

How to Apply

Salford City Council actively encourages the use of the UCAS progress search and apply website for all Year 11 students to make their applications for both full time courses at local colleges/6th forms and also for apprenticeship programmes. This website allows students to search a large database of opportunities and find the programmes that best match their skills, interests and ability. Once students have identified this opportunity, they can make multiple applications using a single application form, making the process of applying much quicker and easier. Students and staff can monitor and track their applications to ensure providers receive applications and process them efficiently.

For more information please go to **www.ucasprogress.com**

If you or a young person require further advice and support they can access the following:

- Schools - if the young person is still attending school you can ask to speak to the relevant member of staff who has responsibility for careers and advice.
- College - each college centre will have named careers advisers, they can usually be contacted through the Student Services Team.
- Connexions - if the young person is aged 16 or 17 and is not in any form of education, employment or training, they can contact the local Salford Connexions Service on 0161 393 4500 to make an appointment to see an advisor for support.
- National Careers Service - who provide online and telephone support to young people under the age of 18. Full details can be found at <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/contact-us/home>.

For further information of any of the content in this document please contact:

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Your guide to pathways and provision

This leaflet has been developed as part of Salford City Council's continued support to teachers, governors, parents and carers to inform and raise awareness of the pathways available post-16 and where young people can choose to study from aged 14 (Key Stage 4).

Background information

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) came into effect in September 2013.

In England, a young person's leaving age depends on when they were born.

They can leave school on the last Friday in June as long as they are 16yrs by the end of that year's summer holidays.

Under the RPA agenda, young people must now stay in some form of education or training until the academic year in which they have their 18th birthday.

This applies to all young people born on or after 1 September 1997. Participation includes full time study in a school, college or training provider; full-time work or volunteering (20 hours or more) combined with part-time education or training leading to relevant regulated qualifications; or an apprenticeship, traineeship or supported internship.

Local Authorities (LA's) are subject to duties to support all young people to participate. The Education and Skills Act places additional responsibilities on LA's to promote participation of all 16 and 17 year old residents and make arrangements to identify those young people who are at risk of not participating. These complement the existing duties to secure sufficient suitable education and training provision for all 16-19 year olds (and up to 25 for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and to encourage, enable and assist them to participate. They also complement the processes in place to deliver the 'September Guarantee' and to track young people's participation.

Pre -16 options or 14yrs+

Salford secondary schools

Secondary schools across Salford are improving educational outcomes for young people (age 11+) through modern, well equipped schools. Most schools have undergone refurbishments and many new buildings to transform them into new and exciting learning spaces fit for the 21st century.

Our schools across the city are:

The Albion Academy, All Hallows RC High School, Buile Hill Visual Arts College, Ellesmere Park High School, Oasis Academy Media CityUK, Irlam and Cadishead Academy, Salford City Academy, St Patrick's RC High School, Harrop Fold High School, Moorside High School, The Swinton Academy, St Ambrose Barlow RC High School and sixth form and Walkden High School.

Our special schools are:

Chatsworth High School and Community College, New Park High School, Oakwood Academy, The Canterbury Centre, The Clifton PRU

Careers Software START available locally in Salford

There are various ICT resources that can support young people to make their post-16 choices whilst at school. Salford City Council has supported five Salford schools to utilise the **START** software created by U-Explore, which allows students to identify their skills or skills gaps related to employability and also where job profiles can be explored to develop knowledge and awareness on specific jobs. Parents/carers can access this at www.startprofile.com

Pre -16 options or 14yrs+

University Technical Colleges (UTC's)

UTC's are academies for 14-19 year olds. They provide education that meets the needs of employers. They offer technical courses and work-related learning, combined with academic studies.

All UTC's:

- Are sponsored by a local university and employers
- Specialise in two curriculum areas
- Teach core GCSE's alongside technical qualifications
- Focus on sectors that require highly specialised equipment
- Develop young people Business, ICT and Design skills to prepare young people for a range of careers and continuing education at age 19.

Available locally in Salford

We have one UTC located at Media City near Salford Quays. It specialises in Media, which includes TV and Film, Gaming and Radio. It has a Key Stage 4 which means it has a Year 10 and 11 cohort and a Key Stage 5 curriculum for young people age 16+. Young people can apply in Year 9 for a place and if successful can transfer here for the start of Year 10.

