

Becoming more employable

Volunteering – search for local opportunities in charities <https://do-it.org/> Take part in National Citizenship Service <https://www.ncsyes.co.uk/> . You could work in a customer-facing role or behind the scenes.

Work experience. Depending upon your school or college, you may have the opportunity to undertake a work experience placement, which is a fantastic way to gain experience. Speak to your school or college’s work experience coordinator or careers advisor and visit <https://www.c360.org.uk/education/careers/workexperience/wexguide>

Job shadowing is another great way to increase your understanding of the world of work. Ask someone doing a job that interests you for a few hours of their time to observe them at work: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/work-experience-and-internships/work-shadowing> Ask an adult to help you to set this up if you are under 16.

Part time jobs. Once you’re 16, you might look for a part-time job to fit around school or college. Look on the many online job boards, such as <https://www.e4s.co.uk/search/part-time-jobs> or <https://www.indeed.co.uk/> Search for vacancies advertised in shop windows and on noticeboards, and check the websites of local organisations. Alternatively, you could offer computer skills, babysitting, gardening or car cleaning services directly to your family, friends and neighbours.

Networking. Talking to people about their jobs will help you to see what different careers involve and whether they would suit you, as well as improving your communication skills. 16s and over can network online through LinkedIn. Go to <https://www.linkedin.com> , create a profile, identify people who are working in organisations you like the sound of, and then message them to ask if you can connect with them for careers tips.

Hobbies and projects. Sports, drama and other pastimes will impress employers. Projects such as crafts, bike repairs, selling on eBay, writing a blog, or making videos also demonstrate your skills and initiative.

There are many **free online courses** that will develop your skills. Take a look at the amazing range on offer, from coding to teaching: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses> <https://www.futurelearn.com/courses> <https://www.reed.co.uk/courses/free> <https://idea.org.uk/>

Show your creativity and enterprise by taking part in an **art, science or writing competition** <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/competitions-for-children/childrens-writing-competitions/> <http://www.schoolscience.co.uk/competitions> <https://www.studentartguide.com/resources/high-school-art-competitions-list>

Develop your knowledge of subjects that interest you, by **reading widely**, talking to people and by participating in training and conferences, such as **industry or university events or summer schools**. Google to find examples.

Attend **careers fairs, employer events and insight days**. Identify employers you’re interested in and have a list of questions ready to ask them.