



16+

# OPPORTUNITIES IN EDUCATION & TRAINING

Participation and Education Services  
Stopford House, Piccadilly. SK1 3XE

0161 474 2350  
14-19.Services@stockport.gov.uk

 /ApprenticeshipsStore

 @AppStore\_SK

 **STOCKPORT**  
METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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# AN OVERVIEW

In 2013, the government raised the participation age of students, which means that you have a legal duty to participate in some form of education or training until your 18th birthday.

This gives you more opportunities to gain the qualifications you need to succeed and will allow you to develop your knowledge and practical skills that employers are looking for.

This booklet will provide you with a brief introduction to your Post-16 choices in education and training.



# GETTING STARTED

## HOW CAN I START PLANNING FOR EDUCATION AND TRAINING POST-16?

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- Think about your talents, interests and what you enjoy
- Think about whether you want to go to university and research university courses entry requirements
- Gain work experience
- Visit open days & career's events at schools, colleges and training providers and research the courses on offer
- If you are thinking about an Apprenticeship, visit the Apprenticeships Store at Stockport Exchange
- Utilise the GOV.uk website to see what Apprenticeships are available
- Look at various career paths your courses may lead to
- Research which sixth form, college or training is best for you – think about how you will travel there and what clubs, societies, support and extra facilities are on offer.

Make the most of the help on offer in careers lessons, from your family and friends, subject teachers and careers advisors.

## EDUCATION AND CAREERS ADVICE SERVICE


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Visit Education and Careers Advice Service at Stockport Exchange. They are there to support you in participating in learning. Education and Careers Advice Workers are available to offer independent and impartial education and careers advice and guidance. Specialist support for those with additional needs is also available.

### Stockport Education and Careers Advice Drop-in:

12:30 - 16:30, Monday – Friday

 48-52 Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK1 3SS

 0161 474 2300

 [educationandcareers@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:educationandcareers@stockport.gov.uk)

# CHANGES TO GCSEs

Since 2016/17, GCSEs have begun to be changed. Instead of being graded A\* to G, they will now be graded 9 to 1.

Grade 4 is recognised as a 'standard pass', which means that this is the minimum level that you need to achieve in English and Maths, otherwise you will need to continue to study these subjects as part of your Post-16 education. Grade 4 is a credible achievement and will be viewed as such in Education and Training options Post-16. Achievement of a grade 5 is recognised as a 'strong pass'. Although some subjects may require a Grade 6 or above, in order for you to take them post-16.

This change to grading has begun with the conversion of English and Maths GCSEs. All GCSEs will be changed and graded by the 9-1 system by 2020.

## What is different about the new qualifications?

- The updated qualifications will feature some new topics and more demanding content.
- In the past, GCSEs were divided into modules and students were assessed by module. Now, the focus will change to final exams covering the whole two-year syllabus, rather than smaller assessments throughout this period.
- Exams will be the main method of assessment and there will be far less coursework, except where skills need to be tested in other ways, such as drama, for example.
- On the whole, higher- and foundation-tier papers will disappear, with the exception of maths, sciences and modern foreign languages; in these cases, two different exam papers are considered necessary to give students the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities.

A*	9
A	8
	7
B	6
	5
C	4
D	3
E	2
F	
G	1
U	U
Old	New

# QUALIFICATIONS

**E 1 2 3 4+**

## ENTRY LEVEL

Each entry level qualification is available at three sub-levels: entry level 1, 2 and 3. Entry level 3 is the most difficult. There are no entry requirements; entry level qualifications are open to anyone interested in gaining a recognised qualification. You can progress from one entry level to the next. When you reach entry level 3, the qualifications are designed to help you move onto further level 1 or level 2 qualifications.

## LEVEL 1

Level 1 qualification provides basic knowledge and skills. They will give you access to the next level qualification.

## LEVEL 2

Level 2 qualifications demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of a subject. Gaining a level 2 qualification will mean that you are suitable for many job roles. To study for a level 2 qualification, you would normally need GCSEs grades D-G/3-1, or a level 1 qualification in a similar subject.