There are several types of local authority maintained schools: community school, special school, voluntary aided school, voluntary controlled school, voluntary aided special school, voluntary controlled special school and foundation school (and, linked, a trust school).

Available locally in Salford

Our school finder lists details for educational establishments within Salford and can be accessed at www.salford.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-and-college-finder

Academies

Academies are publicly funded independent schools. An academy is different to a school in the following ways:

Freedoms freedom from LA control and to set their own curriculum, ability to set their own pay and conditions for staff and ability to change length of terms and school days.

Sponsors academies usually have a sponsor, which could be from a wide range of backgrounds including:

Businesses, successful schools, universities, charities and faith bodies. The sponsors are accountable for improving performance, achievement and aspirations.

Funding academies receive the same level of funding per pupil directly from the Education Funding Agency instead of the LA. They also receive additional funding to cover costs not provided by the LA. They have greater freedom to use their budgets to best benefit their students.

Governance academies are required to have at least two parent governors. Governance in an academy is the same as a state maintained school.

Available locally in Salford

In Salford we have six academies, with some others set to convert to academies in the near future.

Free schools

Free schools are set up in response to what local people want and need educationally, for children in their community.

Post -16 programmes

16-19 Study programmes were introduced in September 2013 with the ethos that young people aged 16-19 should be given the opportunity to take a study programme which reflects their prior attainment, education and career goals.

Study programmes include substantial academic or applied technical qualifications; non qualification activity including work experience and the study of English and Maths where young people do not hold a GCSE grades A*-C (new Level 4+) in that subject by age 16.

Study programmes should:

- Provide progression to a higher level than that of a young person's prior attainment
- Include qualification(s) that stretch the young person's ability and that are clearly linked to sustainable progression opportunities in training, employment or higher levels of education
- Require young people who do not already have GCSE A*-C/Level 4+ in Maths and English to work towards them (or other approved stepping stone qualifications)
- Include work experience – this may relate to the young person's study programme, develop employability skills and/or create potential employment options
- Include other activities unrelated to qualifications which develop character, skills, attitudes and confidence that support progression
- Young people who are not yet ready to study for a substantial qualification can undertake a programme focused on work experience and the development of employability skills.

Regardless of whether a young person is doing academic or vocational studies or a mix of both, they are expected to follow a study programme tailored to their prior attainment by age 16 and future education and careers aspirations.

Further Education (FE) colleges

FE colleges generally offer vocational (work related) and specialist qualifications. They tend to provide courses for 16-18 year olds as well as adult learners and often have close links with the community.

FE colleges offer a wide range of courses at a variety of levels. Each college is different, so you will need to check with a chosen college and what courses they offer. Some of the most usual courses include: Catering and Hospitality, Travel and Tourism, Health and Social Care, Childcare, Business Studies, ICT/Computing, Hair and Beauty, Sport and Public Services, Performing Arts, Media, Art, Animal Care, Construction, however there are many more on offer.

FE colleges also offer other courses such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to help develop English Language skills.

The qualifications linked to these vocational areas could be: NVQs, BTECs, HNCs, HNDs and Foundation Degrees. These qualifications (mostly NVQ and BTEC) are offered at different levels depending on the young person's prior attainment. These can range from entry level 1 – 3, usually aimed at young people who achieved below E/F grades or who have SEND, right up to Level 1 – 3 (level 3 equivalent to A levels).

Level 1 requires 2's at GCSE

Level 2 requires four x 3's at GCSE

Level 3 requires five x 4's at GCSE (inc English and Maths at 4+)

These can vary for each college provider.

Available locally in Salford

Salford City College is our main FE provider in the city of Salford. This has recently been named as the number one FE college in Greater Manchester and has a 'Good' rating from OFSTED. They have five centres, four of which offer vocational programmes as follows:

- **Eccles Centre** vocational BTEC courses in: Business, Childcare, Health and Social Care, Animal Care, Public Services, Sport, Travel and Tourism – most courses offered Level 1-3
- **Walkden Centre** vocational BTEC courses in Hospitality and Catering (L1 – 3), Health and Social Care (L1 – 3), Hair (L1 – 3) and Beauty (L2 and 3)
- **City Skills Centre** (near Salford University) offers all construction courses, Hair and Beauty and ESOL. Entry Level – Level 3
- **Futureskills Centre** vocational BTEC courses in Accounting, ICT, Media, Games Design, Creative Music Production. Level 1 – 3 in most
- **Pendleton Centre** vocational BTEC courses in Art, Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and Fashion, Dance, Musical Theatre, Performing Arts, Technical Theatre, Forensic Science, Mechanical Engineering, applied Science – most courses offered at Level 3

Other main vocational providers which Salford young people move onto include: Bolton College, Trafford College, The Manchester College, Bury College

Post -16 programmes

A levels

From 2018 all A level courses underwent significant changes to make them 'linear' i.e. exams taken at the end of the course. An AS level will no longer count towards a final A level grade, there is no option to re-sit modules.

