



Guildford College  
Merrist Wood College

# SCHOOL LEAVERS GUIDE

2022-23

Full-time Pathways and  
Apprenticeships



# WELCOME TO ACTIVATE LEARNING

We are excited that your child is thinking about continuing their educational journey at one of our colleges.

Activate Learning is a pioneering education group committed to transforming lives through learning.

We believe everyone can improve their lives through learning; with emotional support, motivation and purpose. We are experts in delivering technical, vocational and academic education, with a high level of industry engagement and connections to some of the best-known companies—not just in our region, but in the world.

In this guide, you will learn more about the amazing opportunities available at Activate Learning and discover how we empower and support our students, helping prepare them for their chosen career pathway. Our aim is to provide your child with a complete educational experience where they feel supported and confident in their abilities and inspired by the opportunities available to them.

## Our Learning Philosophy

We transform lives through our Learning Philosophy. This is rooted on the power of the brain, the importance of emotions and feeling safe to enable learning, and motivation, so learners can understand the impact of what they are learning for their future careers.

## Supporting our students

We are proud of the support we offer to our students so they can flourish during their time at Activate Learning:

- » We support our students' physical and mental wellbeing via a dedicated Student Support team.
- » Support is available for all students including those with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities.
- » Our impartial Activate Careers team helps students make informed decisions about their future education, employment and training options. Our advisors work closely with subject tutors and progress coaches.
- » Support is available for students who need advice related to funding and bursaries.
- » We have a Head of Campus – Student Experience at each of our campuses, responsible for creating safe, vibrant and welcoming campuses for our students.

## Preparing your child for their next steps

We believe that effort and hard work are key to success, so we inspire our students to challenge themselves to achieve their best.

We instil in our students a purpose and a drive to succeed and grow, as we prepare them for life after college, whether that's higher education or employment. We work in close collaboration with different industries to help students develop the core behaviours that both universities and workplaces value.

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# WHY STUDY WITH ACTIVATE LEARNING?

Activate Learning will help you to develop the skills, knowledge, confidence and determination required to succeed in education and the workforce. Our colleges are in easily-accessible locations and contain specialised facilities that replicate the kind that you would find in the real world of work. Here, we nurture an atmosphere of independence to help you reach your goals, whatever they may be.

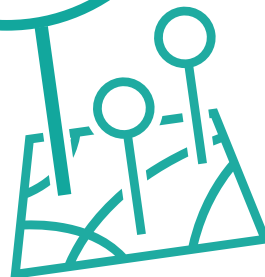
## STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Learn in an independent environment, make new friends, and manage a more flexible timetable.



## GREAT LOCATIONS

Study at town and city-centre campuses; close to shops, restaurants, cultural hotspots, amenities, and travel links.



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Performance Coaches will support you in the development of emotional intelligence, wellbeing and self-confidence.



## SPECIALIST PROGRAMMES

Choose from a variety of specialist and career-focused programmes to suit you and your career goals.

## INCREASED EMPLOYABILITY



Develop the key skills required for your future career and undertake exciting work experience placements.



## PROGRESSION

Follow clearly-mapped career pathways to progress to higher-level programmes.



## EVENTS AND ENRICHMENT

Join in with students activities and go on trips and visits to support learning in a practical way.

## INNOVATIVE TEACHING

Enjoy innovative learning and assessment methods that help you develop at your own pace.





# OUR LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

## THE LEARNING PHILOSOPHY

Our award-winning Learning Philosophy is at the heart of our approach to teaching and learning. We recognise that not everyone learns in the same way or has had positive experiences of education. That's why we use tried and tested principles to engage our students and help them make the most of their time with us, setting them up with not only the knowledge they'll need for their careers, but with the personal skills that will benefit them their whole lives.

## ATTRIBUTES FOR SUCCESS

At Activate Learning, we work closely with employers to identify the characteristics and skills they are looking for in potential employees. We help you identify which of these desirable attributes you have and which you can strengthen throughout your programme, ensuring your future employability is the focus throughout your studies.

FIND  
OUT  
MORE



## CASE STUDY



The way the course was structured around the Learning Philosophy, I definitely stayed motivated. I was always able to prove that we had learned what we were studying.

When we were doing our work experience, we used an online platform to track our progress with different Learner Attributes. We had to look at them each day and it was really helpful to pinpoint what we'd learned that day."

The Learner Attributes, which is a system to build self-awareness and employment skills that all students at Activate Learning are asked to undertake, really helped Grace build her confidence, business knowledge and skills.

"The Career Pathway maps were also helpful when comparing what I would learn at City of Oxford College to other colleges and what you're learning here and what you learn in other places. You can use them to map out the continued professional development that you need to do to get to the next level at your job too.

I can see now that I am applying the practical skills I learnt at college. I'm going back over part of my project management program at the moment and using all the notes I took to help me with a business administration course I'm doing as part of my apprenticeship at Oxford Brookes!"



**Grace**  
Business  
Level 3



# GUILDFORD COLLEGE

Our campus is a short walk from the restaurants and shops of Guildford town centre and next to the wide-open spaces of Stoke Park.

## STOKE ROAD CAMPUS, GUILDFORD

At Guildford College, students are at the heart of everything we do. We have over 100 courses available, with qualifications ranging from foundation level to degree level! Whatever you are interested in studying, we can give you the knowledge you'll need on the next steps towards university or a career, and the practical experience to make any transition a smooth and successful one.

Our professional, dedicated and industry experienced teaching staff make learning fun and engaging and give you the responsibility and independence you need to take charge of your own future. And, to help you with the transition, we have a comprehensive student support team that can assist with applications, securing funding, careers guidance and personal tutoring, to name just a few services!

We have some exceptional resources that replicate real-world working environments including hairdressing and beauty salons, a TV studio, an air cabin crew training room in the form of a simulated aircraft, engineering workshops, photography studios and darkrooms, complete with Mac editing suites, four well-equipped dance studios, and our new state-of-the-art Innovation Room that has powerful PCs, a 3D printer and hi-spec VR headsets.

And, brand new this year, a new Care Suite that will simulate a hospital ward, have a home care room, and a fully immersive learning space to benefit our Health and Social Care students...the list goes on!

On a typical day here, in between lessons, there are spaces for quiet study in our Learning Resource Centre or our student 'hub' where you can plug yourself in and study without being interrupted. Or if you just want to hang out, there are many spaces and communal areas for you to catch up with all the new friends you'll make here. Missed breakfast or need a snack in between classes? You can grab a bite to eat or something to drink in our café or canteen. You could also enjoy a treatment or two in our vibrant hairdressing salons and tranquil beauty therapy rooms.



**Guildford College just felt right for me. I'm so glad I came here! My course has been so much fun and I've made friends for life. The facilities and tutors are fantastic, it's given me a good grounding for my next step."**

**Luca,** Performing Arts, Level 3



## OPEN EVENTS

Wednesday 6 October 2021, 4–7pm

Saturday 13 November 2021, 9:30am–12:30pm

Wednesday 2 February 2022, 4–7pm

Saturday 11 June 2022, 9:30am–12:30pm

For more information and to book your place, please visit [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk/events](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk/events)

# GUILDFORD COLLEGE

## STUDENTS' UNION

The Students' Union (SU) helps support and create the student experience: from running events to meeting with staff to discuss the kind of changes that impact the entire student body and college.

There is a committee of students on each campus that form the SU. Within the committee there are lots of roles. You can tell which students are in the SU because they have an orange lanyard!

The SU committee meets each week to discuss current issues, develop their campaigns and plan their events. If you don't want to be part of the committee, you can still get involved by attending the meetings, and contributing your opinion!

"It's been really nice having my voice heard and actively making a student difference at college! I would recommend others join."

**Guildford SU member**

## BEING PART OF THE SU IS A GREAT EXPERIENCE.

And can be added to your personal statement when applying to university or CV when applying to jobs!

# SU

ACTIVATE LEARNING  
Students' Union



## SUPPORT WITH TRAVEL

If you are finding it hard to meet the costs of travelling to college, you may be able to get a travel bursary, depending on your situation.

For more information on bursaries, to check if you're eligible, and how to apply, please contact our Advice and Admissions team or look on our [website](#).

Guildford College encourages students to use alternative modes of transport other than cars. By doing this we are aiming to reduce the amount of traffic as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle and environment.

### Walk and cycle

The college is a 15-minute walk from Guildford town centre. We encourage our students to cycle to college as there is plenty of safe bike parking available on-site and cycle lanes locally.

### Bus and train

The number 3 Arriva bus 'Guildford - Bellfields Estate' departs every 15-20 minutes from the Friary Bus Station in Woodbridge Road and takes just 5 minutes to get to Guildford College. Buses run to the Guildford Friary Bus Station from all local areas.

Trains for Guildford College stop at London Road Station, which is a five-minute walk, and the main Guildford Station, a 20-minute walk away. You can then travel by bus to the college from the main Guildford Station.

### Car

The college can be reached via several easy routes, including the A3 and A31. There is a student car park on-site, which provides free parking. You must apply for a parking permit though. Alternative parking is available at the Spectrum Leisure Centre (free parking) or the Lido, at a charge of £5 per day.

Motorbike spaces are also available in the car park at the college.



# MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

Just a short bus ride from Guildford town centre in Worplesdon, Merrist Wood College is a 400-acre, multi-award-winning college that specialises in the land-based industries.

If you're looking to enter a career in a land-based industry, there is no better place than our college. We are widely recognised by industry specialists for our training excellence and many successes at RHS Chelsea and Hampton Court Flower Shows. Work from the college has been seen across the world!

The indoor riding arena is one of the largest of any college in the country and we are home to a large, diverse range of animals in our Animal Management Centre. Other facilities include specially designed studios and workshops for floristry, garden design, horticulture and landscaping and access to an adjoining 18-hole golf course.

Success rates are higher than the national benchmarks, and our tutors are experienced industry professionals. To help with the transition to college, we also have a comprehensive student support team that can assist with applications, securing funding, careers guidance and personal tutoring, and much more!

## SPECIALIST RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

On the 400-acre estate we have woodlands, wetlands, livestock, gardens and grasslands, as well as a campus nursery, workshops and design studios.

We also have football and rugby pitches, one of the largest indoor riding arenas of any college in the country and one of the top centres in the south east, as well as stabling for up to 40 horses!

Our Woodlands Centre provides a safe and secure environment for learners with severe and complex, learning, social and communication difficulties that may also have a physical disability. Learners will benefit from a bespoke learning programme and a range of specialist facilities including a sensory room, communal garden area and more.

**The college tour changed my life. I love what I do now and it's all down to the amazing tutors at Merrist Wood. They spotted something in me that I didn't even know I had, and for that I'll be forever grateful!"**

**Monet Martin**, Floristry graduate



Our Animal Management Centre has specialist areas for large, small and exotic animals. These include snakes, spiders, ferrets, rabbits, birds of prey and many more!

We also have a fully functioning farm with rare breed sheep and cows, pigs, goats, llamas, donkeys, chickens and ducks.



## OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 9 October 2021, 9:30am–12:30pm

Wednesday 17 November 2021, 4–7pm

Wednesday 16 February 2022, 4–7pm

Saturday 2 July 2022, 9:30am–12:30pm

For more information and to book your place, please visit [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk/events](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk/events)



# MERRIST WOOD COLLEGE

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The Students' Union (SU) helps support and create the student experience: from running events to meeting with staff to discuss the kind of changes that impact the entire student body and college.

There is a committee of students on each campus that form the SU. Within the committee there are lots of roles. You can tell which students are in the SU because they have an orange lanyard!

The SU committee meets each week to discuss current issues, develop their campaigns and plan their events. If you don't want to be part of the committee, you can still get involved by attending the meetings, and contributing your opinion!

"I've really enjoyed being in the SU as it's made me a more confident person. It allows me to stand up for my views and to speak for others to make college life better for everyone. I think others should join to improve their confidence and make great changes to college that benefit everyone."

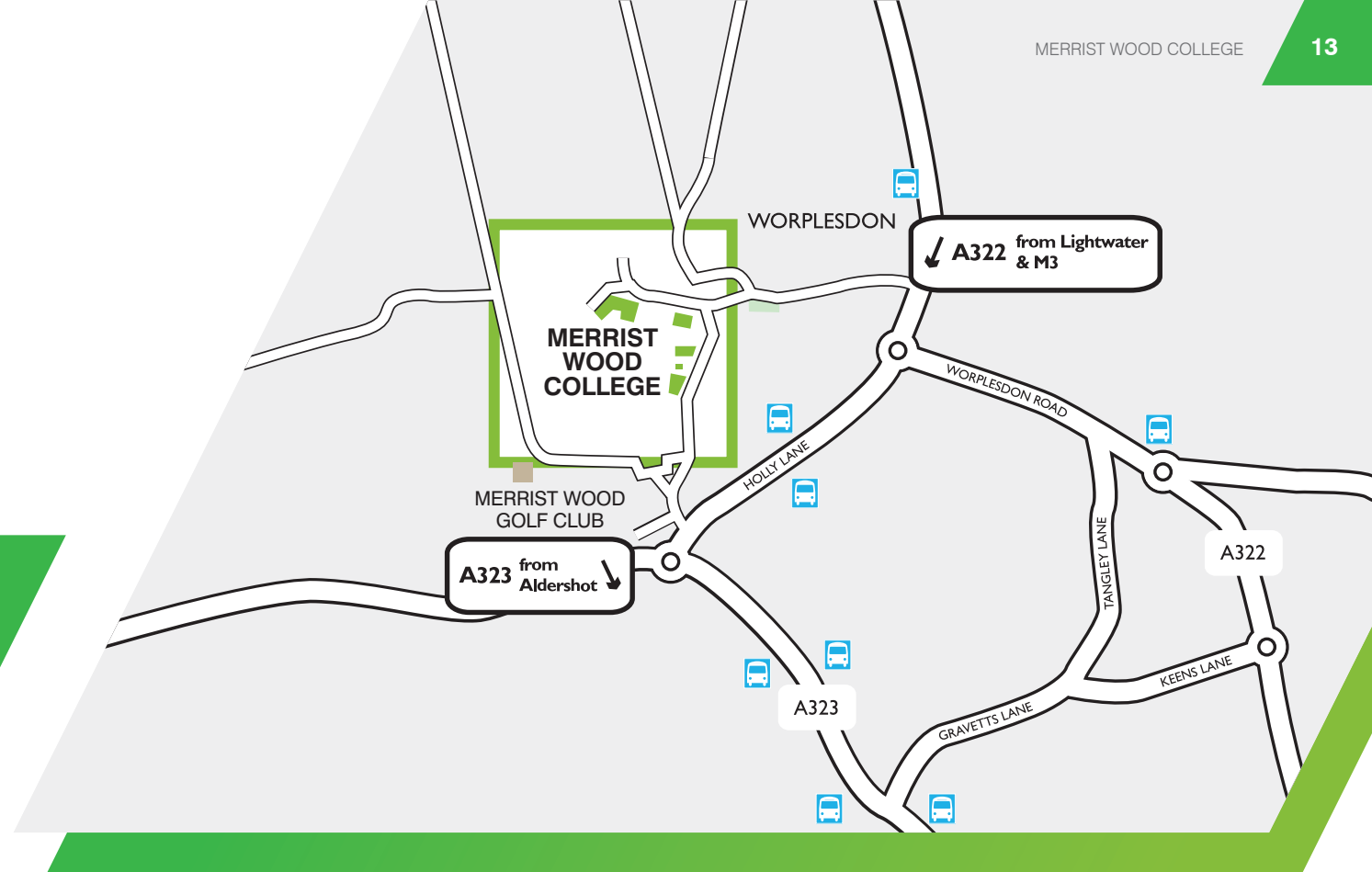
Chloe Mann

## THE SU WORKS TO BUILD THE PROFILE OF THE SU

and improve staff and student communication.