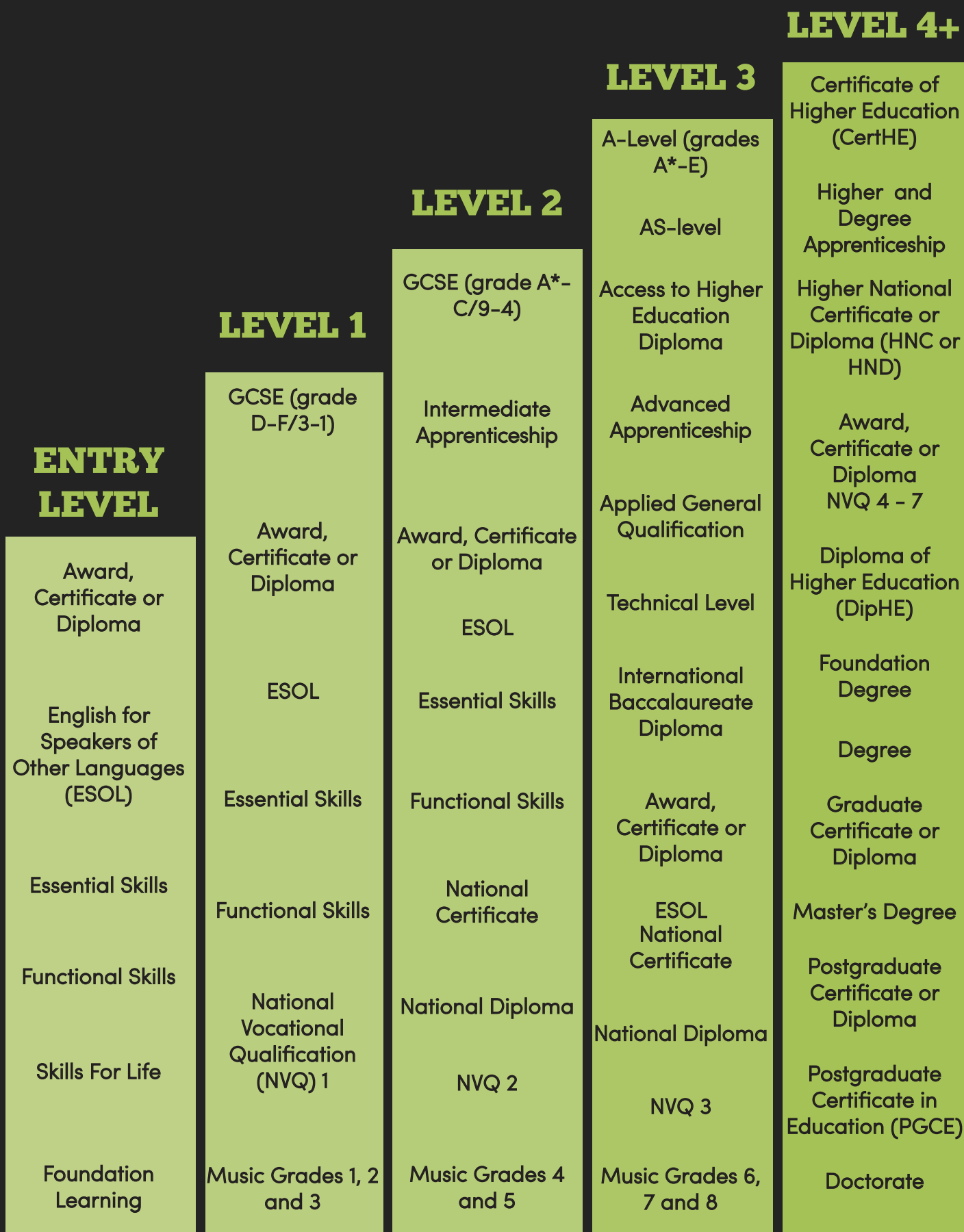
## LEVEL 3

Level 3 qualifications give you the ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding at a detailed level. They are appropriate if you plan to progress onto higher education. To study for a level 3 qualification, you would normally need GCSEs grades A\*-C/9-4, or a level 2 qualification in a related subject.

## LEVEL 4 +

Qualifications at level 4 and above demonstrate specialist, high level knowledge in an area of work or study. Completing a level 4 qualification would allow you to progress onto higher level qualifications such as level 5 (Foundation Degree), level 6 (Bachelor's Degree), level 7 (Master's Degree) and level 8 (Doctoral Degree).

# EXPLAINED



# FURTHER EDUCATION

**“ Further Education is the term used to describe the type of education that occurs following secondary education. ”**





# WHAT IS FURTHER EDUCATION?

Further Education (FE) refers to education after secondary school that is not part of higher education.