Key features of A levels:

- They are linear i.e. the whole of the course content will be examined at the end of the course. Some colleges will examine students in the first year (AS year) but this will be for information purposes to give an indicator on current progress and as a basis for UCAS predicted grades
- Exams make greater use of 'synoptic' questions and there is more variety to questions types (e.g. multiple choice)
- Coursework will be reduced
- It is possible to complete an A level in one year as long as all assessments are completed at the end
- Grading is A*-E

Traineeships

A Traineeship is a programme for up to 6 months to support young people to develop the skills they need to secure and succeed in employment, including apprenticeships. Traineeships are a programme for young people who want to work but need extra help to gain an apprenticeship or job. A work placement is involved, including developing employability skills, alongside support to improve their Maths and English, where needed. Traineeships will support the young person to develop their self confidence and awareness of what to expect within the world of work, which will support the young person to move into an apprenticeship or other employment.

Available locally in Salford

In Salford we have training providers which offer this programme, including: **Salford City Council, Salford City College, The Skills Company, YMCA Training.** There are other providers in Manchester such as Learn Direct and QA Training (plus many others).

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a job with training designed specifically for the job role, leading to nationally recognised qualifications. Young people will also earn whilst undertaking their training, the current minimum hourly rate for a 16 year old is £3.30, however many employers pay higher than this. Apprenticeships are open to anyone age over 16, living in England and not in full time education. Apprenticeships can take between 12 months and 4 years to complete and cover over 1200 job roles in a range of industries, from Engineering to Accountancy and Veterinary Nursing to Hairdressing.

They are available at four different levels:

- Intermediate (level 2): equivalent to 5 A*- C/Level 4+ grades – most school leavers who move onto an apprenticeship will start at this level
- Advanced (level 3): equivalent to two A levels
- Higher (level 4 and 5): including Foundation Degree's
- Degree: Including Masters or Bachelor's degree through university

Available locally in Salford

Oakwood Academy caters for students 11 - 19 years old, with moderate learning difficulties and disabilities. They have a sixth form which offers a variety vocational pathways at a range of levels.

Chatsworth Community College cater for students from 11 - 19 years old with a range of severe, complex and profound learning difficulties and autism. in the sixth form they have courses witch suit students who range from P1 to National Curriculum level 3 ability.

Apprenticeships allow young people to start and progress their careers, achieve qualifications, learn job-specific skills, get quality training, earn a salary and potentially avoid student debt as they can be a real alternative to university study.

Benefits to employers Apprenticeships deliver real business benefits including reducing recruitment and training costs, increasing productivity, development of a skilled, motivated and qualified workforce, improved customer service results and providing a financial return on investment.

Available locally in Salford

Salford City College also run apprenticeship standards across a number of job sectors, their apprenticeship team are based at Futureskills Centre near Salford Quays.

Skills Company have their larger centres in the centre of Manchester and also a specialist Construction/Engineering centre in Trafford Park.

YMCA Training have a local centre on the Height in Salford. They run study programmes and also apprenticeship opportunities in Childcare and Horticulture.

To search and apply for apprenticeship vacancies go to www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Available locally in Salford

In Salford we have two places which offer A levels:

Pendleton Centre (part of Salford City College)– A levels – require 3 B and 3 C grades (usually B's in subjects wanted to be studied) Also BTEC Performing Arts, Art, Science due to specialist facilities available at this centre.

Other providers of A levels: Bolton sixth form College, Loreto College, Xaverian College, The Manchester College, Trafford College, Bury College

St Ambrose Barlow Sixth Form this is a school sixth form in Swinton, which has a variety of A levels on offer and some BTEC courses. Students who study here can mix A levels with shorter BTEC courses.