# SU

ACTIVATE LEARNING  
Students' Union



## SUPPORT WITH TRAVEL

If you are finding it hard to meet the costs of travelling to college, you may be able to get a travel bursary, depending on your situation.

For more information on bursaries, to check if you're eligible, and how to apply, please contact our Advice and Admissions team or look on our [website](#).

Merrist Wood College tries to encourage students to use alternative modes of transport. By doing this we are aiming to reduce the amount of traffic as well as promoting a healthy lifestyle and environment.

### Walk and cycle

Our college is a ten-minute walk from the town centre. If you can cycle to college, there is plenty of safe bike parking available on-site and cycle lanes locally.

### Bus and train

The college is easily accessible by bus from Guildford, Woking, Camberley, Godalming and Farnborough. Check our website for bus numbers and routes, or go online to [www.surreycc.gov.uk/buses](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/buses) or for help planning your journey visit: [journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info/](http://journeys.travelsmartsurrey.info/)

Although there is a train station in Worpleston it is easier to travel to Merrist Wood from the main Guildford station. From there, you can catch the bus.

### Car

At Merrist Wood College, the car park is located at the back of the Harris Centre. In order for students to park on the campus, you must register your car details with Student Services. Please note that there is no vehicle access to the college from Coombe Lane and there is strictly no parking in this road. You must access the college via Holly Lane.

Motorbike spaces are also available at the college.



# CASE STUDY



I knew I wanted to get into working with animals so I looked up different courses that were in the area and the Animal Management course at Merrist Wood appealed to me most. I came to an open event and I was quite impressed with it all, especially the animal management centre, and I knew I would enjoy studying here.

This course has broadened the animals that I'd like to work with. Before coming to college, my main interest was exotic animals and I thought that was where my career was headed. But working on the farm has opened my mind to potentially doing some farm work or working with different animals in the zoo sector.

The course is geared towards going into animal-related jobs and it gives you a good idea of what to expect in that field of work. It helps you make more informed decisions on where you want to take your career in the future."

"Compared to school, we've got a lot more freedom. You're not always in 9-5, sometimes you'll only go in for half days. You're not restricted to one site in your breaks, it's not set break and lunch times, it's more mixed up and feels more like going into a workplace than being at school."



**Finn Ward**

Animal

Management

Level 3 Extended Diploma

# OUR EMPLOYER PARTNERS

At Activate Learning we focus on employability. We are passionate about making sure our students leave college not just with a qualification, but are work ready and equipped with the skills employers really want.

To achieve this, we work closely with local, regional and national businesses to gather valuable expert advice to inform our teaching and curriculum and to provide our students with the opportunity to interact with some of the best employers in the country, gaining valuable experience of work.

This includes:

- » Workplace visits or placements
- » Internships
- » Real world projects and competitions, negotiated with employers.

▶ Last year, Hospitality and Professional Cookery students took part in a competition to design a new Easter Egg with Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck Group.

- » Employers engaging in talks/ mock interviews
- » Product demonstrations and training sessions.

▶ Last year, Beauty Therapy students worked with fake tan and cosmetic company Fake Bake to discover more about how their products work.

- » Q&A sessions.

▶ Activate Learning students were invited to attend a webinar with the British Army to find out more about roles and career options and have their questions answered live by a serving soldier.



Some of the employers we work with include:

**dermalogica**



**SKANSKA**



In partnership with  
The Fat Duck Group



We are continually working to maintain and improve these relationships and to work with new employers to ensure our students leave us with the skills they need, and employers want.



# SUPPORT TO SUCCEED

At Activate Learning, your happiness and success is our priority. We offer the following dedicated services to ensure your time while studying with us is positive and fulfilling, both academically and personally.

## LEARNING SUPPORT

Need some additional support with your studies? Our Learning Support team offer additional and ongoing study support if you have a disability or other educational needs, including confidential 1:1 interviews and tailored learning support plans. To discuss your additional support needs, please email [gss@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:gss@activatelearning.ac.uk)

## COUNSELLING

Struggling with anger, stress, relationships, or something else that is bothering you and need a space to talk to someone who can help? Our counsellors can support you through your time at college. Call **01865 550401** or email [support@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:support@activatelearning.ac.uk)

## MENTAL WELLNESS

Anyone can struggle with poor mental health and some students may be diagnosed with mental ill health. We offer a range of services to ensure you are well supported. These include quiet spaces, self-help resources, highly trained staff and an accepting culture where we discuss mental health as equally and as openly as physical health.

## TUTORIALS

You'll have a dedicated personal tutor to coach you and keep you on track to succeed. Their frequent and friendly meetings will ensure your set targets are met and exceeded.

## PROGRESS COACHES

Progress Coaches are available to listen to you and find out how you want to progress. Together with your Progress Coach you will work on overcoming any barriers so you can develop as a person. You will work with us continuously in a weekly group session and through 1:1 coaching. These sessions allow you to focus on specific goals, improve your motivation and consider what your next steps are to break down any barriers to your personal success.

## INTERVENTION PROGRESS COACHES

Intervention Progress Coaches are also available to support you to get back on track to achieving your goals if you experience any barriers to learning throughout the year. We work with you 1:1 or in small groups on personal development areas such as confidence, organisation and stress management so you can get back to feeling your best and working to your full potential.

## ACTIVATE CAREERS

**Explore • Plan • Make it happen**

Our team of qualified, impartial careers advisers are here to help you make informed decisions about your future education, employment, and training options. We are proud of our Matrix Accreditation for the high-quality impartial information, advice and guidance offered to all our students and service users.



Working alongside your subject tutors and Progress Coaches the Careers team will help you explore your strengths and interests and to learn about the world of work.

You will have opportunities to meet with us throughout the college year through one-to-one guidance interviews, group sessions and drop-in support. You can book an appointment through your tutor or directly with the Careers team.

We will support you to gain the qualifications, employability skills, experience, and attributes to make successful applications for employment or Apprenticeships. You will benefit from a wide variety of vacancies generated via our links with local and national employers and have an opportunity to meet them at our Careers and Apprenticeship event.

## STUDENT CREW

If you are interested in working at college while you study, ask about opportunities to join our Student Crew. We've got all kinds of paid-work opportunities, and it looks great on your CV.

## SAFEGUARDING

It is everybody's responsibility to keep our campuses safe. When on campus, we ask that you wear your lanyard at all times to identify yourself and to access buildings. We have a team of safeguarding and child protection specialists if you are worried about your own or somebody else's health, safety or wellbeing, on or off campus. Call **01865 550401** or email [safe@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:safe@activatelearning.ac.uk)

## FAITH ROOMS

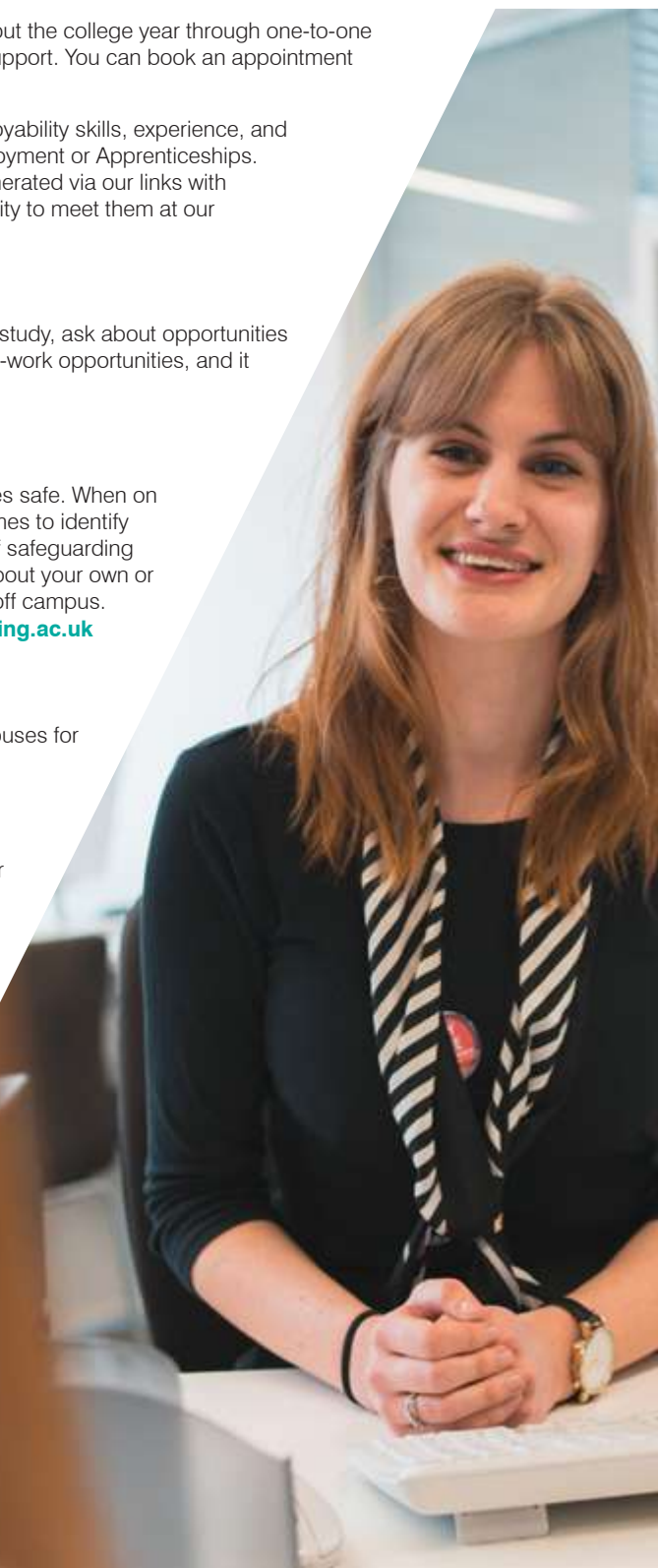
Faith rooms are available for you to use on all campuses for prayer and quiet reflection.

## TRANSITION

Coming to college can be a daunting experience for some, so we offer taster sessions, college tours, summer programmes and one-to-one support to help you adjust to college life. Call **01865 550401** or email [support@activatelearning.ac.uk](mailto:support@activatelearning.ac.uk)

## SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

We know how important it is for parents to be aware of the opportunities available to their children, as well as the support we can provide them. Visit [www.activatelearning.ac.uk/parents](http://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/parents) for more information.



# MONEY MATTERS

## FEES, FUNDING AND BURSARIES

Find out more about what you'll need to pay, if you can get any funding, and how we can help you manage it all.

### Programme fees

If, at the start of your course, you are aged 16–18 or aged 19–24 with an Education Health Care Plan, you are unlikely to pay any tuition fees for our funded programmes.

There may be additional charges for materials, trips, and kit to enhance your learning experience. These are kept to a minimum. If you are not a UK citizen, you can use the [UKCISA website](https://www.ukcisa.ac.uk) to confirm if you need to pay an 'overseas' fee.

### Manage the costs of college

A wide range of bursaries are available, subject to you meeting certain criteria, helping you with the cost of studying with us.

### What is a bursary?

A bursary provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to be able to participate in your course. It can be used to pay for uniforms/clothing, books and other equipment for your course. The bursary can also be provided to help meet the costs of travel getting to and from your place of study and for paying for food. Bursaries don't have to be paid back and you get your bursary directly from us. Activate Learning offers several bursaries to ensure financial support reaches those students who are most in need.

### Eligibility and evidence required

You must be a 'home' student and enrolled on a funded further education course. If you are not a UK citizen, you can check if you are a home student by using the [UKCISA website](https://www.ukcisa.ac.uk)

To be eligible for our bursary's you need to meet the below household income thresholds. To assess your financial need we use household income along with individual circumstances such as the number of dependent children in the household.

- » Financial support for 16-18 students, 19+ LLDD students with EHCPs, and 2nd year students aged 19+
  - » have a household income of £25,000 or less
- » Financial support for students aged 19+
  - » have a household income of £30,000 or less

Evidence of student's household income is required for all bursaries, except for students who are Looked After or In Care who will need to provide local authority confirmation of their status.

A detailed list of all evidence required for each bursary including information regarding how we assess household income is available on the website under 'Fees, Funding and Bursaries'.

Applicants are required to apply for all statutory benefits before applying for a bursary. For further information on government benefits you are eligible for, please visit:

[www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators](https://www.gov.uk/benefits-calculators)

### What bursaries are available?

- » Travel bursary
- » Course costs bursary
- » Meal credits
- » Bursaries for young people in defined vulnerable groups (for students aged 16–18)
- » Accommodation bursary
- » Childcare bursaries

### How to apply for financial support

All student finance applications are confidential, so you shouldn't worry about applying.

Funds are limited so please apply early to avoid any disappointment, and applications will be processed on a first come, first-served basis.

The application form will only be processed if it has been completed and submitted with the required evidence so don't forget to include this with your application.

We strongly recommend that you submit your application as soon as applications open (usually July) as late applications may not be processed within our standard timescales of 4 weeks. Bursary payments will not be backdated for applications made after the start of your course.

If you need any help completing your application form, one of our Advice and Admissions Team will be happy to help you either at one of our Advice Centres on each campus, by calling **0800 612 6008** or send an enquiry via the website.





# YOUR CAREER ROUTES

The journey to career success, starts with you understanding how you prefer to learn and what interests you. Which route suits you better? Full-time study programmes or apprenticeships?

## FULL-TIME STUDY PROGRAMME

If you are looking to join us for full-time study at one of our campuses, you can expect a career-focused and innovative educational programme. The skills and knowledge you acquire during your studies with us will ensure you are prepared for your future.



### Your main qualification

Our tailored qualifications are designed in partnership with employers. Their industry insight and input ensures you gain relevant and in demand skills and knowledge.



### Work experience

You'll take part in work experience opportunities relevant to your learning programme —where appropriate—ensuring that you build the confidence you'll need when you enter the workplace.



