

Pathways and Options Information 2024/2025



Information within this guide is not exhaustive. Please be aware providers can change throughout the academic year. Information is correct at time of publication (December 2024)

Contents:

Education and qualifications

Pages 2-3	Supported Internships
Page 4	Accessible Apprenticeships
Pages 5-6	SEND Colleges
Pages 7-8	Further Education
Page 9	Independent Training Providers
Pages 10-11	Vocational/Technical Qualifications
Pages 12-13	Apprenticeships
Pages 14-15	A Levels
Pages 16-17	T Levels
Pages 18-19	Degrees
Pages 20-27	Employment Opportunities
Pages 28-29	Employability and Skills support



Supported Internships

- what are these?

These are work-based study programmes, with classroom learning 1 day per week and a work placement 1-4 days per week.

Opportunities specialist training and support could lead to:

- Qualifications in employability skills
- Independent living and work skills
- Maths and English
- Experience in specific industries
- Building relationships with employers and potential employment

Starting age:

- 16 - 24 years

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- A current Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Highlight interest during the annual EHCP review
- Apply directly on the college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, SENCO, attend open events and careers fairs

Supported Internships: where could I apply in Essex?



Chelmsford College: [Chelmsford College | One of the Best Colleges in Essex](#)



Colchester Institute: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



New City College: [New City College | Enrol Now - Study September 2024 \(ncclondon.ac.uk\)](#)



South Essex College: [South Essex College](#)



USP College: [Career-focused education | USP College, Seevic & Palmer's, Essex](#)

Accessible Apprenticeships

- what are these?

Apprenticeships are real jobs with training which allow people to earn while they learn, whilst gaining a qualification. For individuals with a current or historic Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or equivalent, adjustments can be made for both maths and English entry requirements and working hours/duration of the apprenticeship programme.

Opportunities specialist training and support could lead to:

- Paid employment
- A higher level apprenticeship

Starting age:

- 16+ years

Assessments used:

- Coursework, practical assessments and portfolio development
- End Point Assessment

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- A current or historic EHCP (or equivalent)
- Minimum of Functional Skills Entry Level 3 in maths and English
- The ability to work a minimum of 25 hours per week
- Clear employment aspirations

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Highlight interest during the annual EHCP review
- Do a Vocational Profile with a teacher/SENCO/Careers Lead
- Complete an Expression of Interest form (opens January 2025)

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, SENCO, attend open events and careers fairs

Special Colleges (SEND)

- what are these?

These are colleges offering specialist teaching and pathways tailored to your needs and interests. Residential options may be available.

Opportunities specialist education/training could lead to:

- Qualifications delivered by your preferred learning method
- Pathways to your intended destination
- Pre-internship programmes
- Access to supportive agencies

Starting age:

- 16 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Highlight interest during the annual EHCP review
- Apply directly on the college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, SENCO, attend open events and careers fairs

Special Colleges (SEND): where could I apply in Essex?



Castledon School: [Castledon School - Home](#)



Chatten Free School: [Chatten Free School - Home](#)



Columbus School & College: [Columbus School and College](#)



Glenwood School: [Special School | South Benfleet](#)



Grove House School: [Home | Grove House School](#)



Harlow Field School & College: [Special Needs School & College | Harlow Fields](#)



Lexden Springs School: [Essex Local Offer](#)



Market Field School: [Market Field School - Home](#)



Oak View School: [Oak View School - Home \(efspt.org\)](#)



Pioneer School: [Pioneer School \(google.com\)](#)



Shorefields School: [Shorefields School - Home](#)



Southview School: [Southview School - Home](#)



The Edith Borthwick School: [The Edith Borthwick School](#)



Thriftwood School: [Thriftwood School](#)

Further Education - what is this?

Further Education is offered after secondary school and courses are often vocational/practical.

Opportunities in Further Education could lead to qualifications in:

- Entry level and Level 1, 2 and 3 courses
- Access to vocational study programmes
- Higher National Certificates/Diplomas
- Degrees

Starting age:

- 16 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- An interest in a specific course - entry criteria can depend on course choice

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly on the college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

Further Education: where could I apply in Essex?



Chelmsford College: [Chelmsford College | One of the Best Colleges in Essex](#)



Colchester Institute: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



New City College: [New City College | Enrol Now - Study September 2024 \(ncclondon.ac.uk\)](#)



South Essex College: [South Essex College](#)



Writtle University College: [Writtle College - ARU](#)



USP College: [Career-focused education | USP College, Seevic & Palmer's, Essex](#)

Independent Training Providers

- what are these?

An independent training provision offers pathways tailored to your needs and interests with a subject-specific study programme.

Opportunities for specific training/education could lead to:

- Qualifications delivered by your preferred learning method
- Pathways to your intended destination
- Pre-internship programmes
- Access to supportive agencies

Starting age:

- 16 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Entry criteria are set by each independent provider

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Request support during your careers guidance session
- Apply directly on the .GOV website

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, SENCO, attend open events and careers fairs

Where could I apply in Essex?

