



**YOUR
FUTURE,
YOUR
OPTIONS**

POST-16

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Island Futures

Introduction

We are Island Futures, which is part of the Isle of Wight Council. Our team's role on the Island is supporting young people with advice and guidance around career, job, training and education choices.

Our advisers have a great knowledge of what options are available to young people both on the island and the mainland.

Our careers advisers work in some of the schools and our progression coaches work in the community.

Flying Start Isle of Wight has been designed to help young people in Year 11 plan and prepare for life, study, and work after school. It gives the resources needed when considering a course at sixth form, college, apprenticeship or other employment options.

sunoutreach.org/flying-start-categories/flying-start-isle-of-wight/



 island.futures@iow.gov.uk

 iow.gov.uk/islandfutures

 01983 823888

 islandfutures

 islandfutures

Further Education College

Isle of Wight Further Education (FE) Colleges

The Isle of Wight has one general further education college, which is called The Isle of Wight College. It is quite a large college which provides a wide range of vocational courses at different levels, including a few at degree level (in conjunction with universities).

While the main IW College site is in Newport next to B&Q, the college also has a site at Whippingham called CECAMM which specialises in engineering courses.

There are several smaller specialist colleges on the Island.

- UK Sailing Academy (UKSA) in Cowes,
- Platform One (Music College) in Newport.
- HTP Apprenticeship College in Newport offers full-time study courses in a range of vocational areas.



Other Further Education Colleges

Some students from the Island travel to further education colleges off-island for vocational courses. Colleges offer a wide range of courses; below are just a few examples. Our team can help you research which options would be right for you.

- Sparsholt College (near Winchester) which specialises in animal care and land-based courses including veterinary nursing, equine studies, agriculture, agricultural machinery, and fisheries. On-site accommodation is available at Sparsholt College – contact the college directly for costs and grants available.
- Merchant Navy (Commercial Shipping) cadetships are taught through Warsash Maritime Academy in Southampton.
- The University Technical College (UTC) in Portsmouth provides engineering pathways and has strong links with the Royal Navy.

- 'Vocational' means that the course is directed at a particular occupation or group of occupations and their skills.
- Vocational courses are available at different levels from 1 (pre-GCSE) through to 6 (degree level)



▪ Equivalence in standard:

- ◆ Level 1 = GCSE at grade 3 (D)
- ◆ Level 2 = GCSE grade 4/5 (C)
- ◆ Level 3 = A Level
- ◆ Level 4 = HNC/HND
- ◆ Level 5 = Foundation Degree
- ◆ Level 6 = Degree.

- Courses at Levels 1 and 2 are generally one year in length. Courses at Level 3 are generally two years.
- Vocational courses are unit-based, students complete a number of units depending on the course.
- Vocational courses involve more coursework and fewer exams than A-levels.
- Vocational Level 3 courses give entry to university degree courses in related subjects (always check entry requirements).
- Vocational courses often have strong links to local employment opportunities
- Vocational course tutors have often worked in 'industry' related to the course they teach
- Functional Skills (if required) or GCSE Maths/English are studied alongside the vocational course.

Progression

- Students can progress through to the next level of a vocational course as long as they successfully complete their course to a high standard.
- Students completing Levels 1 and 2, may move on to the next college course or an apprenticeship or employment.
- Students completing Level 3 may move on to apprenticeships, employment or a university HND or degree in a subject related to the area they have studied.
- Although vocational courses focus on a specific subject/career area, students also learn transferable skills – these are general skills which can be transferred to other occupational areas. It is not true, for example, that all students who study Travel and Tourism ultimately work in the tourism industry – they may enter all kinds of careers using the skillset they have developed.



Sixth Form

Our Isle of Wight Sixth Forms

Sixth form consists of Years 12 and 13 (and sometimes Year 14). On the Island, all sixth forms are part of a wider school community, although they are not necessarily based on the same campus as the 'lower' school;

- Christ The King College
- Cowes Enterprise College
- The Island IV Form
- Ryde Academy
- St Catherine's School
- St George's School

The following fee-paying schools have sixth forms:

- Ryde School with Upper Chine
- Priory School

Mainland Sixth Form and Further Education Colleges

Some students travel off the Isle of Wight for their sixth form studies. Many local mainland sixth forms are sixth form colleges, which are not attached to schools.

Students are responsible for their own travel costs but may receive some financial support. Some commutable mainland sixth form colleges are listed on page 10.

A-Levels

A-Levels are exam based rather than coursework and take two years to complete. Students will have achieved relatively high GCSE grades if they are to be successful at A-level (at least 5 GCSE's at grade 9 to 5).

Students usually take three and occasionally four A-levels in subjects of their choice.