### Industry skills and projects

You will gain invaluable workplace skills while attending industry-expert talks, taking part in employer-led and evaluated projects, and participating in mentoring and enterprise-related activities.



### English and maths GCSEs

If you join us with a Grade 3 (D) or below in GCSE English or maths, our expert teachers will help you with revision sessions to make sure you get the best possible results when you retake these subjects. Depending on your circumstances, you may be able to resit your GCSEs for free.



### Tutorial

Our tutorial programme is in place to boost your personal development, behaviour and welfare. During your tutorials you will have the opportunity to take part in enrichment activities and improve your CV.

I would definitely recommend anyone to come to here. It's a really amazing environment in which to grow. I can definitely say that I am a completely different person than when I first came here. I started here on the Level 1 Social Care and progressed my way through to Level 3.

When I started the Level 3 course, some of the previous graduates came in to talk to us about what we could expect from the course and what would be really helpful to start studying straight away. That was really great."

**Ornella, Health and Social Care, Level 3**

## APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME

Choosing an apprenticeship allows you to kick-start your career and gain industry-specific qualifications and experience.



### Earn while you learn

Apprenticeships offer a direct route into employment. You develop essential skills and qualifications that prove you have the knowledge and competency to complete the job, whilst getting paid for it at the same time!



### Direct links with top employers

Our apprenticeships are run by Activate Apprenticeships; a specialist provider that partners with our colleges to deliver nationally-recognised programmes. We deliver apprenticeships for over 1,000 UK businesses and work with top employers to bring great candidates and careers together.



### Clear progression routes

Apprenticeships offer clear progression routes from intermediate (Level 2) and advanced (Level 3), to higher apprenticeships (degree-equivalent qualifications) and directly into the workplace.

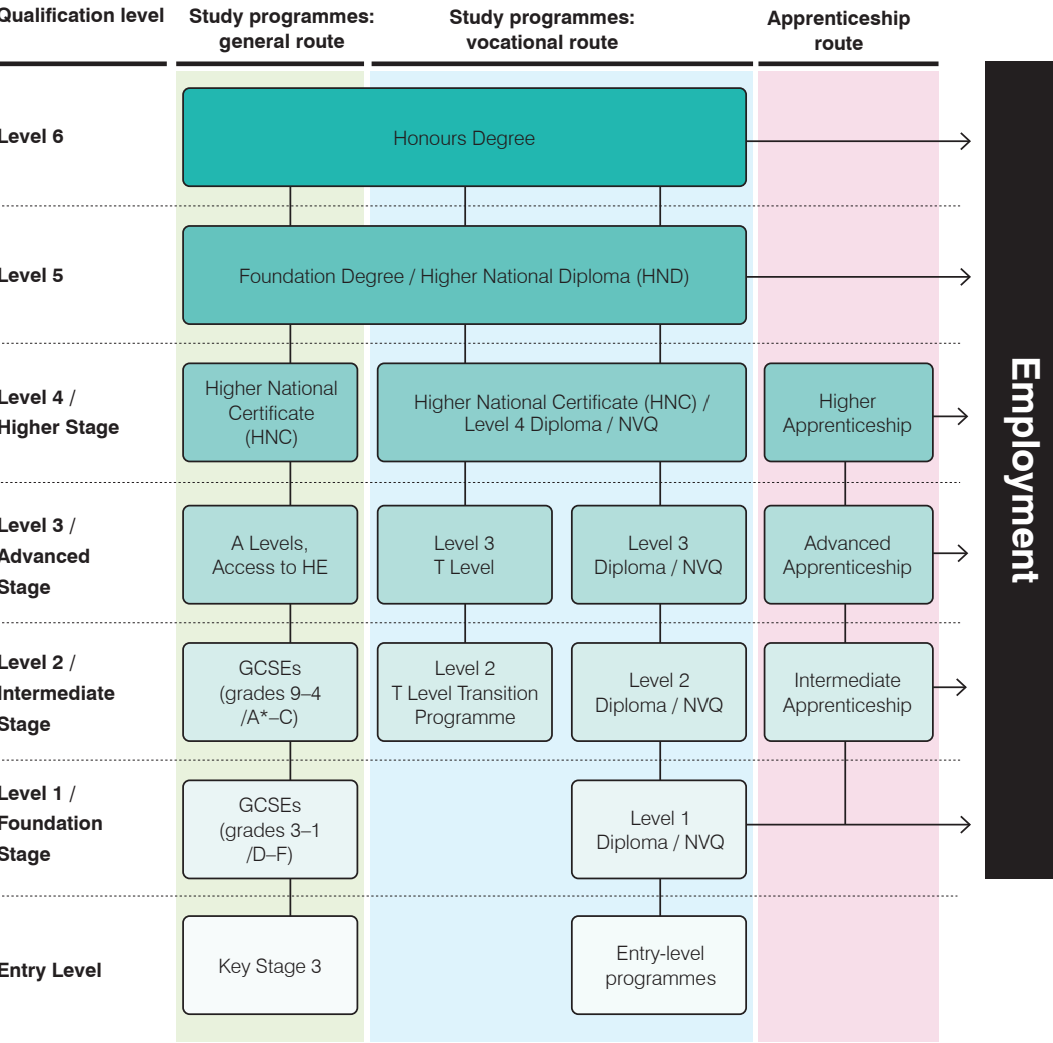


### How does it work?

As an apprentice, you are employed and paid by the company you work for. You usually spend one or two days a week at college, studying core skills such as English, maths and IT. Some apprenticeships may be delivered entirely in the workplace and will be monitored by our dedicated accessors routinely. Apprenticeship opportunities are available all year-round and last for a minimum of one year.

# LEVELS EXPLAINED

Programmes in this guide are arranged according to levels. Levels refer to learning stages, and guide you through our career pathways maps.



Further education college programmes typically run from Level 1 (Foundation Stage), to Level 2 (Intermediate Stage) and Level 3 (Advanced Stage). Level 3 programmes are equivalent to three A Levels, and ensure you have the points required to progress to higher education. At Activate Learning, we also offer university-level programmes and qualifications across our colleges.

If you have not gained five GCSEs at grade 9–4 (A\*–C equivalent), you can still progress in the career pathway that interests you. We will work with you to make sure you join the right programme at the right learning stage; ensuring you have every opportunity to progress.

The graphic shows how the levels referred to in this guide relate to different stages of learning.





# WHAT ARE T LEVELS?

Technical Levels (T Levels) are a new qualification equal to three A Levels. Available to school leavers after they have completed their GCSEs, T Levels offer an alternative to A Levels.

The difference between a T Level and an A Level is that with a T Level, 80% of the course is in the classroom, learning the skills that employers need. The other 20% is a meaningful industry placement, where you'll put these skills into practice.

T Levels have been designed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that you will learn key skills to prepare you for the workplace. The qualification will offer you much more practical experience through completion of an industry placement. No qualification currently available will offer you this except for apprenticeships.

In fact, as part of your T Level education, you will do more than 315 hours of industry placements over the course of your two-year programme.

Each T Level includes the following compulsory elements:

- » A technical qualification, which will include:
- » Core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
- » Specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- » An industry placement with an employer
- » A minimum standard in English and maths, if students have not already achieved them

Once you complete your T Level, there are several options that are available to you. These include moving into full-time employment, an apprenticeship or higher education.

To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points have been allocated to T Levels, which means they will be equivalent to three A Levels.

UCAS points will only be allocated to the overall T Level grade, so you must achieve at least an overall pass grade to receive UCAS points.

UCAS tariff points	T Level overall grade	A Level equivalent
168	Distinction*	A*A*A*
144	Distinction	AAA
120	Merit	BBB
96	Pass (C or above on core component)	CCC
72	Pass (D or E on core component)	DDD

Whether you are a prospective student, parent or employer partner, you can find out more about T Levels:

- » Read more about T Levels on the government website [tlevels.gov.uk](https://tlevels.gov.uk)
- » Search on YouTube for the Department for Education's T Level videos
- » Visit the National Careers Service website for information and guidance on all post-16 options [nationalcareers.service.gov.uk](https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk)
- » Speak to the careers advisor at your school
- » Register for an upcoming Open Event at the college, where you can speak to our teaching staff face-to-face about T Levels

**T-LEVELS**  
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

## T LEVELS WITH ACTIVATE LEARNING

### WHAT T LEVELS ARE AVAILABLE AND WHEN DO THEY START?

T Levels went live at Activate Learning in September 2021 and are currently available in the following areas

#### T Level Health - Adult Nursing

This course starts with the essential knowledge and skills to work in healthcare, including how the industry works, core scientific concepts and key regulations including managing information, health and safety and good scientific/clinical practice. There is also an Employer set project.

The T Level is designed to prepare you for entry to University study (for example Nursing or other Allied Health Professions), or entry directly into employed roles such as the Nurse Associate Higher Apprenticeship with local NHS Trusts.

#### Digital Production, Design and Development

This course focuses on the digital industry and aims to give you the essential knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to any digital occupation. There is also an Employer-set project.

Learn the essentials behind all digital roles by understanding data and digital systems, how software and businesses interact, security, testing, planning and legal issues. You then build on this by developing specialist skills in understanding user needs and designing and developing digital systems.

This type of qualification is ideal for people who want to work in the following areas:

- » Digital development
- » Project planning and management
- » Computing systems management
- » Software development
- » Security

**More T Levels subjects will be offered from September 2022, please check our website for more details.**

#### T Level Transition Programme

If you would like to start a T Level in 2023 and want to prepare for it, we offer the following transition programmes. These programmes are a Gateway to Level 3 and will ensure you are all set and have a clear understanding of the work involved, as well as guaranteeing you an interview for your chosen T Level at the end of the year.

- » Business
- » Health
- » Digital
- » Engineering
- » Animal Management
- » Hair and Beauty
- » Professional Catering
- » Furniture
- » Media



# HOW TO APPLY

If your heart is set on a specific subject pathway or apprenticeship, you are probably ready to apply.

## APPLYING FOR A FULL-TIME STUDY PROGRAMME?

For full-time subject pathways, please first complete an online application form. This can be done on our website at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk) and [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk). Application forms can be supplied in alternative formats. Please speak to a member of the team at any campus or call **0800 612 6008** for more information.

As soon as we get your application, our Advice and Admissions team will confirm they have received it and let you know what your next steps will be. Depending on the information you provide us, the next step may be an offer from us to join your subject pathway and an invitation to join an Activation Programme. An Activation Programme is a series of activities that you'll need to complete to confirm that the pathway, the course, the level, and the college are the right fit for you. Activities can include initial assessments, welcome/discovery days, introductions to our Learning Philosophy, talks about life at college, what support is available including student finance, and support with advanced learner loans.

If you have further questions regarding your study programme, call us on **0800 612 6008** or contact us online at [www.activatelearning.ac.uk/contact-us/enquiries](http://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/contact-us/enquiries)

## APPLYING FOR AN APPRENTICESHIP?

Please search through our latest vacancies online at [www.activateapprenticeships.co.uk](http://www.activateapprenticeships.co.uk). You can also register for alerts as new vacancies arise.

Once you find an apprenticeship that interests you, apply online. We will invite you in for an interview to check that the programme is right for you and that you will be able to achieve the qualification.

You will also complete an initial assessment for basic literacy and numeracy.

You must be employed before you start your apprenticeship, but don't let that stop you from applying as we can help you in your job search. If you've already found an employer, or your current employer wishes to enrol you on an apprenticeship programme, please contact us and we will work with them.

If you have further questions regarding your apprenticeship application, please do get in touch. Contact us online at [www.activateapprenticeships.co.uk/contact](http://www.activateapprenticeships.co.uk/contact) or call **01865 551015**.

## THE KEY SECTIONS OF YOUR APPLICATION FORM

### Section 1 About yourself

Add your emergency contact details so we can contact your guardian (or designated contact if you're 19+) in an emergency.

### Section 2 Your programme choice

Please write your programme title in as much detail as possible (including level etc).

### Section 3 Your future plans

Tell us why you want to do this programme, how it fits with your career plans, and what you believe you can bring to the college.

### Section 4 Extra support for you

We offer support to succeed for all our students. If you have a disability, medical condition, or learning or language support needs, tell us as soon as possible; ideally on the application form. This is confidential and will be used to get the support you need in place for when you join us.

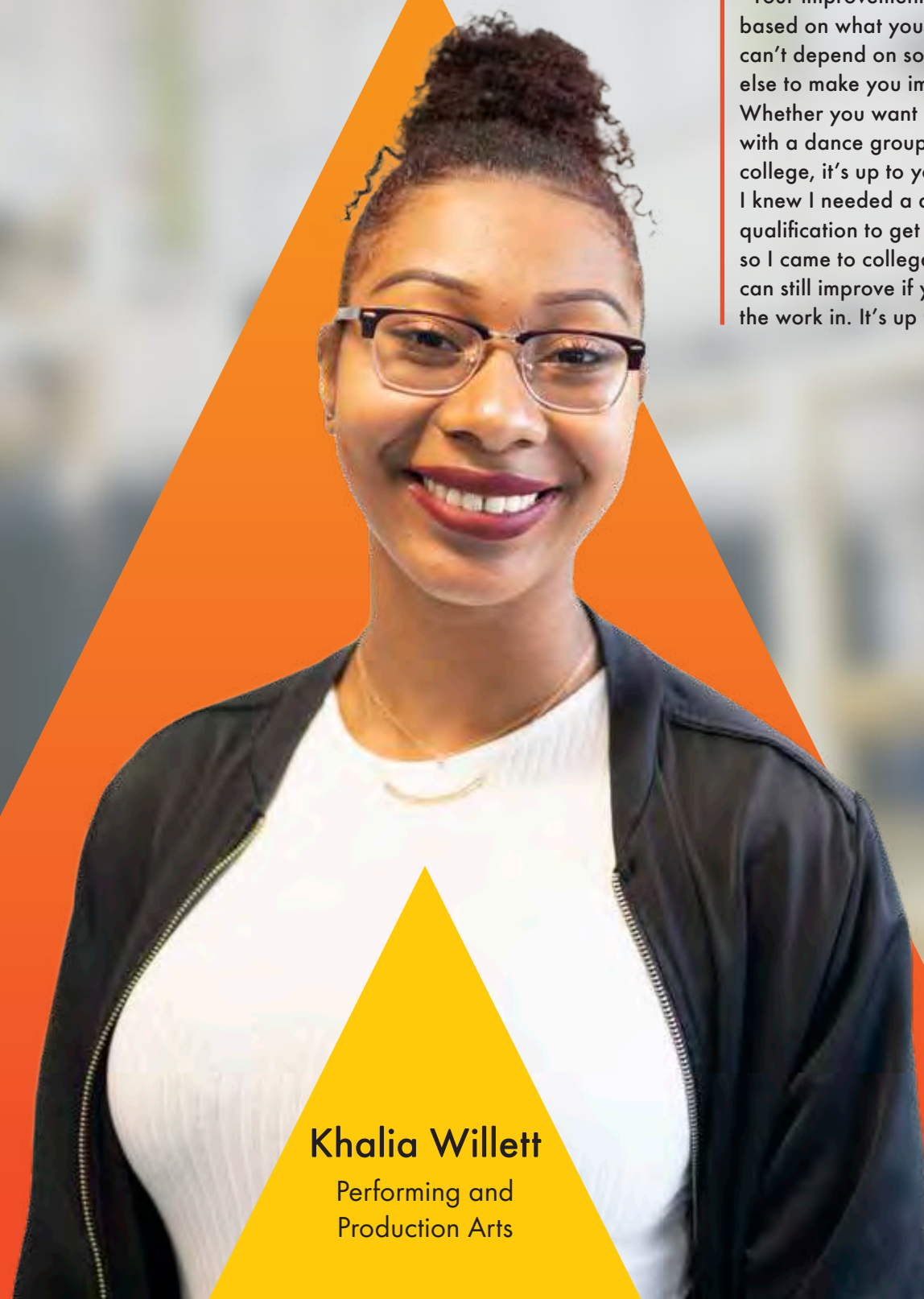


# CASE STUDY

**//** The types of dance are really varied. The course has introduced me to jazz and ballet, which are things that I'd never thought of doing or thought I'd need, but in applying to uni, that kind of diversity in my technique is something that I really need; it's what they want to see."

