Masters Degree (MA, MSc, MPhil)			
Level 6	Bachelor Degree (BA, BSc)			Degree Apprenticeship
Level 5		Foundation Degree	Higher National Diploma	Higher Apprenticeship
Level 4			Higher National Certificate	
Level 3	A Level	Level 3 Diploma	Level 3 Certificate	Advanced Apprenticeship
Level 2	GCSE (Grades 9 – 4)	Level 1 & 2 Award / Certificate / Diploma		Intermediate Apprenticeship
Level 1	GCSE (Grades 4 – 1)	BTEC & Vocational Qualifications		
Entry Level	Entry Level Courses			

inspired
excited
Get ready
for career
conversations
ideas
informed

Remember, qualification routes don't have to follow the pattern shown in this grid. For example, you could study A Levels and go straight onto studying a Degree Apprenticeship without the need to complete a Foundation Degree first.

This activity has interactive elements to click on rather than scrolling through the pages. Look out for this icon to help you:

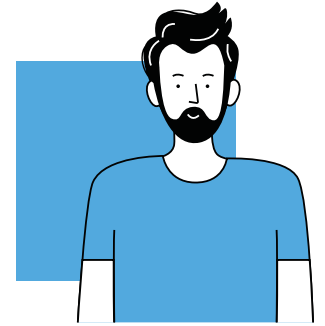


Activity 1:

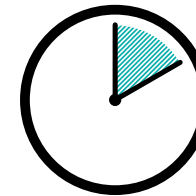
How did I get here?

Sometimes, young people have an idea about their future career from a young age. They might have carried out work experience in a specific sector or have family that run a business. However, many young people will have no idea what they want to do, and that's ok. No matter what the reason, it is important to know the necessary route to reach their FutureGoals.

For many roles, there can be different qualification routes taken for the same job, but can you tell which one was taken for each of these characters based on the clues provided?



Let's go  



Activity time: **10 minutes**

Electrical Engineer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£32,807



Clues:

“

I spent two years training and a further two years training on the job full time to qualify.

I had to find an employer to take me on.

”

Find out more about Engineering in our region on FutureGoals
futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-manufacturing-sector/

Click on one of the highlighted qualifications that you think they are referring to.



Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3		Level 3 Diploma in Electrotechnical Services		Advanced Apprenticeship in Electrical Installations
Level 2	GCSE Maths and English			
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/electrical-engineer

Electrical Engineer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£32,807



“
After my GCSEs I knew I wanted to get straight into employment. I chose to train through an apprenticeship because I was bored of being in the classroom and I wanted to earn money while I trained.
”

Not quite! My qualification was an:

**Advanced Apprenticeship
in Electrical Installations**

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

**Advanced
Apprenticeship in
Electrical Installations**

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/electrical-engineer

Electrical Engineer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£32,807



“
After my GCSEs I knew I wanted to get straight into employment. I chose to train through an apprenticeship because I was bored of being in the classroom and I wanted to earn money while I trained.
”

That's right!

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Advanced
Apprenticeship in
Electrical Installations

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/electrical-engineer

Quantity Surveyor

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£45,607



Clues:

“

**My qualification
is the same level
as a degree.**

**I studied and
trained at the
same time.**

”



Find out more about Construction in our region on FutureGoals
futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-construction-sector/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Civil Engineering			
Level 5			Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering	
Level 4				
Level 3	2 A Levels (inc. Maths and Science)			
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/quantity-surveyor

Quantity Surveyor

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£45,607



“ There were actually different routes available for me. I could have done a degree for three years or completed an apprenticeship, but I chose to take a Level 5 HND at college to help me gain a place as a Trainee Engineer. ”

Not quite! My qualification was a:

**Level 5 Higher National Diploma
in Civil Engineering**



Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5			Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering	
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/quantity-surveyor

Quantity Surveyor

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£45,607



“ There were actually different routes available for me. I could have done a degree for three years or completed an apprenticeship, but I chose to take a Level 5 HND at college to help me gain a place as a Trainee Engineer. ”

That's right!