A-levels are available in a wide range of subjects; some of them are subjects that students may have studied at GCSE level already. Others may be new subjects for students.

Some students may have the option to combine one or two A-levels with a single or double BTEC Level 3 or other



vocational course rather than taking three full A-levels.

For more information on vocational courses see the **Further Education** pages.

- A-level passes are graded from A* through to E
- Universities attach 'UCAS points' to each A-level grade, which they may use to form an offer for entry to their degree courses.
- Some university courses require specific A-level subjects to have been studied. Always check degree entry requirements using www.ucas.com or university websites.
- A-levels involve the study of several different subjects, so they provide flexibility and breadth.
- A-levels are academically rigorous, so they are well regarded by both universities and employers.
- Some students take a 'gap year' following A-levels when they might travel or do temporary work.
- Progression can be to university, although students can also progress to an apprenticeship (a mixture of work and vocational training) or employment (a job).

T-levels

T Levels are technical-based qualifications, developed in collaboration with employers and businesses to meet the needs of industry.

The T Levels are Level 3 qualifications and are currently available in 16 career areas, with more areas starting next year.

T Level courses include the following compulsory elements:

- A technical qualification, which includes:
 - ♦ Core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area.
 - ♦ Specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career.
- An industry placement with an employer for at least 45 days.
- A minimum standard in Maths and English if students have not already achieved them.

For more information on T-Levels, please visit www.tlevels.gov.uk.

A list of colleges providing T-levels is at the following website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/providers-selected-to-deliver-t-levels

Qualification Levels

Level	Qualifications	Further information
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSEs (grade 1 to 3) City and Guilds 1 NVQ 1 BTEC Introductory Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideal if you do not have the grades for a Level 2 course or need to improve your English, maths or IT. No qualifications or previous experience required.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GCSEs (grade 4 to 9) City and Guilds 2 NVQ 2 BTEC First Diploma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most employers use this as their minimum entry requirement. Some experience may be required in the subject.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City and Guilds 3 NVQ 3 BTEC National Diploma A Levels T Levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For people wanting to progress on to university, higher training or an apprenticeship.
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher National Certificate (HNC) NVQ Level 4 Higher Level Apprenticeship Certificate of Higher Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HNC is the equivalent to the first year of a degree (further study can progress to HND or full degree). An advanced level qualification or substantial experience in the subject. Apprenticeship with Level 4 or 5 qualification; a combination of working and study.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher National Diploma (HND) NVQ Level 5 Higher Level Apprenticeship Foundation Degree Diploma of Higher Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equivalent to the first two years of a degree (can be topped up with one more year to gain a full degree with a partner university).
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Degree Degree Apprenticeships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be between 3 to 6 years depending on the subject. Can lead on to further study, employment

Supported Internships

Supported internships are a structured, work-based study programme for 16 to 24-year-olds with SEND, who have an education, health and care plan (EHCP).

The internships provide the opportunity for young people to achieve sustained, paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.

Supported internships last for a minimum of six months, and up to a year.

Traineeships

Traineeships are a skills development programme for 16 to 24-year olds. It includes an unpaid work placement and is designed to help young people get ready for an apprenticeship. The requirements for a traineeship are to:

- Be eligible to work in England;
- Have little or no work experience and be unemployed;
- Be aged 16 to 24, or 25 with an education, health and care plan (EHCP).

Traineeships can last from six weeks up to one year, though most last for less than six months.

www.gov.uk/find-traineeship



Apprenticeships

What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship combines employment with training. An apprenticeship can only be started after students have officially completed their statutory education (the last Friday in June of the academic year they turn 16).

The employer 'employs' the apprentice as a member of staff, and pays them an agreed salary. Alongside working for the employer (doing a real job), the apprentice does part-time training to get qualifications which are related to the type of work they are doing.

How much does an apprentice get paid?

There is a national minimum wage (NMW) for apprentices. Employers can pay more than the minimum wage for apprentices, but this is for them to decide.

What qualifications does an apprentice do?

An apprentice would usually undertake a vocational qualification.

Some apprentices have a day-release to local colleges or training providers, other apprentices complete their qualification through on-the-job training and online portfolios. Degree apprentices attend a university part-time whilst they are working.

Alongside the main qualification, Functional Skills in Maths and English will also be studied unless the student has already achieved GCSE Maths/English at grade 4 or higher.

How long does an apprenticeship last?

This varies and can be anything from one to five years depending on the level of apprenticeship.

What levels of qualifications are there?

- A level 2 apprenticeship is known as an Intermediate Apprenticeship
- A level 3 apprenticeship is an Advanced apprenticeship
- A level 4/5 apprenticeship is a Higher Apprenticeship, and
- A level 6 apprenticeship is a Degree Apprenticeship



How old do I need to be to do an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship can be undertaken at any time after the statutory school leaving date (last Friday in June of the academic year a student turns age 16).