Despite thinking that the programme would be all practical; all dancing, all day, she has admitted that, "There's more theory in dance than you think!" Luckily though, she has also found that, "it's all relevant to what you're doing. On the dance floor, we relate the theory to our practical assessments."

"Your improvement is based on what you do. You can't depend on someone else to make you improve. Whether you want to train with a dance group or a college, it's up to you, but I knew I needed a dance qualification to get into uni, so I came to college. You can still improve if you put the work in. It's up to you."



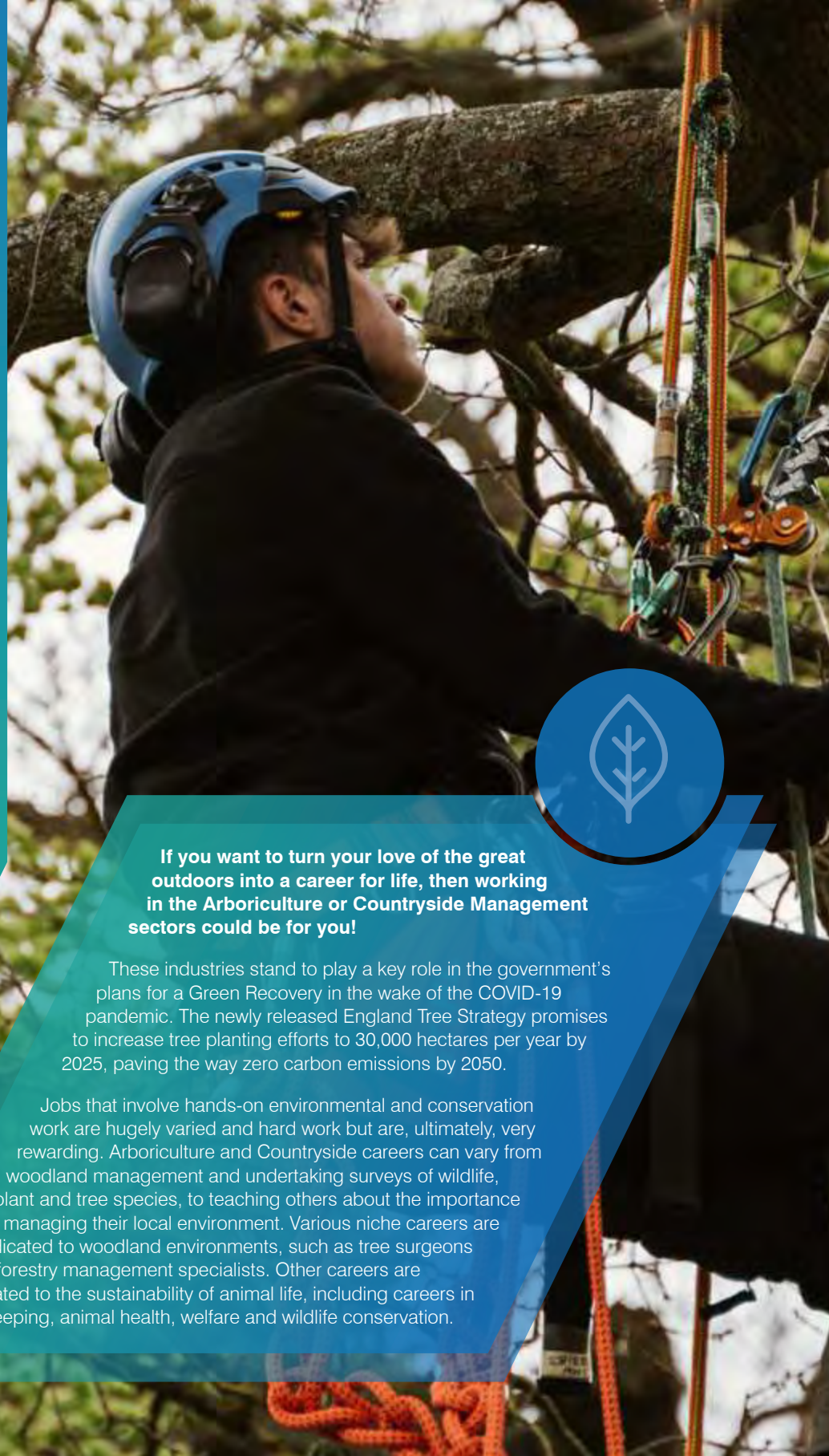
**Khalia Willett**

Performing and  
Production Arts



# CAREER PATHWAYS





**If you want to turn your love of the great outdoors into a career for life, then working in the Arboriculture or Countryside Management sectors could be for you!**

These industries stand to play a key role in the government's plans for a Green Recovery in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The newly released England Tree Strategy promises to increase tree planting efforts to 30,000 hectares per year by 2025, paving the way zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Jobs that involve hands-on environmental and conservation work are hugely varied and hard work but are, ultimately, very rewarding. Arboriculture and Countryside careers can vary from woodland management and undertaking surveys of wildlife, plant and tree species, to teaching others about the importance of managing their local environment. Various niche careers are dedicated to woodland environments, such as tree surgeons and forestry management specialists. Other careers are dedicated to the sustainability of animal life, including careers in gamekeeping, animal health, welfare and wildlife conservation.

**Merrist Wood College has over 50 years of experience training land-based professionals for their chosen outdoor careers**

With our 400-acre outdoor classroom and dedicated workshops perfect for studying wildlife and conservation, our campus comes complete with woodlands, wetlands and grasslands, and a fully functioning farm so you will get a fully rounded hands-on experience of land-based learning!

All our courses are run by professional staff who are passionate about their individual subject areas and have strong links with local organisations such as the Surrey Wildlife Trust. Our students learn a wide range of skills and benefit from specialist instruction around the safe use of the machinery they use as part of their training.

Countryside Management students study an exciting and diverse range of modules such as ecology, estate skills, greenwood crafts, heathland, woodland and coastal management, plant and soil science, forest recreation and farm habitat management, to name but a few!

Our Arboriculture courses combine practical and theoretical principles in the science, management, ecology and planning of woodland care whilst experiencing practical work on the college's estate with access to specialist machinery and industry standard equipment. You will learn how to safely use a chainsaw, climb, prune and dismantle trees, use brushwood chippers and stump grinders. Whilst our countryside management courses will teach you skills in estate management and conservation, including wildlife surveying and traditional greenwood crafts such as coppicing.

The college has an excellent, national reputation and strong partnerships within the land-based sectors. Many of our former students have moved on to work for local and national organisations such as the National Trust, Surrey Wildlife Trust, and the Woodland Trust.

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

**64%**

**BRITISH FARMING PROVIDES 64% OF THE FOOD EATEN IN THE UK.**



I'd heard through word of mouth about Merrist Woods great reputation and It's definitely lived up to expectations. The campus itself is amazing, its 400 acres, and for arboriculture we've got some amazing trees that we get to climb and study.

When I finish the course, I'm more than likely going to seek employment as a climber for a tree company. The course has helped me work towards that."

**Zac, Forestry and Arboriculture Level 3**

Rea Zac's full story online at [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT MERRIST WOOD**

**AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:** ▶





The animal care industry is worth over £1 billion to the UK economy, and boasts over 13,000 businesses, from pet shops and sanctuaries, to zoos and wildlife parks.

Careers in the animal care and agriculture sectors are very hard work but are ultimately, extremely rewarding.

Over 370,000 people work within animal occupations in the UK, with many being volunteers. There are 1,600 job openings per year in this sector and there is a further 6% growth expected over the next five years.

If you are a self-confessed 'animal person', a career in animal management or agriculture might be perfect for you. Possible careers include animal technician, zoo keeper, pet shop worker, groundsperson, veterinary nurse, gamekeeper or farmer.

**It's not all bounding bunnies and playful puppies: on an animal management course, you might be entrusted with the care and maintenance of a wide variety of animals. If you are passionate about caring for animals though and understand the impact they can have in our lives, this is the pathway for you.**

Our state-of-the-art Animal Management centre has a zoo licence, giving you the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in a realistic professional environment. The centre has an arid biome, tropical biome and nocturnal room, allowing you to study and care for a wide range of animals in a near-natural environment. We also have a fully functioning farm with rare breed sheep and cows, pigs, goats, llamas, donkeys, chickens, ducks and many more!

We are proud of our large collection of animals, including rare-breed sheep and cows, meerkats, tropical birds, reptiles, a skunk and red squirrels—with many more additions to the collection planned soon. Our course tutors are passionate and knowledgeable, with industry related experience and have great connections with local and global organisations such as the RSPCA, Battersea Dogs' and Cats' Home, Chessington Zoo, Tilgate Nature Centre and more.



If you're thinking about studying animal management, Merrist Wood College is the place to do it. The campus itself is amazing, all the lecturers have experience in the industry and they make an effort to shape the course to your interests. We have lecturers that specialise in birds, reptiles, mammals and all sorts. It's nice to be able to talk to the lecturers about their passions, especially if they match your own."

### Sumaya, Animal Management Level 3

Read Sumaya's full story online at [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

Our coveted work experience programmes have included contributing to conservation work and local community projects, working with chimpanzees in West Africa, dolphins in the Bahamas; Compassion in World Farming, orangutans in Borneo, wild otters in Cornwall, dog trainers and many others.

Our agriculture courses cover units on animal anatomy and physiology, plant science and soil science, also teaching the basics of machinery operations, estate management farm animal production and conservation.

Agriculture students also get the opportunity to complete valuable work experience at a wide choice of locations such as livestock farms, local farm parks and attractions, lambing placements at a variety of farms and shearing placements. Regular trips and visits to places such as the British Wool Board, dairy farms, rare breed parks, livestock markets and agricultural shows are also an exciting feature of this course.

HIGHER  
L  
4-7

ADVANCED  
L3

INTERMEDIATE  
L2

FOUNDATION  
L1

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶



**By choosing a career in this industry, you will have the opportunity to combine creativity with customer care; helping people to look and feel great.**

Beauticians are specialists in discussing and understanding client requirements, analysing and advising on skincare and beauty regimes, giving treatments, and applying cosmetics. Completion of a Beauty Therapy diploma can lead to job roles such as beauty therapist, spa manager, salon manager and dermatology specialist, to name a few.

This industry is particularly strong, with nearly **£2 billion a year** spent on beauty treatments. Forecasts also predict that between 2020 and 2025, the increase in jobs for beauticians and related roles in England are set to see a 4% increase, which is much higher than the overall job market.

Beauty salon managers and proprietors, along with their hairdressing counterparts, make a big contribution to the economy of South East England. Much higher than their counterparts elsewhere in the UK contribute to their own respective areas.

**Don't just learn about it, be about it! As part of your programme you will undertake 60+ hours of work experience per year, including working within our on-campus salons.**

You will have the opportunity to build the foundation of your professional experience within our on-site training salons before testing your skills with paying clients. You will also visit other local salons, attend masterclasses, visit trade exhibitions, and take part in competitions to boost your skills, knowledge and creativity. Previous students on this programme also had the opportunity to travel to Thailand and complete a qualification in Thai massage!

Alongside learning about how to apply beauty treatments, you'll also learn about the human body. This will help you to better understand the effects of the treatments and develop your technique.

Every year, we successfully train many students in becoming fully-qualified beauty therapists. We will help you develop the skills you need to work in the beauty therapy industry, including:

- » communication
- » problem solving
- » professional standards
- » client consultation
- » time management
- » customer care
- » creativity

**£1.7 BILLION**

IN THE UK, PEOPLE SPEND ABOUT  
£1.7 BILLION A YEAR ON BEAUTY  
AND HOLISTIC TREATMENTS



When I came to the Open Event, the tutors were really supportive and gave me all the information that I needed. That's what swayed me: they seemed very positive.