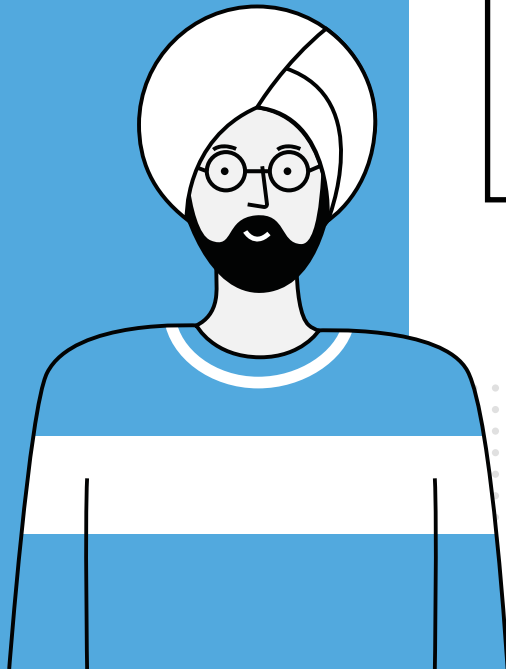
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5			Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering	
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/quantity-surveyor

Copywriter

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,000



Clues:

“

My job is usually
linked to a
relevant degree.

I chose an option
where I was able
to earn money
while learning.”

”



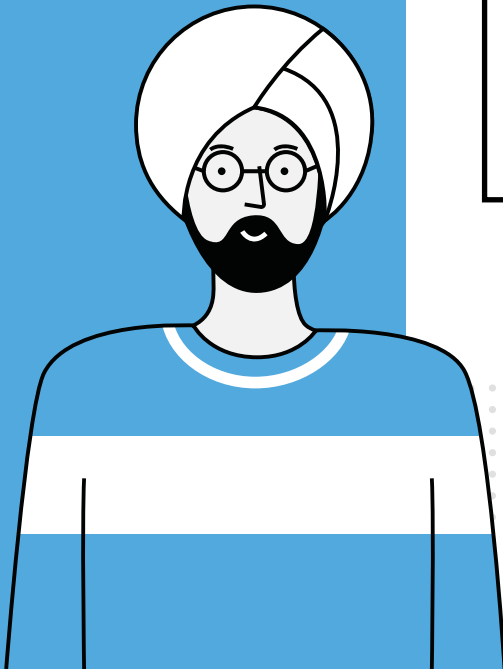
Find out more about Copywriting in our region on FutureGoals
<https://futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-creative-sector/>

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in English/ Journalism/ Advertising			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3	A Level in relevant subject			Advanced Apprenticeship as a Junior Content Producer
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/advertising-copywriter

Copywriter

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,000



“

I didn't know that I could become a copywriter without going to university. After my A Levels, I found an advertising company that allowed me to complete an Advanced Apprenticeship. I was really lucky, the company offered me a full-time job at the end of my apprenticeship!

”

Not quite! My qualification was an:

Advanced Apprenticeship
as a Junior Content Producer



Next →

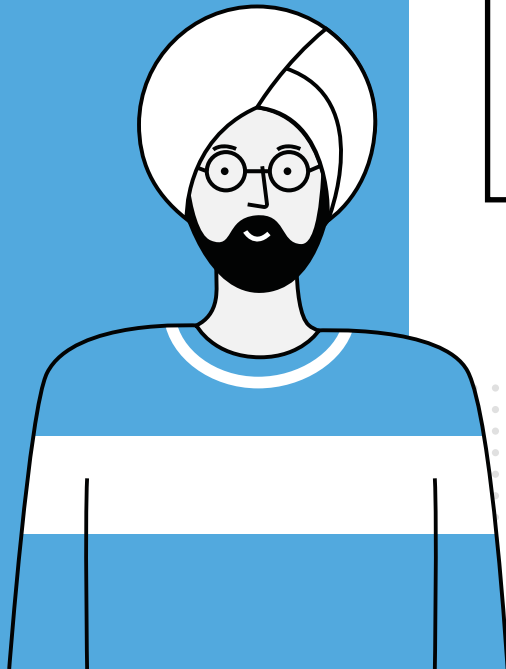
Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Advanced
Apprenticeship as a
Junior Content Producer

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/advertising-copywriter

Copywriter

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,000



“ I didn't know that I could become a copywriter without going to university. After my A Levels, I found an advertising company that allowed me to complete an Advanced Apprenticeship. I was really lucky, the company offered me a full-time job at the end of my apprenticeship! ”

That's right!