You could choose to study in a:

- School Sixth Form
- College Sixth Form
- Further Education College

## WHAT QUALIFICATIONS CAN I WORK TOWARDS IN FURTHER EDUCATION?

- AS Levels
- A Levels
- BTEC Award
- Certificate
- Diploma
- Entry Levels
- Foundation Learning
- Functional Skills
- GCSEs
- NVQ

## ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

### AS Levels

All AS and A levels are becoming decoupled, meaning that AS results will no longer count towards an A level. All AS and A level courses will be reformed in this way by summer 2019.

AS level assessments will typically be at the end of one year's study and will continue to be graded A-E. As a result standalone AS levels may not be widely offered. For further information, speak to your local post-16 institutions.

### A Levels

A levels are subject-based qualifications that are studied over two years. They allow you to study the subjects you are interested in, to a high level. Over the two years, you will develop your knowledge and learn transferable skills. Assessments will typically take place at the end of year two. Unlike reformed GCSEs (using the 9-1 grading scale), A levels will continue to be graded A\*-E.

When choosing an A level subject, you may want to consider taking a facilitating subject as they help you keep your options open when choosing a degree.



Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.

The Russell Group, which represents 24 leading UK universities, defines facilitating subjects as:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classical Languages (Latin, Ancient Greek)
- English Literature
- Geography
- History
- Maths and Further Maths
- Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)
- Physics

## GCSEs

GCSEs are highly valued by schools, colleges and employers. You will have the opportunity to re-sit GCSE Maths and English in Further Education, if you did not achieve the grades you needed or were hoping for. Other GCSEs may be available to develop your understanding of a certain subject.

## Entry Levels

There are over 100 entry level certificates to choose from including traditional subjects such as English, Maths and Science. Entry Level qualifications are made up of a number of separately assessed units. Assessments can be a combination of exams, assignments and tasks which can be written, oral, or practical.

# VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

## Technical Levels

Technical Level qualifications are level 3 qualifications for Post-16 students who have an idea about the occupation they wish to pursue. They are vocational and will equip you with the specialist knowledge you need to for a specific recognised occupation, such as engineering, construction, computing or accounting.

Technical Level qualifications prepare you for a specific technical occupation. These qualifications have been recognised by employers as a good preparation for specific job roles.

## Applied General Qualifications

Applied General Qualifications are level 3 qualifications for post-16 students wishing to undertake a broad study of a specific vocational area. They are ideal for you if you want to continue your education through learning applied to a job area e.g. Arts, Crafts, Media and Publishing, Business or IT.

Applied General Qualifications allow entry to a range of higher education courses, either by meeting the entry requirements in their own right or being accepted alongside other qualifications at Level 3 such as A Levels. Many Applied General Qualifications are endorsed by employers and professional or trade bodies.

## The Technical Baccalaureate

The new Technical Baccalaureate (TechBacc) is awarded if you complete an advanced (Level 3) programme that includes:

- An approved Tech Level
- Level 3 Maths
- An extended project

With a TechBacc you will be in a good position to apply for technician roles and Higher Apprenticeships in a wide range of industry sectors. Alternatively, you could enter professional training or university.

## Level 1 Vocational Courses

Level 1 courses give you a good grounding in the skills, knowledge and experiences in areas including Public Services, Health & Social Care, Hair and Beauty or Construction. They are a good starting point if you want to progress to a Level 2 course or apprenticeship. Some providers also offer Level 1 courses in Employability Skills, to help you prepare for the world of work.

## Level 2 Vocational Courses

Vocational Courses are also offered at Level 2 in a variety of areas e.g. Art and Design, Creative Media and Health and Social Care. They will provide you with knowledge and understanding of that particular vocational area.

# SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

**Supported Internships are structured study programmes for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, run by colleges or providers in partnership with local employers. They normally last for a year and include an unpaid work placement of at least 6 months, plus Maths and English support if required.**

## In Stockport

Aquinas College and The Cheadle and Marple College Network both run Supported Internship programmes with local partners, including Stockport Council, Pure Innovations and Stepping Hill Hospital. For more information, please read 'Post-16 Education and Training: your Options: A guide for Students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).'

## Local Offer

The Local Offer website provides information about local services and opportunities for young people in Stockport with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families. It includes information about education, training, health and social care options.

 [www.sensupportstockport.uk](http://www.sensupportstockport.uk)

# TRAINEESHIPS

**Traineeships are available for young people aged 16-19 and for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities up to the age of 25.**

A traineeship could be right for you if you are:

- Aged between 16-19, or up to the age of 25 for people with special educational needs and disabilities
- Qualified below Level 3
- Motivated to work
- Unemployed, or work less than 16 hours per week and have little work experience

Traineeships last up to six months and include a work experience placement as well as English and Maths education. You can retain an Education Health And Care Plan whilst undertaking a traineeship. Employers are not required to pay you whilst undertaking a traineeship. However, you may be supported with expenses.