**"College is an experience that I think everyone should have. It's not like school; you are treated like an adult. You are treated as your own person and not as a whole class together. You're not in that sterile environment; you make your own choices."**

**Lauren, Beauty Therapy Level 3**

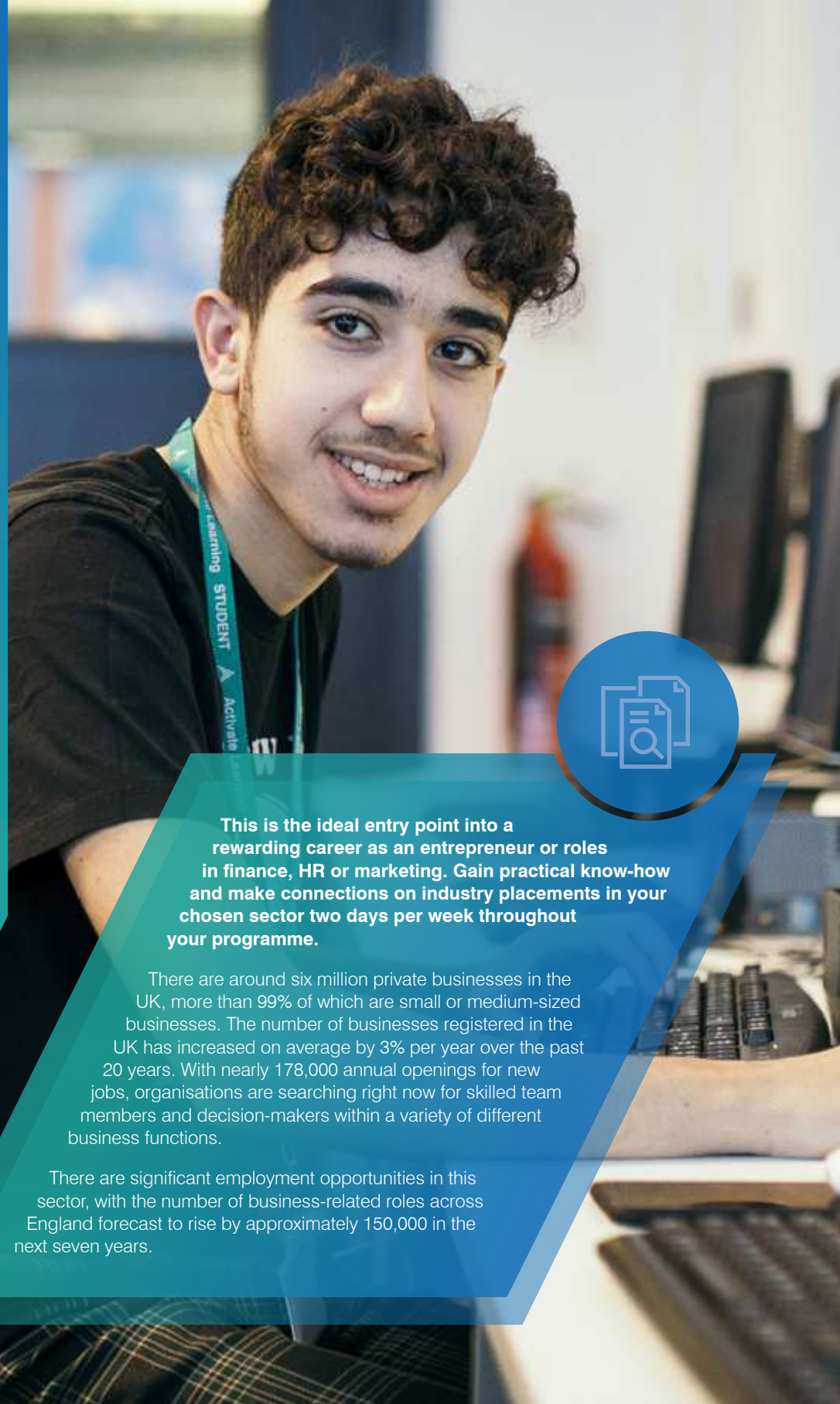
Read Lauren's full story online at  
[guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►







**This is the ideal entry point into a rewarding career as an entrepreneur or roles in finance, HR or marketing. Gain practical know-how and make connections on industry placements in your chosen sector two days per week throughout your programme.**

There are around six million private businesses in the UK, more than 99% of which are small or medium-sized businesses. The number of businesses registered in the UK has increased on average by 3% per year over the past 20 years. With nearly 178,000 annual openings for new jobs, organisations are searching right now for skilled team members and decision-makers within a variety of different business functions.

There are significant employment opportunities in this sector, with the number of business-related roles across England forecast to rise by approximately 150,000 in the next seven years.

**If you're looking to start your career sooner rather than later, qualifications in business are flexible and are considered valuable across many industries. On this pathway, we focus on developing your employability; equipping you with the skills to become an effective team player in organisations ranging from small business start-ups to global corporations.**

If you have an entrepreneurial flair, find out how you could turn your passion and ideas into a business reality. With our business and enterprise pathway, you will apply your learning to the real world, working on projects and assignments that challenge you, while developing the soft skills that employers are looking for.

As part of your studies, you will have the opportunity to take part in employer-led student projects with local companies and organisations. Recent projects have included planning and delivering a fundraising programme for a local hospice, designing a new young persons' travel scheme for a local bus company, and developing a brand strategy for a national charity.

By working with external organisations and employers, you will get a real flavour of the realities of working in business.

You will hear from guest speakers on a range of areas and you will also take part in work experience throughout your programme, helping you build the skills and confidence to launch your career.

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

**5 MILLION**

**THERE ARE JUST UNDER 5 MILLION JOB ROLES IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE UK. BY 2027, THAT'S FORECAST TO INCREASE A FURTHER 2.6%!**



I always just wanted to get into a job and start earning. With business, I think you can get into a career quite quickly and start learning on the job and progressing in your career that way. At college, I was really able to figure out what aspects of business I didn't enjoy and which parts I did. I really didn't like the finance side of things, but I really liked Human Resources, so that's why I chose the HR route as a potential career. At the interview for college, we went over the Career Pathways that were available and what you do year by year, and then at the end of the first year you choose a particular route."

**Grace, Business Level 3**

Read Grace's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT GUILDFORD**

**AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:** ▶





**Get out from behind a desk and work on varied construction projects, finishing each day with results you can see and touch.**

Our programmes focus heavily on the practical elements of learning: working in industry placements and practicing in our college's excellent facilities. As well as deepening your knowledge of the construction industry, you will develop the expertise and knowledge required to enter the industry at an advanced stage, or to progress to university to prepare for a career in construction management. The sector is well paying and there are opportunities to progress from an apprenticeship to self-employed trade specialist, or a project-manager role in a multi-national company.

Whether your skills and interests would match with being a carpenter, plumber, electrician, site foreman or surveyor, our teachers have years of experience within construction and will share with you the knowledge and expertise you need to succeed. What's more, our students get to work on employer-led projects which reflect the real-life challenges construction companies face every day.

The sector pays well and there are opportunities to progress from Activate Learning to wherever your heart takes you; from a self-employed trade specialist, to a project-manager role at a multi-national company!

Whatever your skills and interests, our teachers have decades of combined experience within construction and will share with you the knowledge and expertise you need to succeed.

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

3%

3% GROWTH IS EXPECTED IN THIS SECTOR ACROSS ALL THE KEY JOB ROLES—IN PARTICULAR PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS AND MANAGERS—UP TO 2025.



**The wider construction sector—including contracting, materials manufacturing, and associated professional services—employs around 3.1 million people, which equates to roughly 9% of the UK workforce.**

One of the reasons for the strength of this industry is that the roles can be so varied, yet they are all crucial to construction projects, whether large or small. Plumbers and electricians are necessary to install systems and carry out repairs, carpenters and construction workers interpret designs and create structures, site foremen supervise teams and architects design and develop specifications for buildings. The construction industry offers a wealth of career opportunities to progress into once you gain your qualification.



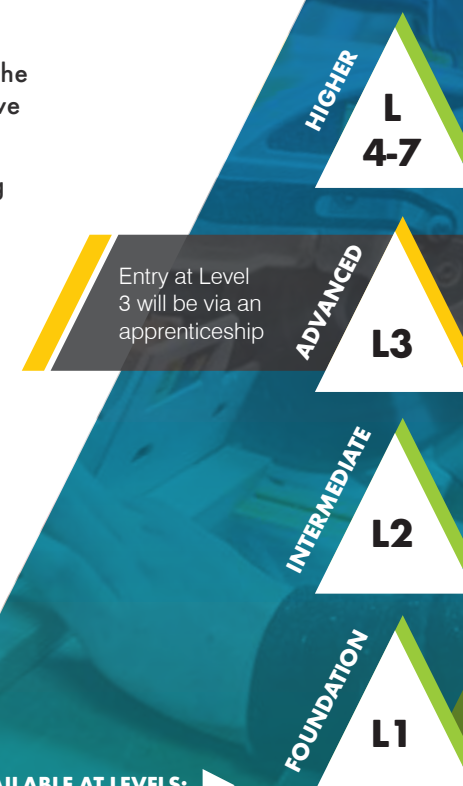
"I've found that I've made quite a few friends here, and the facilities here are so much better than anywhere else. I've been treated more like an adult here."

"When I attended an Open Event, I visited the plumbing workshop and was so impressed with the facilities I felt in my element straight away. One of my favourite parts of the programme has been having hands-on experience of using and assembling different materials in the workshop."

**Sherrie, Plumbing Level 2**

Read Sherrie's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**



AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶



**If you want to work in the early years sector, this pathway provides you with a clear route into this rewarding industry.**

Our programmes combine theoretical study in college with significant practical experience, preparing you to work competently, safely and effectively with children and their families in a wide range of environments.

You will be expected to attend work placements in a variety of settings for two days per week, which will build to a total of up to 650 hours of experience every year. During work placements you will gain the confidence to plan and evaluate activities and develop excellent observation skills. Experience is a key feature that employers look for and your time spent on work placements will be invaluable in putting you ahead of the competition!

Throughout your programme, you will also get opportunities to go on trips, follow projects set by employers and take part in employability events such as mock interviews, job fairs and CV-writing sessions.

► **Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

7 MILLION

OVER SEVEN MILLION CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS OLD IN ENGLAND USE FORMAL CHILDCARE



**Working in the early years sector involves supervising play and other activities for pre-school age children, as well as assisting teachers and caring for children in day or residential nurseries, children's homes and private households.**

The demand for childminders and those working in pre-school environments is increasing following the introduction of 30 funded hours per week for three- and four-year-olds of working parents in 2017.

In South East England, there are over 50,000 job roles and over 2000 openings per year for child development and well-being roles. In the South East England, job roles in this sector are 9% above the national average.



I would definitely, 100% recommend this programme, particularly if you don't get on with school. If you are struggling, then college is great because it offers so many different opportunities at different levels. If you haven't got all your GCSEs, then you could still go on to a lower-level course, doing something that you love, then move up, so you're still doing something you enjoy. College is more hands on. At school, a lot of the study is writing and reading, but at college it's really practical. We get to do all the activities that we plan and test them to see if they work. It's really fun!"

**Amelia, Early Years Level 3**

Read Amelia's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

\*Available at Merrist Wood College

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►

HIGHER  
L  
4-7\*

ADVANCED  
L3

INTERMEDIATE  
L2

FOUNDATION  
L1



**Designed to support progression onto an environmental related degree, this unique programme combines A Levels with significant hands-on experience.**

Alongside A Levels, you'll be undertaking a range of environmental, ecological and conservation projects. You will be involved in practical activities such as bat, badger and deer surveys; conserving wildlife; butterfly releases; maintaining wildflower meadows; researching energy use; water and land management; monitoring weather changes; clearing out watercourses and maintaining our ancient woodlands. You'll also undertake an Extended Project Qualification (EPQ), an independent research task on a topic of your choice.

On this pathway, you'll have the opportunity to achieve the A Levels needed to continue onto university to study subjects such as environmental science, conservation, sustainability and ecology at degree level.

You can choose three A Levels from the five on offer:

- » Biology
- » Chemistry
- » Environmental Studies
- » Geography
- » Maths

As an ideal foundation for understanding environmental issues such as climate change, wildlife conservation and sustainability, you'll develop skills in data-gathering, analysis, problem-solving, critical thinking and research.

At the end of this programme, you won't just be leaving with valuable qualifications. You will have a wealth of practical experience and rich examples of how you've really made a difference to the environment, perfect for showcasing your skills and commitment to employers and universities.

**+23%**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION OCCUPATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE SOUTH EAST WHERE THERE ARE 23% MORE JOBS COMPARED WITH THE UK AVERAGE.**

**If you're passionate about protecting the environment and dream of a career where you can make a real difference to the world, this pathway could be for you.**

Environmental issues are among some of the biggest challenges facing our planet today. Now more than ever, the natural world needs protecting.

Opportunities within the environmental sector are rapidly growing. Nearly 70,000 people work within environmental conservation roles in the UK, with 2,500 job openings per year and a further 3.2% growth expected by 2026. Green job titles are particularly sought-after with recruitment demand jumping by a staggering 35% between 2016 and 2019.

Careers in this sector are diverse, spanning areas from conservation and sustainability to environmental research and education. Possible job roles include environmental protection manager, ecologist, conservation officer, sustainability consultant, water quality scientist, marine biologist and many more.



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT MERRIST WOOD**

**AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:**

**ADVANCED**

**L3**



# ENGINEERING

From aerospace to agriculture, food packaging to pharmaceuticals, and everything in between, organisations in those industries, from micro-SMEs to large, multi-national companies need the services of skilled engineers. So much so, that as of 2021, there are 1.36 million job roles and 44,000 openings per year in the Engineering sector across the UK. This sector is especially important in South East England, with 6% more job roles in the region compared to the UK average.

Engineers are always in demand and are successfully employed or self-employed across the private, public, and not-for-profit sectors. In fact, as of 2021, 18% of the UK working population works in engineering, and at least 15% of the working population in every region are in engineering jobs.

**Follow our engineering pathway and you will get an excellent grounding in mechanical, electrical and electronic engineering to enable you to choose the career that's right for you.**

Following recent investments in our engineering facilities you'll benefit from completing your diploma in state-of-the-art learning zones, high-quality workshops, modern design and fabrication spaces. Using different machining processes, thanks to lathes, milling machines and various other specialist tools being in the workshop, you'll gain practical experience of processes that you may do in the future.

As part of your studies, you will also have the opportunity to take part in employer-led, work-based projects, based on real-life scenarios, providing invaluable experience to supplement your studies.

Level 3 students have recently benefitted from curriculum sponsorship from Royal Electrical

Mechanical Engineers (REME), including a work-based project, guest lecturing and regional competitions.

**Teaching and learning are provided with the support of leading engineering companies, including:**

Peter Brett Associates (now part of Stantec), Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers (REME), BMW, Skanska

► **Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

## 1.36 MILLION

THERE ARE 1.36 MILLION JOBS AND 44,000 OPENINGS PER YEAR IN THIS SECTOR.



I chose engineering because it's a job of the future. As human society evolves, it corresponds that our surroundings will need to evolve as well, and engineering helps a lot with that.

I've enjoyed the course, in particular learning new things and having interesting discussions with the teachers. I'm very thankful to the teachers that helped guide me. Especially help with my English and writing."

### Gregory, Engineering Level 2

Read Gregory's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**



\*Available at other Activate Learning colleges

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►



**In 2021, the global video game industry's worth is predicted to rise above £97 billion. Just as in professional sports, there are a multitude of industries that have now grown around video games' popularity to form a multi-faceted economy.**

In esports, the roles are as varied as they are numerous. On this pathway, you could find a rewarding career in areas such as journalism, law, events management, marketing, broadcasting, and many more!

The UK has the largest video games sector in Europe and it employs around 47,000 professionals directly, and indirectly, across related industries (such as esports). Although London is the leading region in the UK for gaming, unlike other creative industries, this sector's regional contribution is significant across the UK, meaning you can find employment across Britain. For example, more than half of all jobs in film are in London. For games, however, that figure is just 28%. The South East has 23% of vacancies in games.



**The qualifications we offer on this pathway will enable you to enter careers in the esports industry, or it could give you the opportunity to upskill and progress your burgeoning esports career!**

Upon graduation, you could then apply for higher education or foundation degrees within the esports, sport, business, and leisure industries.