Next

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Advanced Apprenticeship as a Junior Content Producer

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/advertising-copywriter

Games Designer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£27,854



Clues:

“

I chose not to
train on the job
and study for
two years.

I enjoyed
academic study.

”



Find out more about Games Design in our region on
FutureGoals

futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-digital-sector/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Computer Games Development			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3	2 A Levels (inc. Maths and Computing)			Advanced Apprenticeship in Games Development
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/computer-games-developer

Games Designer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£27,854



“
After studying A
Levels in computing
and maths I knew
that I wanted to
continue to develop
my academic
knowledge. I chose
to study a Degree in
Computer Games
Development.”

Not quite! My qualification was a:
Degree in
Computer Games Development

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Computer Games Development			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/computer-games-developer

Games Designer

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£27,854



“
After studying A
Levels in computing
and maths I knew
that I wanted to
continue to develop
my academic
knowledge. I chose
to study a Degree in
Computer Games
Development.”

That's right!

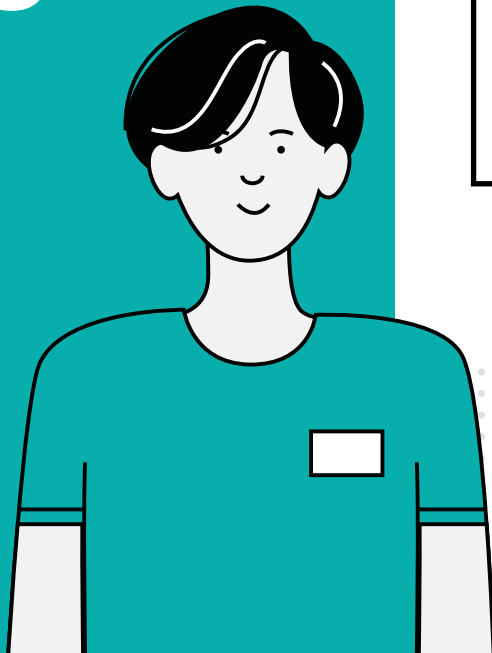
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Computer Games Development			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/computer-games-developer

Care Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,200



Clues:

“

My college helped me when it was time to look for work.

I was assessed both academically and through work placements.

”



Find out more about roles in Health and Social Care in our region on FutureGoals

futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-health-and-social-care/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2	GCSE Maths and English	Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care	Level 1 Certificate in Health and Social Care	
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/care-worker

Care Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,200



“
As I didn't feel ready to step into the world of work just yet, I opted to take a Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care at college, rather than an apprenticeship.
”

Not quite! My qualification was a:
Level 2 Diploma
in Health and Social Care

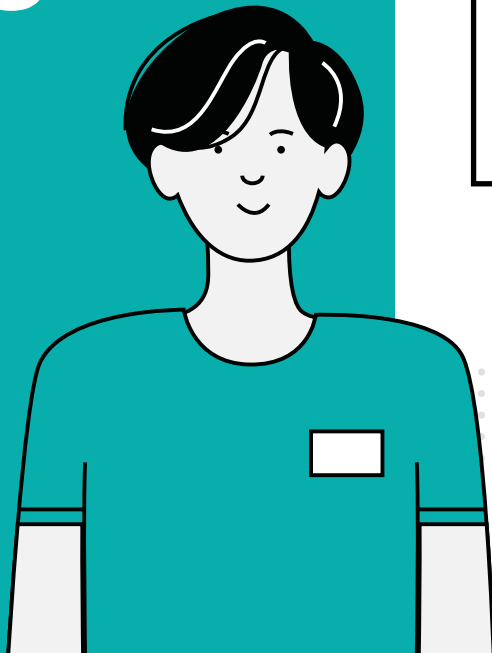
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2		Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care		
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/care-worker

Care Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,200



“
As I didn't feel ready to step into the world of work just yet, I opted to take a Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care at college, rather than an apprenticeship.
”

That's right!

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2		Level 2 Diploma in Health and Social Care		
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/care-worker

Accounting Technician

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£20,344



Clues:

“

My qualification
is equal to two
A levels.

It took me two
years to gain my
qualification.