Higher and degree level apprenticeships

These require a Level 3 qualification to have already been completed, such as A-levels, T-levels or a BTEC Level 3 or a Level 3 Apprenticeship, so are usually open only to over-18 year olds.

There are usually no university tuition fees for degree level apprentices, as these will be covered by the employer.

How to get an apprenticeship

The process is virtually the same as getting a job. The employer can set their own entry requirements. The candidate needs to apply, usually with a CV and/or application form, and go for a selection interview. For some companies, the process might involve a test of some kind.

Where are vacancies advertised?

As with jobs, apprenticeships are advertised in a number of places, and they change regularly

The sites below post the latest apprenticeship vacancies:

- www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship is the national government website for vacancies throughout England – for IW vacancies put the location as Newport, IW, and search within ten miles. Alternatively, search by a bigger distance and sort by nearest distance first.
- www.isleofwightjobs.com is a local recruitment website which includes local apprenticeship vacancies.
- www.iwcp.co.uk IW County Press newspaper carrying local job vacancies and sometimes apprenticeships.
- www.iow.gov.uk/islandfutures link to a weekly online bulletin which includes most of the local vacancies advertised on the three websites above.



Local Training Opportunities

HTP Apprenticeship College

Offering smaller group sizes. Flexible start dates. Tailored learning plans. A wide range of off-the-job training. Industry experienced tutor.

 www.htp.ac.uk

 01983 533926

 info@htp.ac.uk

SMART

A dynamic training provider approved by Ofsted, delivering high quality, Government-funded apprenticeship and traineeship programmes throughout England.

 www.smarttar.co.uk

 01983 475006

 askus@smarttar.co.uk

CLC

CLC has developed methods of teaching to engage, challenge, inspire and encourage apprentices to learn from personal experience, taking a unique and innovative approach to teaching that helps learners connect with the subject matter they need to master.

 www.clcentre.co.uk

 01983 533993

 info@clcentre.co.uk

IW College

An apprenticeship is a genuine job and under all circumstances an apprentice will be employed from day one. Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study.

 [www.iwcollege.ac.uk/
apprenticeships/](http://www.iwcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/)

 01983 526631

 info@iwcollege.ac.uk

IW Council

The benefits of an apprenticeship for the council are that it introduces new talent and gives the council fresh new ideas on how to become the organisation that future generations need. Unlocking talent within the local community helps to assist in the regeneration of the Isle of Wight by retaining skilled people.

 [www.iow.gov.uk/Council/Recruitment-Opportunities/
Apprenticeships/About-our-Apprenticeships](http://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/Recruitment-Opportunities/Apprenticeships/About-our-Apprenticeships)

 01983 817280

NHS Nursing

Providing specialised apprenticeships in health and nursing on the Isle of Wight.

 www.iow.nhs.uk/Working-With-Us/learning-zone/apprenticeships-2.htm

Local Colleges

How to find out about subjects/courses available and how to apply. Please check the websites below for details on how to apply and any closing dates.

Brockenhurst College

www.brock.ac.uk

CECAMM

www.cecamm.co.uk

Chichester College

www.chichester.ac.uk

City of Portsmouth College

www.city-of-portsmouth-college.ac.uk

Eastleigh College

www.eastleigh.ac.uk

Havant & South Downs College (HSDC)

www.hsdac.ac.uk

HTP Apprenticeship College

www.htp.ac.uk

Isle of Wight College

www.iwcollege.ac.uk

Itchen College

www.itchen.ac.uk

MPCT Military Academy

www.mpct.co.uk

Peter Symonds College

www.psc.ac.uk

Platform One

www.platformone.org

Richard Taunton College

www.richardtaunton.ac.uk

Southampton City College

www.southampton-city.ac.uk

Sparsholt College

www.sparsholt.ac.uk

UK Sailing Academy

www.uksa.org

UTC (University Technical College)

www.utcportsmouth.org

Warsash Maritime Academy

www.maritime.solent.ac.uk

Career Coach

Career Coach is a free online resource for everyone in Hampshire & Isle of Wight and can support you with finding out job profiles (including pay, working hours and entry requirements), an online assessment tool to help you start to consider what careers might suit you and a CV creator tool.

Career Coach is also useful to find out how much demand there is for certain jobs and can be customised to the Isle of Wight. hants.lightcastcc.com/





Island Futures

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Isle of Wight Council
County Hall
High Street
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 1UD

✉ island.futures@iow.gov.uk

🌐 iow.gov.uk/islandfutures

☎ 01983 823888

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