You will also develop the soft skills that are valuable to all employers and will benefit you throughout your life too: strategising, teamwork, and effective communication, among others.

Unlike for many other industries, the COVID-19 global pandemic was beneficial for this sector. It propelled esports into the mainstream, with Premier League stars participating in competitive FIFA tournaments and F1 drivers regularly streaming iRacing on Twitch.

Former footballer David Beckham is even getting in on this blossoming industry with a sizeable minority stake in Guild Esports team, which is looking to develop a pipeline of gaming talent in the UK.

**£10 BILLION**

**THE UK HAS THE LARGEST VIDEO GAMES SECTOR IN EUROPE. ITS PREDICTED VALUE IS £10 BILLION BY 2023.**



**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT GUILDFORD**

**AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:**

**ADVANCED**

**L3**

**INTERMEDIATE**

**L2**





**If you have a passion for all things equestrian, a career in the equine industry is a rewarding and satisfying option which could take you all over the world.**

Generating £4.7 billion of consumer spending across a wide range of goods and services each year, the equine sector is big business! It's also going from strength to strength, with the number of regular riders rising from 1.3 million to 1.8 million across the UK. With equine businesses as varied as riding schools, livery yards, welfare charities, training yards and racing schools, your dream career could be just around the corner!

Jobs are diverse in this exciting and dynamic sector. Our past students have found jobs such as riding instructors, competition grooms, equine product sales managers, racing grooms and work riders, after qualifying with us. And if you progress on to an HE course you could find a career in Equine nutrition, rehabilitation or dentistry.

**If you want to turn your passion into your dream career, then studying Equine at Merrist Wood is a great place to start! It's not all about just riding though, our courses have a strong vocational emphasis, providing all commercial awareness and practical competence you'll need for a wide range of equine careers.**

In our fully-equipped classrooms, you'll learn about horsemanship, business, management and the practical aspects of equine studies as well as learning about managing and maintaining an equine establishment. Not only that, our facilities are extensive too. Our fantastic equine centre is British Horse Society approved and includes resources such as an indoor equine arena which has one of the largest indoor surfaces in the South East holding regular dressage, show jumping and showing events, an outdoor floodlit warm up arena and cross-country courses. Not forgetting our modern, purpose-built yard which also comes complete with stabling is for 30 horses!

A riding pathway will develop your riding on the flat and over fences, within our excellent riding facilities. Additionally, you will build your experience riding a wide range of horses from school masters to more advanced.



Our courses have a strong vocational emphasis, providing commercial awareness and practical competence for a range of equine careers. You'll learn about many aspects of horsemanship and units include; Equine Structure, Form and Function, Equine Diet and Nutrition, Work Experience in the Equine Sector, Equine Health and Husbandry and Preparation/Presentation for Competition Disciplines. We offer a riding and non-riding route and aim to give you a great basis from which to start your equine career."

**Dawn, Lecturer in Equine**

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

Our expert staff have extensive knowledge and experience of the equine industry and as part of your course you will get the opportunity to take part in exciting trips and visits as well as being able to complete valuable work experience within the industry. We maintain close links with industry including Wellington Riding, Laris Farm Equestrian Centre, Cowdray Polo Academy, and the British Horse Society.

**On our courses, you will learn about:**

- » Animal anatomy and biology
- » Horse fitness
- » Horse behaviour and welfare
- » Riding and exercising horses
- » Stable and yard management
- » Horse nutrition

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

ADVANCED

**L3**

INTERMEDIATE

**L2**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶



## FOUNDATION STUDIES

**Our foundation programmes meet the needs of a broad range of learners, allowing for progression onto vocational career pathways within Activate Learning.**

We offer a variety of vocational pathways, including:

Business	IT	Sports
Construction	Media	Tourism
ESOL	Motor vehicle	Visual arts and design
Hair and beauty	Performing arts	
Hospitality and professional cookery	Public services	

During the one or two-year programme, learners are able to try different vocational options or specialise in a chosen subject area. Our students also develop employability skills and continue their studies in English, maths and digital literacy where required. The programme includes citizenship and personal and social development, as well as work experience opportunities.

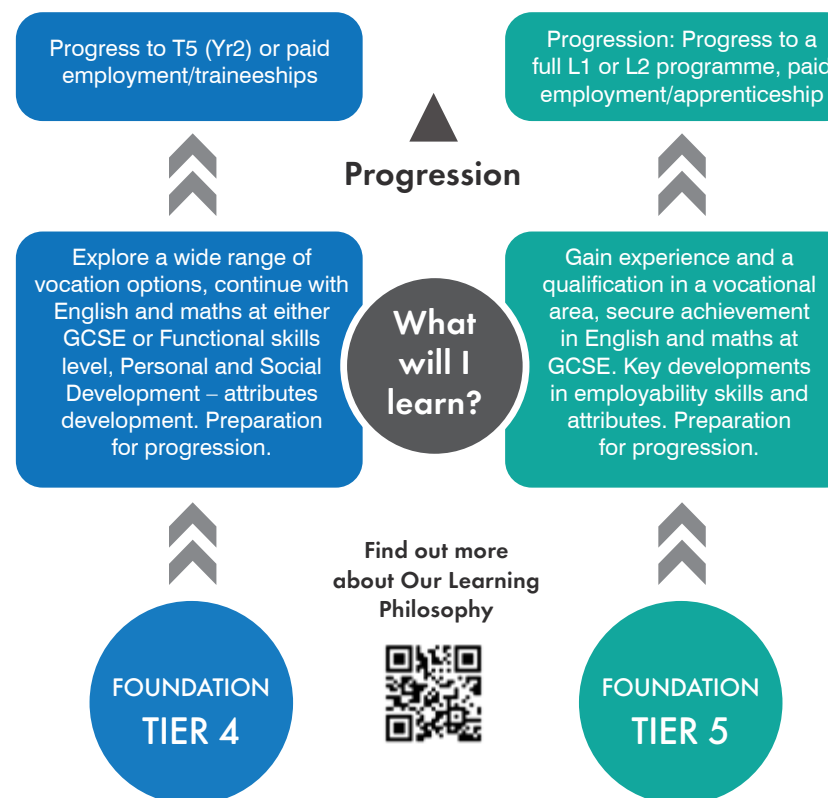
### FOUNDATION STUDIES

Our Foundation Programmes meet the needs of a broad range of learners; from those with special needs or disabilities to those who may have disengaged from learning in the past or not achieved their full potential.

We will provide you with the opportunity to develop vital employability and independence skills through a hands-on learning programme. Lasting one or two years, our vocational programmes are designed to engage our learners, whilst focusing on the skills required for further progression on one of our pathways or into employment.

We offer you the opportunity to develop through a wide range of vocational pathways, as well as the chance to upskill in English and Maths qualifications. You will also gain essential attributes for employment, as well as developing your personal and social skills.

For those learners wishing to progress in their studies, we offer taster sessions on Level 2 programmes to help support your progress and confirm your next steps.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD** OR **MERRISTWOOD**

## SUPPORTED STUDIES

We offer a variety of supported studies programmes for learners who require additional support and who may have Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs). Furthermore, we know that every learner is different, so we design the right blend for each individual's needs.

### OUR FACILITIES AND SPECIALIST SERVICES

Our SEND provision is at the heart of our colleges at Activate Learning. We believe that our learners can achieve anything with the right support, time and environment. At each of our campuses, every student will be allocated an experienced personal tutor who will:

- » support attendance
- » set targets and goals
- » help with study skills
- » raise awareness of health issues
- » give careers advice
- » offer pastoral care

A full range of extra-curricular activities are organised each year that complement and extend our academic curriculum. The students have the opportunity to further develop their social skills, independence, self esteem, self-reliance and physical capabilities as well as having fun.

#### Pathway to Exploration (Tier 1)

This programme provides for the needs of individuals with profound and complex learning difficulties including sensory impairment, physical disabilities and severe medical conditions. This programme will support all aspects of your needs including health, care, therapies, medications, and educational development.

#### Pathway to Independence and Supported Work (Tier 2)

This programme provides for the needs of individuals with severe to moderate learning difficulties who want to continue to build on essential skills for living, employment and community.

#### Pathway for Progression (Tier 3)

This programme serves as a stepping stone for you to progress on to further studies and prepare you for the world of work in a supported college environment. The programme will help you build confidence and further develop your social communication skills by providing opportunities for you to independently apply skills and knowledge learnt in a range of settings including external work experience.

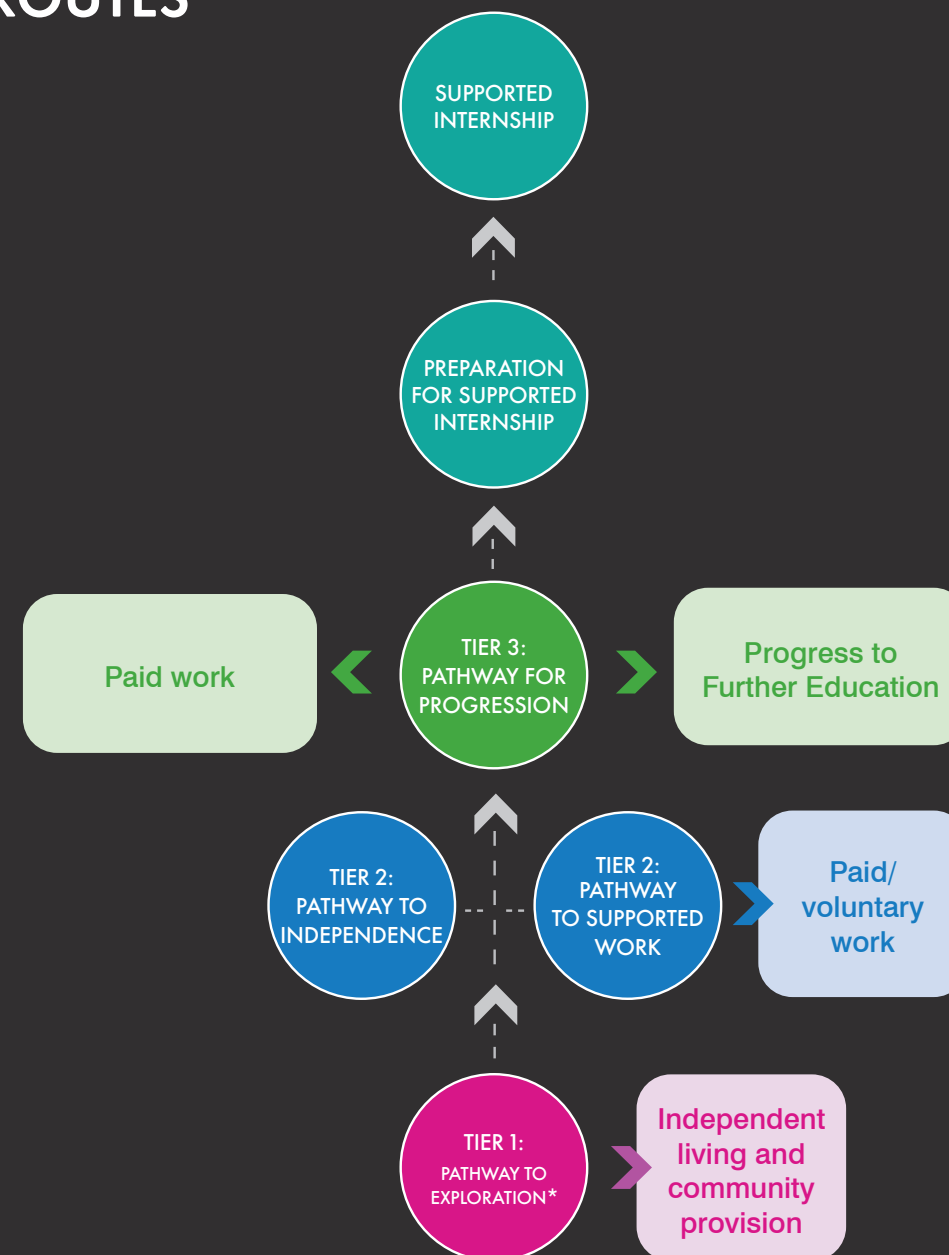
#### Preparation for Internship and Supported Internships

We will provide you with the opportunity to develop vital employability and independence skills through our learning companies. These are small commercial businesses run by staff and students and include on-campus learning companies and delivery services. Our internship programmes are designed to prepare learners for either internal or external work-based internships. Learners who are attending a Tier 2 or Tier 3 programme could progress to this offer.

##### They include:

- » supported internships with Royal Berkshire Hospital, Mencap and Oxfordshire employment services
- » supported employment provisions with the help of a specialist agency
- » more than 200 employers providing work experience

## PROGRESSION ROUTES



For more information on our supported studies programmes, and details on how to apply, visit our website and [download](#) our dedicated guide for SEND learners.



## GCSE'S

**During your studies with us, you'll gain the skills, knowledge and attributes you need to make a success of your next step, whether that's university, an apprenticeship or entering work.**

If you're not happy with your exam results, we'll help you do something about it. Good GCSE results can make a difference to what university you can enter or, if you want to go straight into an apprenticeship, they can be a stepping stone into your ideal industry. Every year, hundreds of our students go on to study higher-level programmes at almost 100 top universities across the UK and abroad. Recently this has included 18 of the world-class Russell Group's 24 universities, such as University of Oxford, Newcastle University and King's College, London. So, if you're serious about retaking your exams, let us help you.

There are many benefits to retaking your GCSEs, such as the minimum entry requirement for most A Levels being five GCSEs at grades 4–9 (A\*–C), or that even if you're looking to move into the world of work, most employers consider good GCSE results as essential. Either way, you're competing against a whole county of school leavers every year, so getting the best grade you can do will always be worth it. Some other things to consider are:

- » better choice of university
- » greater earning potential
- » many apprenticeships also require good GCSEs
- » broader career choice
- » you improve your chances for every job you apply to
- » increase your eligibility for further education



The teachers are really nice and supportive. The lessons are quite straightforward and it's easy to understand. There's more one-to-one time at college compared to secondary school, and there are more opportunities for support. When I started, my grades were at a grade 3 and now I'm working at a grade 6!"

### Enriko, GCSEs

Read Enriko's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk) or [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

**Unfortunately, not everyone can make the best of their GCSEs the first time round. The reasons can be numerous but, ultimately, for many of us, it was our first time at taking a high-pressure, timed exam on which your future can depend!**

If you don't have the results you think you could have gotten, or if you just want to improve your grades, we offer the opportunity to study English and Maths GCSE courses alongside your main studies.

Make a fresh start with your learning in our safe and engaging campus and gain more independence and autonomy over your learning. Here, you're encouraged and supported to create and manage your own schedule and our enthusiastic tutors can help you to get you closer to your goals.



# 330

In 2020, over 330 Activate Learning students taking GCSE programmes across our Surrey colleges achieved a pass grade after studying English and/or maths at GCSE level.