”



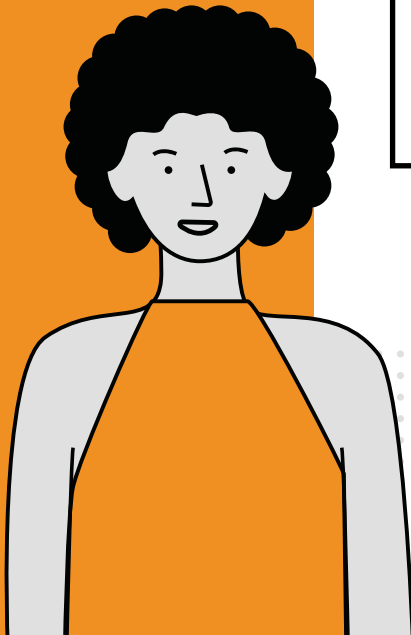
Find out more about Accounting in our region on FutureGoals
<https://futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-financial-and-professional-services/>

Qualification Level			
Level 8			
Level 7			
Level 6			
Level 5			
Level 4			
Level 3	A Level Maths or Economics	Association of Taxation Technicians' Diploma in Accounting	Advanced Apprenticeship as an Accounting Technician
Level 2			
Level 1			
Entry Level			

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/accounting-technician

Accounting Technician

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£20,344



“
It was really important to me to learn while also working. I chose to undertake an apprenticeship as an Accounting Technician within a local business.
”

Not quite! My qualification was an:
Advanced Apprenticeship
as an Accounting Technician

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Advanced Apprenticeship as an Accounting Technician

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/accounting-technician

Accounting Technician

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£20,344



“
It was really important to me to learn while also working. I chose to undertake an apprenticeship as an Accounting Technician within a local business.
”

That's right!

Next →

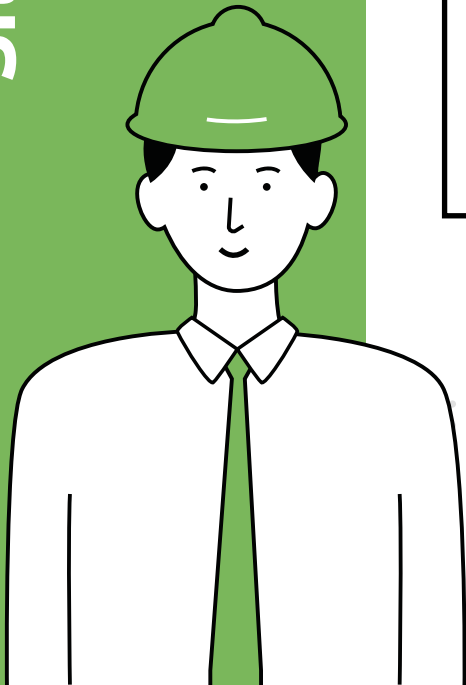
Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Advanced Apprenticeship as an Accounting Technician

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/accounting-technician

Site Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£52,500



Clues:

“

I studied for
four years.

My qualification
was accredited
and equal to a
degree.

”



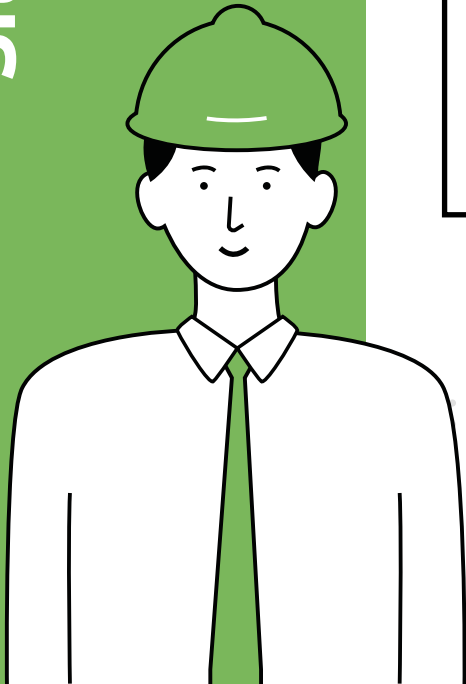
Find out more about Construction in our region on FutureGoals
futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-construction-sector/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Construction Management			
Level 5			Higher National Diploma in Construction Site Management	
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/construction-manager

Site Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£52,500



“ I studied full time, over a period of four years, to complete a Higher National Diploma in Construction Site Management. ”

Not quite! My qualification was a:

Higher National Diploma
in Construction Site Management



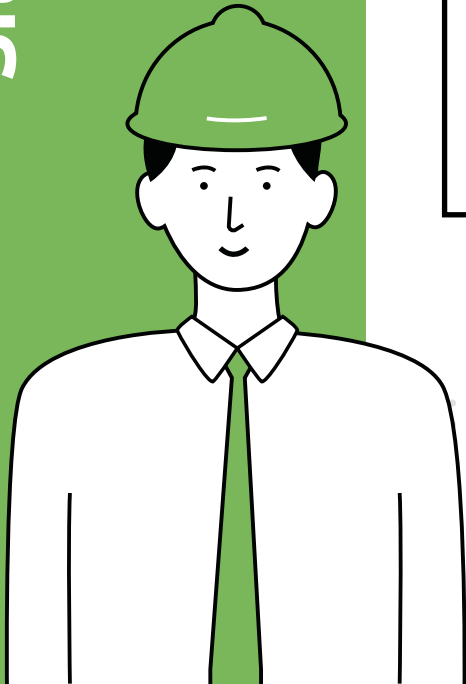
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5			Higher National Diploma in Construction Site Management	
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/construction-manager

Site Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£52,500



“ I studied full time, over a period of four years, to complete a **Higher National Diploma in Construction Site Management.** ”

That's right!



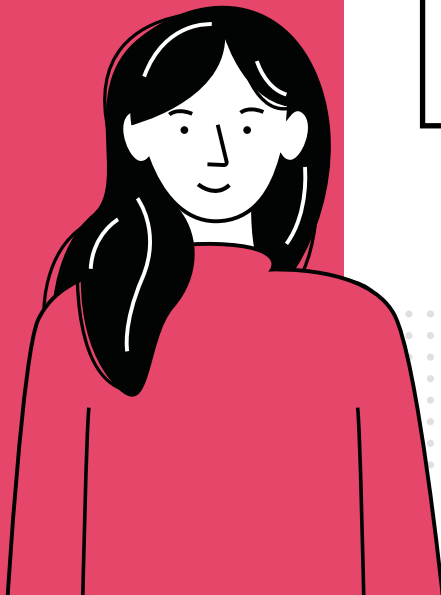
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5		Higher National Diploma in Construction Site Management		
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/construction-manager

Social Media Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,706



Clues:

“

I needed
relevant A
Levels.

I went to
university.”

”



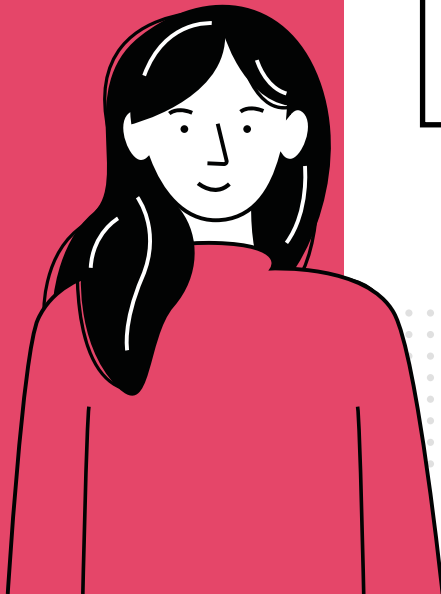
Find out more about working in Social Media in our region on FutureGoals
futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-digital-sector/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3	A Level in English or Media		Vocational Course in Media Studies	
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/social-media-manager

Social Media Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,706



“ I loved studying English at A Level and knew that I wanted to continue my academic studies. I spent three years studying for a Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations. ”

Not quite! My qualification was a:
Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/social-media-manager

Social Media Manager

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£25,706



“ I loved studying English at A Level and knew that I wanted to continue my academic studies. I spent three years studying for a Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations. ”

That's right!