## HOW DO I GET A TRAINEESHIP?

Traineeship opportunities are advertised on:

 [www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)

Contact your local colleges or training providers to see if they have any traineeship opportunities.



# APPRENTICESHIPS

**“ Apprentices are employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week and earn a real wage. ”**



# WHAT ARE APPRENTICESHIPS?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. Apprentices are employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week and earn a real wage whilst studying towards a nationally recognised qualification. You can retain an Education Health Care Plan whilst undertaking an Apprenticeship.

Currently, there are more than 170 industries with over 1,500 different job roles available, such as, Business, Construction, Media and Engineering.

## HOW WILL I GAIN A QUALIFICATION?

Training is delivered by a college or training provider; this may be at the employer's workplace or at a college/ training centre.

To achieve an Apprenticeship, you will need to work towards a standard or framework and you will be assessed on these throughout your Apprenticeship. Your employer will give you time for study.

If you do not have GCSE English and Maths (grade A\*-C/9-4) you will be required to complete functional skills English and Maths as part of your Apprenticeship. Depending on the type of Apprenticeship, you may also be required to complete Functional Skills ICT.

## HOW LONG WILL AN APPRENTICESHIP LAST?

An Apprenticeship will last a minimum of 12 months. Although, they can take several years to complete depending on the level of Apprenticeship, the Apprentice's ability and the sector.

## HOW DO I GET AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeship opportunities are advertised on:

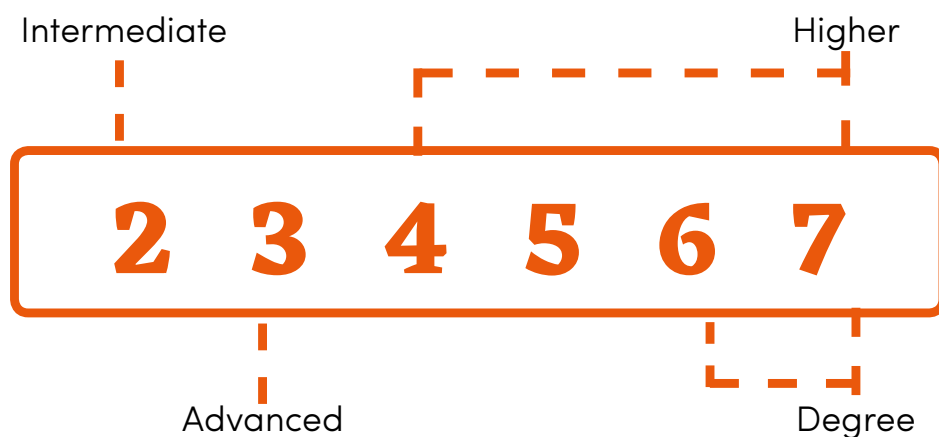
 [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

Visit the Apprenticeships Store in Stockport at Stockport Exchange  
Please see the Useful Contacts section on page 29 for more information.

Similar to a real job, you will need to submit an application and attend an interview to gain an Apprenticeship.

## WHAT LEVEL OF APPRENTICESHIP SHOULD I APPLY FOR?

Read the Apprenticeship entry requirements before you apply. If you have the qualifications and experience for the Apprenticeship level you want, then you can apply.



However, if you have no previous qualifications or experience in the sector that you would like to get an Apprenticeship in, it may be necessary to start at intermediate level and learn the basics before you can complete the higher levels.

## HIGHER & DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

**Higher and Degree Apprenticeships are a real alternative to traditional university study.**

You can gain your qualification, learn professional skills, progress your career and earn a wage. Higher Apprenticeships are available at Levels 4–7. Levels 4 and 5 are equivalent to a Higher Education Certificate/ Diploma or a foundation degree. Degree Apprenticeships are a type of a Higher Apprenticeship at levels 6 or 7 and you can achieve a full bachelor's and master's degrees respectively. Just like traditional degrees, Higher Apprenticeships are a great route to a career. Over 40 different subjects are currently covered, representing hundreds of job roles, for example, accounting, business and administration, construction management and legal services.

### Degree Apprenticeships

For a Degree Apprenticeship, training and assessments are carried out by a Higher Education Institution (HEI). This may involve you attending a University for part of your Apprenticeship. Degree Apprenticeships combine both higher and vocational education and fully test both the wider occupational competence and academic learning.