**Over 121,000 people in the UK are employed cutting hair, barbering and providing other hair treatments, which makes up over 80% of the jobs in the overall beauty industry.**

From this pathway, you could go on to be a hair stylist, cutting clients' hair, developing your knowledge of the latest trends and colouring techniques; a salon manager, running a team of people offering a number of hair and beauty treatments, ensuring that it remains profitable and that it provides excellent customer service...the list goes on! You could also become self-employed or develop your technical skills in specialist areas such as colouring, extensions, African-hair styling, wedding-hair styling, or many more!



**Our training salons are run in partnership with Wella and Affinage, offering access to the latest products and techniques for all students.**

At our on-site training salons, not only will you be working with all the latest products and equipment that you would expect to find in a salon, you'll be learning and practicing your skills on real clients. There is also classroom learning involved, where you learn about human physiology, as well as the wider industry and the skills you need for a successful career, including health and safety, advising and communicating with clients, and stock control and management.

You will also visit other local salons, attend masterclasses, visit trade exhibitions, and have the opportunity to take part in competitions to boost your skills, knowledge, and creativity!

**We will help you develop the skills you need to work in the hairdressing industry, including:**

- » communication
- » problem solving
- » professional standards
- » client consultation
- » time management
- » customer care
- » creativity

**6.6 BILLION**

**ACROSS THE UK, THE HAIR AND BEAUTY SECTOR IS WORTH £6.6 BILLION.**



I came to college to get experience in hairdressing. I enjoy working with my friends, sharing and gaining ideas from them. They help me when I'm unsure of something and I help them too. It boosts my confidence and helps me complete my work on time.

The teaching is great. My hairdressing lecturer helps me and my other classmates get through things we don't understand and explains everything fully in detail. She sets practical homework for us to complete which is extremely helpful and fun."

## **Rochell, Hairdressing Level 1**

Read Rochell's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT GUILDFORD**

ADVANCED

**L3**

INTERMEDIATE

**L2**

FOUNDATION

**L1**

**AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:** ▶



**One of two pathways on the Health and Social Care Extended Diploma, this programme has a clinical focus with NHS industry placements.**

On this pathway, there are guaranteed job opportunities with the NHS Partnerships listed below.

No two days are the same on this programme! You'll cover a range of modules across pharmacy, adult nursing, midwifery, mental health, healthcare science, children and young people. This way, you'll get a broad introduction to the fields of health and social care and be able to better specialise in the areas that interest you the most.

The study is a mix of attending classes at college and training in simulated environments. Each trust provides you with induction training before commencing your placement, including infection control, moving, and handling. In some instances, there are opportunities to complete the Nursing Associate Programme during your placement. You will complete work experience in your

first year and then an industry placement during your second year of approximately 45 days at one of the NHS Trusts. The projects and assignments that you'll complete on this course are all based on realistic workplace situations and activities.

At the end of the course, you will have the knowledge and practical experience you need to go directly into work, or higher education. For a list of possible careers on this pathway, search our website for 'clinical'.

**For those people passionate about all things science related, please check our website for details of our Applied Science Course**

## 30,900

THE WORKFORCE FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IS PROJECTED TO GROW BY 10.4% OVER THE PERIOD TO 2027, CREATING 30,900 JOBS.

**There are lots of different roles in health and social care depending on what you want to do, who you want to work with, and where you would like to work.**

This pathway has meaningful industry placements in local clinical care settings with our network of partners. The demand for trained care professionals across the UK is enormous and it's likely you'll have the opportunity to walk straight into a well-paid job on completion of your studies with us, especially if you have already completed your work experience with that employer!

In clinical roles, you could be working in local GP surgeries, pharmacies or hospitals.

If you go on to a degree-level nursing, midwifery or allied health course at university, as of 2020 you are guaranteed a £5,000 a year bursary to help with living costs. This does not need to be paid back!

I applied to the trauma ward in Horton General. I had been trying to get an interview there for a while, even before doing this work experience at the hospital, but because I was so young, and I didn't have that much experience, my applications were rejected.

"But, with my work experience and care certificate from my college course, they called me in for an interview and I got accepted! It was such a great day for me. Everything that I was trying to do on that work experience counted for something. I was working so hard so I could get to where I wanted to be, and I made it!"

**Xhuada, Health and Social Care: Clinical Level 3**

Read Xhuada's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►

ADVANCED

L3

INTERMEDIATE

L2

FOUNDATION

L1





**There are lots of different roles in health and social care depending on what you want to do, who you want to work with, and where you would like to work.**

Social care means providing physical, emotional and social support to help people live their lives to the fullest. In this industry, you will be providing a range of services to support both children and adults. In social care roles, you could be helping people in their own homes, in residential homes, or in a number of other places such as day centres or supported housing. For a more complete list of roles on this pathway, search our website for 'social care'.

**One of two pathways on the Health and Social Care Extended Diploma, this programme has a social care focus with a minimum of 45 days industry placement.**

We work closely with the local authorities, care providers, specialist schools and day-care centres to give you regular work experience placements throughout your programme. This means you can experience the full breadth of health and social care and begin to develop expertise in specialist areas, increasing your skills and experience and putting you ahead of the competition when applying to university or moving directly into employment. Many former students have secured jobs with great prospects through these placements. Check out our 'meet the students' section on our website to read about their experiences on this course.

The study is a mix of attending classes at college and training in simulated environments. There's also some mandatory training at the start of your placement, work experience in your first year, and placements for two days

a week with a local employer. The projects and assignments that you'll complete on this course are all based on realistic workplace situations and activities.

At the end of the course, you may decide to go directly into work, or you could enter higher education. Possible careers include social work, social-care work, care management, occupational therapy or other professions related to social care. For a more complete list of roles on this pathway, search our website for 'social care'.

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

**3.6 MILLION**

ACROSS ENGLAND NEARLY 3.6 MILLION PEOPLE ARE EMPLOYED IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INDUSTRY IN 2021, WITH NEARLY 140,000 JOB OPENINGS ANNUALLY



One of the main things that inspired me about the college was the care suite—an area that replicates a real care facility—and how we could use it to do practical things. We got to practice taking blood pressure, taking blood samples, swabbing things within the care suite to see what was dirty, how to properly make beds, etc. We also used wax to make fake wounds and learn how to dress them properly. It was really interesting."

**Sarah, Health and Social Care: Social Level 3**

Read Sarah's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

\*Available as a Higher Apprenticeship

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶







## Plant the seeds of success with this green fingered pathway!

With a long-standing heritage and an expanding retail sector, horticulture is one of the largest employers in the UK. Demand is also growing for beautifully landscaped outdoor areas for business and leisure, creating more jobs for dedicated and talented landscapers and sports turf professionals. Careers in these sectors are wide and varied – you could be working as a gardener, greenkeeper, a groundsperson, a garden centre manager or a landscape gardener.



**We are proud of our wide varied and specialist facilities which include horticulture nurseries that house a diverse range of plant and tree species and our science labs as well as a wide array of machinery such as dumpers, excavators and rotary cultivators and green spaces where our students get 'hands-on' learning their practical skills.**

Practical work is carried out on the college's 230 hectare estate and in our dedicated landscaping workshops, where you will learn skills such as building with hard materials and working with plants and turf. You will also benefit from specialist instruction in the use of stone, brick, concrete and timber, and machinery.

We have over 40 years of experience in teaching horticulture and landscaping, delivered by tutors with expert knowledge and strong industry links including the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Work experience opportunities are excellent, leading to employment or specialist Degree Level programmes. Recently our students have worked on gardens designed by award-winning international designers at RHS Flower Shows.

We have developed a considerable reputation among industry specialists and you'll be learning from qualified tutors who have many years of experience and bring a unique insight into these exciting and diverse industries.

**Apprenticeships are available within this pathway**

# 2,500

DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE ARE OVER 2,500 REGISTERED GOLF COURSES IN THE UK?



I chose to do my course at Merrist Wood College because I'm more of a practical person. The teachers are all so supportive, they do a lot for us students and the study coaches will sit with anyone who might struggle with the coursework side of things.

College is different from school because you can get to know people more personally. You're doing a course with people who share the same interests and enjoy doing the same things as you do. "

## Joe, Landscaping Level 3

Read Joe's full story online at [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS:

ADVANCED

L3

INTERMEDIATE

L2

FOUNDATION

L1



**You will learn to design algorithms, use logical reasoning to debug errors, create programmes, and understand the differences between data and information.**

Through practical, hands-on exercises using the latest equipment, you will build an understanding of different operating systems and learn to evaluate the quality of various solutions when recommending improvements.

You'll also have the opportunity to gain industry insights and experience through employer visits and projects set by external mentors. Past students have gained experience in programming VEX robots, inspiring local school children in the use of Raspberry Pi computers, and the use of Lego Mindstorm, as well as enjoying guest lectures and cyber-security curriculum design from IBM.

At Activate Learning colleges, you can progress from Level 1 (Foundation), all the way to a university-level qualification at Reading College (South Central Institute of Technology).

**Apprenticeships are available on this pathway**

**£4 BILLION**

THE UK IS ONE OF THE LARGEST GAMING MARKETS IN THE WORLD, GENERATING ALMOST £4 BILLION IN REVENUE.



**Key growth areas within the IT and computing industry include social and digital media, data protection, cyber security, games design, website development, and cloud/mobile technologies.**

The IT and Computing industry is a strong employer in South East England, with 22% more jobs than in Great Britain overall in 2021. Mid-point hourly wages are also well above average at £21.19/hour, so you'll be well placed for job opportunities, work experience and career prospects.

In 2020, there was a 20 percent increase in job vacancies within this industry. Over the next five years, this is expected to triple!



The teachers are supportive. If you go to them with a problem, they'll help you but they also encourage you to work off your own initiative. It teaches you more responsibility but if you have a problem or a question, the help is there if you need it.

Courses like this are important for getting into the industry, they're a good steppingstone, in my case for going to university. They also give you that foundation in the subject area to go away and find your niche. Choosing to come back to college and study computing has been a great decision, one I don't regret. "

### Wayne, Computing Level 3

Read Wayne's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**



AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►



# MEDIA

- » **Interactive Arts:** for example, interactive digital platform design, including web, app and game design
- » **TV and Film Production**
- » **Digital Arts**
- » **Virtual Design**



**Qualifications in our media pathway are accredited by the prestigious University of the Arts London (UAL).**

University of the Arts London (UAL) is recognised as a world top-five university for art and design, according to the world's leading provider of analytics and insight into the global higher education sector—the QS World University Rankings—and is Europe's largest specialist university for the creative industries.

These programmes prepare you for the fast-paced worlds of work and university by immersing you in live projects, where you'll learn the practical skills you'll need to work to a high standard, manage your workload and direct your own learning. You'll also have the opportunity to complete film projects for external clients and develop your skills in teamworking. You will dedicate a lot of your time to building an extensive portfolio of creative work.

At Guildford College, you can work with an amazing array of equipment in the professional-standard TV/film recording studios.

25,835

ACROSS THE UK, THIS INDUSTRY IS EXPECTED TO GROW BY 3% UP TO 2027, WITH 25,835 NEW JOB OPENINGS ANNUALLY.



Media and communication is an industry that is concentrated in South East England, with over 106,000 jobs in 2021 and nearly 4,000 annual job openings forecast over the next five years in this region alone.

The UK's multi-billion-pound entertainment and media industry's worth grew by £8 billion between 2018 and 2021 to £76 billion annually. This makes it the second largest market in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Typical roles in this sector include social media coordinators, visual effects supervisors, software programmers and web designers. The industry has particular expertise shortages in technical development, animation, production and engineering, and transmission.

**ual:** university  
of the arts  
london



The idea of working towards my career and goal in life has run through my time at college. Throughout my course here, I've been building a portfolio of work and experience that I can show to potential employers or at an interview for university and that can really help me stand out above other applicants."

**Jessica, Media Level 3**

Read Jessica's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

ADVANCED  
**L3**

INTERMEDIATE  
**L2**

FOUNDATION  
**L1**





**A profession in makeup combines techniques from film and television with the conceptual artistry and commercial awareness of fashion and beauty makeup. You'll work with clients by discussing their requirements and advising them with creative ideas and solutions.**

Between 2011 and 2019, the number of jobs in the UK cultural sector, which includes film and TV, grew by 24%.

Roles on this pathway include freelance media make-up artist, make-up artist specialist for theatre, film or TV, skin camouflage specialist, and many more!

**Our programmes cover the essentials of client care and consultation. You'll also develop your skills in specialist areas, such as dressing and styling hair, making and applying prosthetics, designing and making body art, and applying quality makeup for fashion photography, TV, film and theatre.**

The work is highly practical, and you will be practicing the skills as you learn them, steadily building up a creative portfolio as you complete your coursework. You'll be training in the industry-standard salons at our campuses, using the latest equipment and products, as well as taking part in exciting on-location shoots and performances, and undertaking work-based projects with leading industry employers.

You'll study creative theory and also gain skills that are transferable to other industries too, such as independent study, teamwork, research, and planning.

**28 BILLION**

**CULTURAL BUSINESSES ACROSS ENGLAND GENERATE 694,700 JOBS, WITH 6,910 BUSINESSES COLLECTIVELY CONTRIBUTING £28 BILLION EACH YEAR TO THE UK ECONOMY**



Media makeup interests me because I'm very into special effects and so thought this was the best way to get into the industry. Because you're only doing one course, you learn stuff that's only specific to you compared to learning everything at school.

This course has definitely given me the skills I need. I've become more sure of myself. I know what I'm doing, I've gained more confidence in how to work a lot quicker and be more efficient."

**Ethan, Media Makeup Level 2**

Read Ethan's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**



AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION



## Get ready for a rewarding and dynamic career in the great outdoors!

Outdoor recreation is heralded as the UK's favourite pastime with three out of four adults in England regularly getting active outdoors. Outdoor activities instructors lead and supervise others in the outdoors, teaching them the skills to safely enjoy a particular sport or activity. Possible specialities include activities such as mountain biking, sailing, hiking, bushcraft and climbing, to name but a few! It's more than just instructing in an activity though. You could make a genuine impact on people's lives, helping them create lasting memories, learn more about themselves, and connect with each other and the environment.

**If you have enthusiasm for working with others and are passionate about the outdoors, then a career in the outdoor activities sector could be for you.**

On our outdoor education pathway, you will be learning hands-on while developing the knowledge base and experience that employers and universities are looking for. You'll study a range of theoretical and practical units from the skills needed to inspire and coach in the activities you lead, through to the all-important health and safety factors for keeping participants and yourself safe in the outdoors.

Our programmes have a real emphasis on practical experience and are shaped to fit the needs of the outdoor sector. We offer optional units meaning you'll be able to specialise in areas relevant to your own interests and career goals.