Next

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Digital Marketing or Public Relations			
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/social-media-manager

Production Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,546



Clues:

“
I had to take a test to assess my practical skills.
I trained for one year with an employer.
 ”

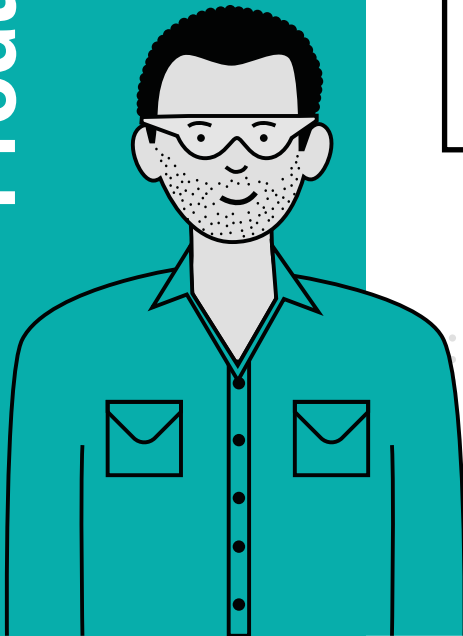
Find out more about working in Production in our region on FutureGoals
<https://futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-the-manufacturing-sector/>

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2	GCSEs including Maths and English			Intermediate Apprenticeship in Manufacturing
Level 1				
Entry Level				

[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-\(manufacturing\)](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-(manufacturing))

Production Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,546



“ I knew that I didn’t want to be involved in academic study anymore, so I chose to undertake an Apprenticeship in Manufacturing. ”

Not quite! My qualification was an:
Intermediate Apprenticeship
in Manufacturing

Next →

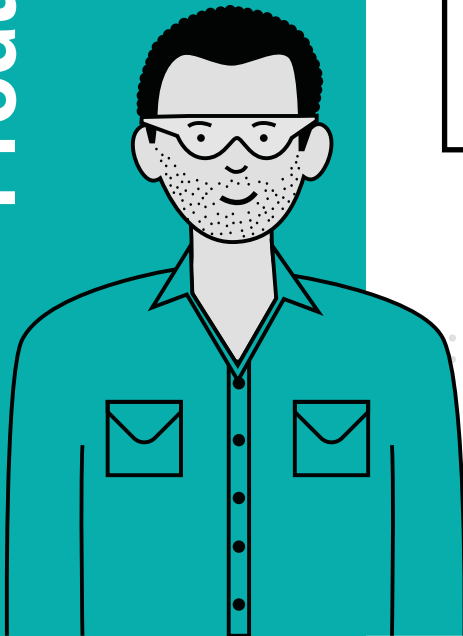
Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

Intermediate Apprenticeship
in Manufacturing

[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-\(manufacturing\)](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-(manufacturing))

Production Worker

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£17,546



“ I knew that I didn’t want to be involved in academic study anymore, so I chose to undertake an Apprenticeship in Manufacturing. ”

That’s right!



Next →

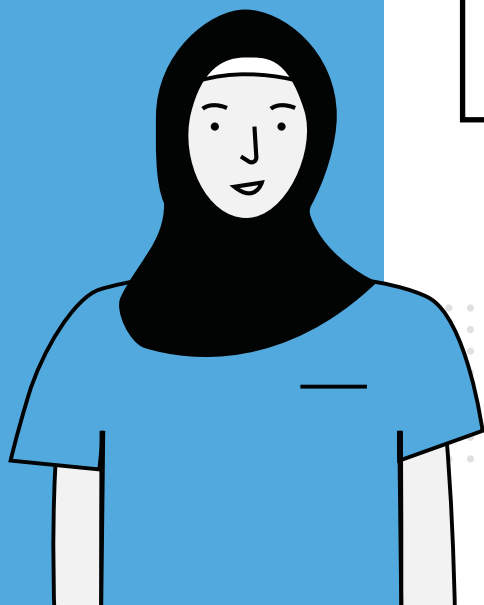
Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

**Intermediate
Apprenticeship
in Manufacturing**

[nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-\(manufacturing\)](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/production-worker-(manufacturing))

Nurse

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£24,966



Clues:

“

My employer supported me through my training.

I trained in the workplace and for four years in total.