## HOW DO I GET A HIGHER OR DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?

You can apply for Higher Apprenticeship vacancies using the government's online apprenticeship service.

Higher Apprenticeship opportunities are advertised on:

 [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

You can also apply for Degree Apprenticeships via HEIs and UCAS website.

# HIGHER EDUCATION

**“ With the implementation of the Raising the Participation Age (RPA), young people are now required to stay in some form of education and/or training until their 18th birthday. ”**





# WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education (HE) is the continuation of study post-18. UK HE offers a diverse range of courses and qualifications that are recognised and respected by employers and academics worldwide. HE applications tend to be very competitive, and providers may ask for at least Grade 5 at GCSE, with work experience often an advantage to you.

## TYPES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

### Higher National Certificate / Higher National Diploma

Higher National Certificates (HNC) and Higher National Diplomas (HND) are work-related, higher education qualifications; they are level 4 and level 5 qualifications respectively. Both qualifications focus on 'learning by doing' and give you skills that you can use in a particular job. They are provided by further and higher education colleges. HNCs take one year to complete full-time, whilst HNDs take two years to complete full time; also they can both be taken part-time.

### Foundation Degree

A Foundation Degree focuses on a particular job or profession and is a combined academic and vocational qualification, equivalent to two-thirds of a Bachelor's Degree. They usually take two years full-time to complete, or longer for part-time students.

### Bachelor's Degree

A Bachelor's Degree is the most common and widely available type of undergraduate qualification, with thousands of courses available. Typically it takes three to four years of full-time study to complete a Bachelor's Degree, although certain courses run for much longer. The two most common Bachelor's Degrees are Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc).

### Postgraduate Certificate or Diploma

Postgraduate certificates (PGCert) and diplomas (PGDip) are taught postgraduate courses at level 7. They are the same level of study as a Masters Degree; however they are shorter duration and are not worth as many credits.

### Master's Degree

A Master's Degree is the most commonly taken postgraduate qualification and they can be either taught or research-based. Full-time Masters Degrees usually involve one or two years of study, while part-time programmes can last up to four years. The two most common Masters Degrees are Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MSc).

### Doctorate Degree

A Doctorate of Philosophy (PhD) is the highest level of degree that a student can achieve. PhD students are required to independently conduct original and significant research in a specific field or subject, before producing a publication. Full-time PhDs typically last three to four years, although they can be studied part-time.





## EMPLOYMENT AND VOLUNTEERING

With the implementation of the Raising the Participation Age (RPA), you can still be employed, self-employed or a volunteer, as long as:

- You are working or volunteering for at least 20 hours a week
- You undertake at least 280 hours of accredited education or training each year

Part-time work or volunteering (e.g. evening or weekend job) is not affected by these requirements.

For more information please contact the Education and Careers Advice service. Details can be found on [Page 4](#).

## WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is essential for getting a job. Whether it is a short or long work placement, experience gained in the workplace is always viewed favourably by employers. Also, it can help you decide what you would like to pursue as a future career.



### HOW CAN I GET WORK EXPERIENCE?

You can get work experience through Stockport Council's People, Education, Employers' Brokerage Service (PEEBS).

PEEBS aims to work with Stockport's young people, education establishments and employers to help get the best out of each other. The aim of the brokerage service is to link employers wishing to help with the education and training of Stockport residents with those who require their help i.e. schools and young people.

### HOW CAN I REGISTER ON PEEBS?

You can register on PEEBS with the following link or e-mail:

-  [www.interactive.stockport.gov.uk/peeps/](http://www.interactive.stockport.gov.uk/peeps/)
-  [PEEBS@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:PEEBS@stockport.gov.uk)



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## **What should I do on results day?**

If you already have an offer from a school, college, employer or apprenticeship, it is a good idea to confirm this place once you receive your results.

## **What if I don't get the grades I need?**

If you did not achieve the grades you need, you should speak to the sixth form or college you have applied for, or to the employer for an apprenticeship. If you need additional guidance, the Education & Careers Advice Service is available.

If one or more of your results are unexpected and you think there is a strong chance that an error has been made with the marking, speak to your subject teacher; you may be able to apply for a remark.

## **Is there financial support available?**

There is a 16 to 19 Bursary Fund available to help with education-related costs if you are aged 16 to 19 and:

- Studying at a publicly funded school or college in England
- On a training course, including unpaid work experience

Eligibility criteria does apply and the amount you are entitled to depends on your circumstances and benefits. You can apply for this at your school, college or training provider.