You will be spending plenty of time outside the classroom, developing your outdoor education skills in the beautiful and spacious surroundings of Merrist Wood College. As well as the natural resources boasted in our 400-acre estate campus, you'll have access to our on-site sport facilities including our brand-new strength and conditioning suite.

Our qualifications have been developed with employers and professional bodies, including the Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL), equipping students with the most current techniques and knowledge to support their progression in the industry, whether that's gaining employment or moving on to further study.

## 3.2 BILLION

THE CLIMBING, MOUNTAINEERING AND WALKING SECTOR ALONE IS WORTH 3.2 BILLION.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶

ADVANCED

L3

INTERMEDIATE

L2

FOUNDATION

L1





**From agricultural shows and major music festivals through to weddings and charity fundraisers, the outdoor events sector is vibrant and full of exciting opportunities.**

Managing events is big business. The UK's outdoor events industry employs over 589,000 people and contributes £39.5 billion to the economy. In its entirety, the events industry accounts for over 50% of the UK's visitor economy.

You won't be stuck behind a desk day-in, day-out. In this sector, no two days are the same and it's often fast paced. Designing and delivering outdoor events presents plenty of unique locations that require a creative approach. You'll need to be highly organised and able to think on your feet.

**Gain the skills and know-how to create events from inception to conclusion. You'll get the chance to apply theory to practice, planning, organising and delivering your own event with support from our experienced events team.**

Alongside the core components of event management, you'll study broader themes in business, finance and digital marketing, while exploring how businesses are run and managed.

During a one year course, there will be plenty of opportunity to get real-world experience under your belt and discover first-hand what it takes to succeed in the events industry. As well as planning and delivering your own event, you'll engage in practical project work and undertake work experience with an employer in your chosen area of interest.

Our rural campus is the perfect location to build and develop your skills. Throughout the year, Merrist Wood hosts outdoor weddings, car shows, sporting events, fair and fun days, survival events and more. There is the potential for paid employment by becoming part of the events team.

With our 400-acre estate full of beautiful outdoor settings, inspiration is within easy reach. You will be taught by our enthusiastic tutors who have many years of experience with support from our dedicated events team and land-based employers.

This qualification will offer you the skills and attributes required to establish your own land based business and could be considered as a top up after completing A Levels.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►

ADVANCED

L3





**Our performing and production arts programmes are great preparation for university, vocational, or dance college. They build your core skills in acting, dancing and stage management, so you can aim for a career in the performing arts sector.**

Music, visual arts, and the performing arts industries contribute over £4 billion a year to the UK economy. As of 2020, in the UK, there are 201,387 jobs in just the performing arts, with a further 8,572 openings per year

Arts officers, producers and director jobs are forecast to grow ahead of the national average rate between 2020 and 2025.

**Our courses give you the chance to experience a wide variety of modern, contemporary and practical skills and techniques in the performing and production arts. You'll even have the opportunity to specialise in your area of interest!**

We want you to collaborate in your learning experience, so our industry-experienced tutors will help you to identify your areas of interest and areas for improvement. You'll develop practical performance skills for using voice and movement to communicate effectively with an audience.

Teamwork, self-discipline and confidence are core skills that you'll develop on the programme, and you'll also get valuable experiences from directing and leading your classmates. Not only are these skills and experiences vital for the creative industries, but they also prepare you for other career paths.

Take part in lots of exciting performances, including major productions, touring performances and a range of internal smaller performances and workshops.



I came to college because I wanted to pursue a career in acting for film and TV.

You get treated like an adult here. It's different to school, they don't look down on you, people support you and you feel like you have a voice. The teaching is different from school too. It's a lot more but it's exciting and they're there for you whatever you need. "

## Lethabo, Performing Arts Level 2

Read Lethabo's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

Performances take place in local theatres linked with Guildford College, such as The Mill, GLive, and Electric Theatre.

**There are three fully equipped dance studios at Guildford College, one that is multi-functional for Musical Theatre. We also have a fully equipped studio theatre.**

All studios have hi-fi facilities with iPod connectivity, TV and video players and mirrors. Some of these studios can also be used as small performance venues. All studios have DVD/projection and interactive laptop setup.

Film and TV acting classes taught in a state-of-the-art TV studio where students get to experience a variety of techniques including use of autocue, green screen, location shooting and other professional screen acting practices.

ADVANCED

L3

INTERMEDIATE

L2

FOUNDATION

L1

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶



**Our industry-specific public services programmes will prepare you for progression into many exciting, fast moving industries. This could include employment in the blue light or non-blue light professions, or progression to university-level studies.**

You'll develop key attributes and personal qualities such as discipline, teamwork and problem-solving through practical learning. You could be out in the fields, abseiling, participating in team-building activities, problem-solving challenges or planning and organising them for your classmates!

There is classroom learning involved, but this will also be geared towards completing practical work and participating in lessons.

During the programme, you'll receive expert training for the public services' entrance tests, go on field trips to various public service settings such as prisons, police stations, Crown courts, fire stations and RAF bases.

**5.5 MILLION**

THERE ARE NEARLY 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR IN THE UK



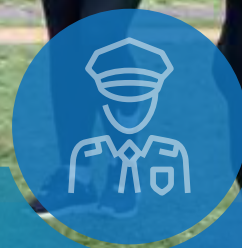
I would strongly recommend this course to other people. It's such a welcoming environment and there's a wide range of activities for you to take part in. The college helps you build the confidence to motivate yourself and work hard. It's also focused towards finding work after college. If you're not good at sitting down at a desk and learning through looking at presentations, etc and you prefer hands-on work, then this is the place for you. Me personally, I like to learn by doing; I remember things better if I physically do them rather than sitting down and watching a teacher tell me about them."

### Bradley, Public Services Level 3

Read Bradley's full story online at [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

We work in partnership with your potential future employers including: Thames Valley Police, HM Prison service, British Army, Royal Navy, RAF, and the Fire and Rescue Services. This gives you exposure to real-life training situations and allows you to forge relationships with key industry contacts.

With plenty of opportunities for progression and promotion, you'll never get bored in the public sector. After London, South East England has the largest share of public sector employees in the UK, with 649,000 employees, accounting for 15% of all public sector employment in the region.



FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ▶





## New for 2022: Cycling Academy

If you are a keen cyclist looking to combine your studying with professional cycling aspirations, look no further than our new Level 3 programme! Visit our website for details.



The sport and physical activity industries contribute £39 billion to the UK's economy. Much of this comes from grassroots sport: the millions of people who buy trainers, bikes, gym memberships, get physiotherapy, or pay match fees.

We work closely with sports providers in our local areas to give you the opportunity to learn how to be an approachable, knowledgeable and effective motivator.

As of 2021, there are over 300,000 people employed in the UK in sports-related jobs. Popular roles in this sector include sports coaches, instructors, and officials, with one in ten graduates employed as secondary education teaching professionals.

If you choose this pathway, you will combine the study of anatomy, physiology and psychology with biometrics, exercise, health and lifestyle. In addition, you will develop skills in fitness testing and training, sport and exercise massage, sports injuries and coaching.

We have onsite gyms that are filled with the latest sports and training equipment to help you keep fit and advance your studies.

If a career in fitness is for you, you could make an impact on the lives of people of all ages and walks of life. This sector boosts the economy through job creation, and indirectly by reducing healthcare costs due to a healthier population with improved mental wellbeing.

Our network of employer partnerships means, whichever programme you choose, you will get practical experience in the sports, exercise science, fitness and therapy sectors throughout your time at college.

# 300,000

THERE ARE OVER 300,000 PEOPLE EMPLOYED IN SPORTS-RELATED JOBS IN THE UK AND 12,500 OPENINGS PER YEAR.



I actually found out about the college through an advert I saw on the back of a bus. I wasn't doing too well with my GCSEs but I loved football.

Being able to play football alongside studying has been the best thing. You make some great friendships through the sport. The facilities are great and the teachers are all so nice. Everyone's so friendly and it's a great environment to be in."

### Jacob, Sport Level 3

Read Jacobs's full story online at [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **MERRIST WOOD**

\*Available at other Activate Learning colleges

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►





**You will have the opportunity to visit organisations including hotel chains and major tourism destinations, such as Disneyland Paris. These trips will increase your understanding of the importance of customer service and attention to detail in this service-oriented industry.**

Previous students also regularly supported major local events. These kind of projects develop excellent teamwork skills and enable you to experience the realities of working in this fast-paced and, at times, high-pressured industry.

Activate Learning prides itself on its relationships with local partners and as a result, you will also have the opportunity to join work experience placements in numerous organisations including hotels, transport companies, ski resorts and tourist attractions, both in the UK and abroad.

**As part of your studies, you will also have access to:**

- » dedicated study spaces
- » IT suites and computer facilities
- » the opportunity to purchase discounted laptops through our partnership with Academia
- » virtual reality experiences as part of cabin crew training

400,000

THE TOURISM INDUSTRY  
HAS CREATED MORE THAN  
400,000 NEW JOBS OVER THE  
LAST 10 YEARS



The facilities are great. They have an air cabin crew training room where we get to practice doing things such as the safety demos. Having these specialist facilities is different to school and it helps prepare you for work and gain more confidence.

The college really supports you work towards your career goals. We've had different travel companies come in and talk about what they do. It's helpful because it shows you the different options in the travel industry and where courses like this can lead to."

### Vanessa, Travel and Tourism Level 3

Read Vanessa's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

**Working in travel and tourism involves advising on and making travel arrangements for customers, as well as providing services to enhance holidaymakers' enjoyment, comfort and safety.**

The focus in this service-oriented industry is on transferable skills such as customer service and attention to detail. Careers include cruise-ship steward, airline cabin crew, hotel receptionist/concierge, travel agent, and events manager, to name a few!

In the UK, 2.7% growth is expected in this sector between 2022–2027. Air travel staff, and hotel managers are the largest occupations, with 2.35% and 4.73% growth expected in this time frame.



ADVANCED

L3

INTERMEDIATE

L2

FOUNDATION

L1



Illustration - Fine Art - Digital Art - Multimedia Journalism  
- Creative Arts Business and Enterprise - Photography  
- 2D, 3D, and 4D design and more.

# VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN



This pathway can help you develop a number of exciting careers in the creative sector, such as photographer, events manager, fine artist, and creative director, among others.

Job projections for visual arts and design roles such as arts officers, graphic designers, photographers and AV operators are strong, with well over 2,000 new annual job openings forecast across each of these occupations.

The skills that you will learn on our visual arts and design pathway, such as blended technical and creative skills, collaborative interdisciplinary working, and enterprise are of increasing importance across the job market.



Qualifications in our Visual Arts and Design pathway are accredited by the prestigious University of the Arts London (UAL).

University of the Arts London (UAL) is recognised as a world top-five university for art and design, according to the world's leading provider of analytics and insight into the global higher education sector—the QS World University Rankings—and is Europe's largest specialist university for the creative industries. Our accreditation with University of the Arts London means that you will have the opportunity to have your work shortlisted to appear in the annual UAL Origins exhibition in London.

Our programmes follow an inter-disciplinary approach, which means you will be working with a variety of mediums so that you can better find your strengths and interests. This will also prepare you for your next step, whether that is further study or employment. Teaching and learning are carried out in traditional craft workshops and digital MakerSpaces. You will also get access to work experiences throughout your programme to prepare you for the realities of working in this industry. This includes responding to live briefs set by employers, work experience, taking part in competitions, and attending masterclasses and careers talks.



I was really interested in art anyway and photography especially, as I'm more of a creative than academic person. Plus, college is way more of a relaxed environment than sixth form and I don't have any plans to go to university, I just want to get my qualifications here and do my own thing with my photography."

**Leah, Art and Design Level 3**

Read Leah's full story online at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](http://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk)

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS  
PATHWAY AT **GUILDFORD**

**ual:** university  
of the arts  
london

Choosing a visual arts and design pathway develops your creativity and problem-solving skills in areas including painting, textiles, printmaking, sculpture, concept architecture, visual special effects and animation (including model making), creative business, marketing, graphics, fashion, visual studies, design, computer design software, photography, historical and contextual studies, personal and professional development.

**£71.7 BILLION**

THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION OF  
EVERYONE EMPLOYED IN THE  
UK IN DESIGN ROLES IS £71.7BN,  
AS MEASURED BY GROSS  
VALUE ADDED, PRODUCTIVITY,  
TURNOVER AND EMPLOYMENT.

HIGHER  
**L**  
**4-7\***

ADVANCED  
**L3**

INTERMEDIATE  
**L2**

FOUNDATION  
**L1**

\*Available at other Activate  
Learning colleges

AVAILABLE AT LEVELS: ►



# CASE STUDY



I actually found out about Merrist Wood College through an advert I saw on the back of a bus.

I wasn't doing too well with my GCSEs but I loved football. After my grades came out, the school said my grades weren't good enough. I came here and told them I was interested in sport and they let me in.

The facilities are great and the teachers are all so nice. Everyone's so friendly and it's a great environment to be in.

It's all been quite fun. Being able to play football alongside studying has been the best thing. You make some great friendships through the sport.

I would recommend this course, it's good for people who aren't particularly academic.

"I went through Future Elite Sports which is an agent company for footballers to go off to the US. We do a bunch of video days, we send them to the coaches and I've received some offers. Pre-season starts in August and I'll be flying out then. I'll still need to sit a couple of exams but it's all good. I've been playing for Westfield in Woking. When I go out, I'll be playing for West Virginia Tech. I'm really looking forward to it!"



**Jacob  
Hathaway**  
Sport, Level 3



# SO WHAT'S NEXT?

If you've looked through the prospectus and are still undecided about your options, come to one of our open events, either in person or online, and speak to our tutors, get a feel for the place and discuss your options.

## Guildford College

Wednesday 6 October 2021, 4–7pm

Saturday 13 November 2021, 9:30am–12:30pm

Wednesday 2 February 2022, 4–7pm

Saturday 11 June 2022, 9:30am–12:30pm

 /OfficialGuildfordCollege  @official\_guildford\_college

## Merrist Wood College

Saturday 9 October 2021, 9:30am–12:30pm

Wednesday 17 November 2021, 4–7pm

Wednesday 16 February 2022, 4–7pm

Saturday 2 July 2022, 9:30am–12:30pm

 /OfficialMerristWood  @official\_merrist\_wood

Alternatively, if you're certain about which pathway you want to choose **apply online now!** Search for your chosen course at [guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk) or [merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk) and click on 'Apply Now'.

"I felt very welcome and comfortable during this event. The information given to me was explained very clearly and easily taken in."

- Virtual Open Event visitor

VISIT [GUILDFORD.ACTIVATELEARNING.AC.UK/EVENTS](https://guildford.activatelearning.ac.uk/events)  
OR [MERRISTWOOD.ACTIVATELEARNING.AC.UK/EVENTS](https://merristwood.activatelearning.ac.uk/events)









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