”



Find out more about Nursing in our region on FutureGoals

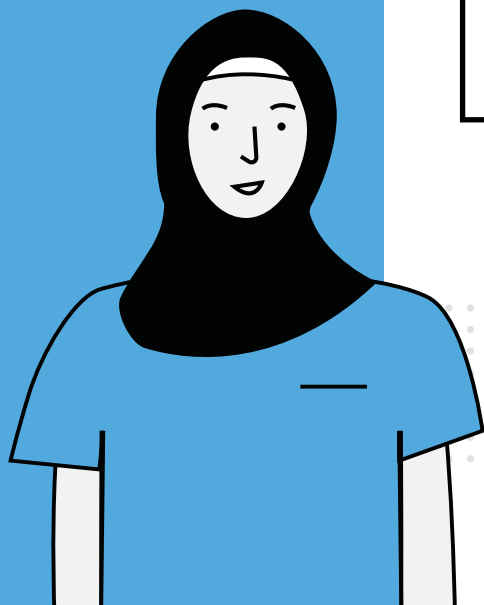
futuregoals.co.uk/be-inspired/working-in-health-and-social-care/

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6	Degree in Nursing			Degree Apprenticeship in Nursing
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3	A Level in a Science			
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/nurse

Nurse

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£24,966



“
As I was already
working as a
volunteer healthcare
assistant at my local
hospital, I was able
to start a Degree
Apprenticeship in
nursing – this was
supported by my
employer.
”

Not quite! My qualification was a:
**Degree Apprenticeship
in Nursing**

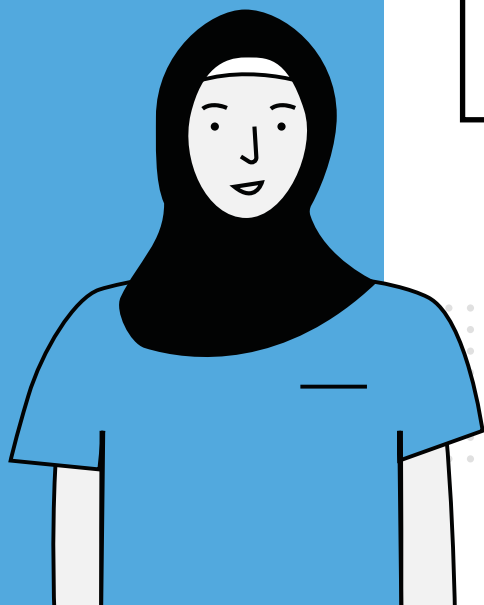
Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				Degree Apprenticeship in Nursing
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/nurse

Nurse

Average Salary
in the Leeds
City Region:
£24,966



“
As I was already
working as a
volunteer healthcare
assistant at my local
hospital, I was able
to start a Degree
Apprenticeship in
nursing – this was
supported by my
employer.
”

That's right!

Next →

Qualification Level				
Level 8				
Level 7				
Level 6				Degree Apprenticeship in Nursing
Level 5				
Level 4				
Level 3				
Level 2				
Level 1				
Entry Level				

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/nurse



Conversation starters

We've put together some questions for you to ask, they will help you to figure out which qualifications could best suit your child's ambitions:

Which subjects do you enjoy?

Are you doing particularly well in any subjects?

What do you enjoy doing?

Do you have any specific goals (do you already know what career you would like)?

Which subjects do you find challenging but interesting?

If you could work at any job in the world, what would your job be? Where would you work?

What is something you've always wanted to do?

If you could do one thing to make the world a better place, what would you do?

Do you have any role models? What is it about them that makes them someone to look up to?

Great work!

Now that you have a better understanding of the current qualifications, including the length of study, level of difficulty and additional opportunities, now is a really good time to put some of this knowledge to use.

 **Next** 

Next Steps

We've thought ahead and made a few guesses about the types of questions that might have come up during your conversation. Each of the following questions come with a useful link to help you both understand each qualification option a bit more.

Remember, these qualifications are brand new for September 2020.

“What do the different levels mean?”

Have a look at this comprehensive list of the qualification levels – gov.uk/what-different-qualification-levels-mean/list-of-qualification-levels

“What qualifications are right for me?”

Here's a useful quiz to help you – ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/what-qualifications-are-there-16-18-year-olds

“I want to continue studying some of my GCSE subjects at a higher level.”

Check out the current information around A Levels – ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/level

“I don't really want to be in the classroom anymore, I would rather be in a working environment.”

Get information about becoming an apprentice – gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships

“I'd prefer to study a more practical course that covers the skills and knowledge I need for a particular career area.”

Have a look at the new T Levels – ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/t-levels

“I get better marks in coursework than in exams, so I want to avoid sitting lots of formal exams.”

Vocational courses usually include project work that runs through the whole period of time studying for the qualification. Try looking at diplomas and certificates. ucas.com/further-education/post-16-qualifications/qualifications-you-can-take/btec-diplomas

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