## **What questions could I ask my new College/Employer?**

- Will this course meet my duty to participate?
- What are the entry requirements needed for my course?
- What is the balance between taught and independent study?
- What days/ hours am I required to attend?
- How long will the course/ apprenticeship last?
- Are there are opportunities for different experiences and personal development?
- What support is available?

# USEFUL CONTACTS

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## APPRENTICESHIPS STORE

Stockport Apprenticeships Store can help you learn more about apprenticeships and support you in finding and applying for a role suitable for your knowledge and skills.

Apprenticeships Store is open Monday – Friday, 10:00-16:30

Apprenticeships Store, Stockport Exchange, Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK1 3TA

- ☎ 0161 474 4745
- ✉ [apprenticeships@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:apprenticeships@stockport.gov.uk)
- 🌐 [www.stockport.gov.uk/apprenticeships](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/apprenticeships)
- 🐦 @AppStore\_SK
- 📘 /ApprenticeshipsStore

## GOV.UK

- 🌐 [www.gov.uk/find-traineeship](http://www.gov.uk/find-traineeship)
- 🌐 [www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship](http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship)

## JOBCENTRE PLUS

The Jobcentre Plus is open Monday – Friday, 09:00-17:00.

Jobcentre Plus, Heron House, Wellington Street, Stockport, SK1 3BE

- ☎ 0345 604 3719
- 🌐 [www.stockport.gov.uk/job-vacancies/job-centre-plus](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/job-vacancies/job-centre-plus)


## NCVO - VOLUNTEERING

- 🌐 [www.ncvo.org.uk/](http://www.ncvo.org.uk/)

## NOT GOING TO UNI

- 🌐 [www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/)


## **NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE**

 [www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk](http://www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk)


## **PARENTS IN PARTNERSHIP STOCKPORT (PIPS)**

PIPS is an independent local parent carer forum run by parents for families and carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with a disability and/or additional needs, offering a chance to come together, share information and support each other.

They work in co-production with the local authority and other providers to ensure the collective voice of parents and carers is heard.

 07786 101071

 [www.pipstockport.org](http://www.pipstockport.org)


 [info@pipstockport.org](mailto:info@pipstockport.org)

## **PEOPLE, EDUCATION, EMPLOYERS' BROKERAGE, SERVICE (PEEBS)**


 [www.interactive.stockport.gov.uk/peebs/](http://www.interactive.stockport.gov.uk/peebs/)


 [PEEBS@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:PEEBS@stockport.gov.uk)

## **RAISING THE PARTICIPATION AGE**

 [www.gov.uk/government/collections/raising-the-participation-age](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/raising-the-participation-age)

## **STOCKPORT EDUCATION AND CAREERS ADVICE SERVICE**

 0161 474 2300

 [educationandcareersadvice@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:educationandcareersadvice@stockport.gov.uk)

## **UCAS**

 [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

# NOTES

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# NOTES

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If you need help with this information, please telephone Stockport Interpreting Unit on 0161 477 9000, or email [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

اگر آپکو ان معلومات میں مدد کی ضرورت ہو تو براہ مہربانی سٹاکپورٹ انٹریپریٹنگ یونٹ کو  
0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں یا ای میل کریں [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

إذا كنت بحاجة إلى المساعدة بخصوص هذه المعلومات، يرجى الاتصال هاتفيا على  
وحدة الترجمة فى ستوكبورت على الرقم: 0161 477 9000 أو على البريد  
الإلكتروني: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

اگر برای این آگاهی به کمک نیاز دارد لطفا با واحد مترجمی ستکپورت به شماره  
تلفن زیر تماس حاصل فرمائید: 01614779000 و یا به نشانی زیر ایمیل  
بفرستید: [eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)

Jeśli potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu zawartych tu informacji,  
skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeniowym Stockport Interpreting Unit  
pod nr 0161 477 9000 lub wyślij email na adres:  
[eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk).

如果您需要帮助来了解这些资料，请致电0161 477 9000或发电邮  
至[eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:eds.admin@stockport.gov.uk)向「斯托克波翻译小组」查询

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time of printing - September 2017

Participation and Education Services  
Stopford House, Piccadilly. SK1 3XE

Tel: 0161 474 2350  
Email: [14-19.Services@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:14-19.Services@stockport.gov.uk)



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**STOCKPORT**  
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