- [Map of providers in Essex](#)

Technical/Vocational BTECs - what are these?

These are Level 3 courses that typically run for two years, depending on the college's offer.

Opportunities technical or vocational training could lead to:

- Degree/University
- Access to higher-level vocational study programmes
- Apprenticeships
- Paid employment

Starting age:

- 16 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Entry criteria are set by each college

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly on the college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

Technical/Vocational BTECs: where could I apply in Essex?



Chelmsford College: [Chelmsford College | One of the Best Colleges in Essex](#)



Colchester Institute: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



South Essex College: [South Essex College](#)



USP College: [Career-focused education | USP College, Seevic & Palmer's, Essex](#)

Apprenticeships

- what are these?

These are paid work-based study programmes, with 6 hours off the job training and a work placement of 30 hours a week.

Opportunities specialist onsite training could lead to:

- Vocational qualifications
- Maths and English
- Access to higher levels of attainment
- Experience in specific industries
- Building relationships with employers and potential employment

Starting age:

- 16+ years

Assessments used:

- Coursework and portfolio development
- Practical assessments
- End Point Assessment

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Typically, GCSE's grade 4 or above in maths and English (can be working towards Functional Skills Level 2)
- Entry criteria are set by each college

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly on the [NAS](#) website, via the [Essex Opportunities Portal](#) or college websites
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

Apprenticeships: where could I apply in Essex?



Chelmsford College: [Chelmsford College | One of the Best Colleges in Essex](#)



Colchester Institute: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)



Essex Provider Network: [Welcome to the Essex Provider Network](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



New City College: [New City College | Enrol Now - Study September 2024 \(ncclondon.ac.uk\)](#)



South Essex College: [South Essex College](#)

A Levels - what are these?

A Levels are Level 3 subject-based qualifications, studied at school, 6th College or an FE College.

Opportunities higher level qualifications could lead to:

- Qualifications
- Degree/University
- Access to higher-level vocational study programmes
- Higher level apprenticeships

Starting age:

- 16 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Typically, a GCSE grade 4 or above qualification in the specific subject - entry criteria are set by each school/college

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly on the school/college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

A Levels: where could I apply in Essex?



Beauchamps High School: [Beauchamps High School](#) |



Brentwood Ursuline Convent: [Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School - Home](#)



Colchester Sixth Form: [The Sixth Form College Colchester - Home](#)



Debden Park High School: [Debden Park High School](#)



Gosfield High School: [Gosfield School](#) | [Independent School](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



King Edward VI Grammar: [King Edward VI Grammar School](#)



Mayflower High School: [Mayflower High School](#)



Moulsham Sixth Form: [Moulsham High School](#)



Saffron Walden County High: [Saffron Walden County High School](#)



Sigma Sixth (Phillip Morant) [Sigma Sixth Colchester - Sigma Sixth](#)



Shoeburyness High School: [Shoeburyness High School - Home \(secat.co.uk\)](#)



Southend High School for Boys: [Southend High School for Boys - Home \(shsb.org.uk\)](#)



South Essex College: [South Essex College](#)



Tendring Technology College [Welcome to Tendring Technology College](#)



USP College: [Career-focused education | USP College, Seevic & Palmer's, Essex](#)

T Levels - what are these?

These are Level 3 specific career-related study courses with an employer; 80% is classroom-based and 20% is employer-based.

Opportunities work-based learning could lead to:

- Degree/University
- Access to higher-level vocational study programmes
- Apprenticeships
- Paid employment

Starting age:

- 16-18 years

Assessments used:

- Projects
- Practical assessments
- Exams

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Entry criteria are set by each college

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly on the college portal
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

T Levels: where could I apply in Essex?



Chelmsford College: [Chelmsford College | One of the Best Colleges in Essex](#)



Colchester Institute: [Colchester Institute - Education & Training Courses in Essex](#)



Harlow College: [Harlow College - Home \(harlow-college.ac.uk\)](#)



USP College: [Career-focused education | USP College, Seevic & Palmer's, Essex](#)

Foundation/BA Honours Degrees - what are these?

These are Level 4 subject-based qualifications, studied at university.

Opportunities higher level academic qualifications could lead to:

- Degree
- Masters degree
- Doctorate
- Access to higher-level vocational study programmes
- Paid employment

Starting age:

- 18 years and over

Assessments used:

- Coursework
- Practical assessments
- Exams (dependent on the chosen course)

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Relevant UCAS points - entry criteria are set by each university

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Apply directly via the [UCAS](#) hub
- Request support during your careers guidance session

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Leader, Careers Adviser, attend open events and careers fairs

Foundation/BA Honours Degrees: where could I apply in Essex?



Anglia Ruskin University (ARU)



The Open University: Distance Learning Courses



University of Essex: Where Change Happens

Contents:

Employment Opportunities

Pages 21-22	Volunteering
Pages 23-24	Supported Employment
Page 25	Employment
Pages 26-27	Entrepreneurship/Self Employment
Pages 28-29	Employability and Skills support



Volunteering

- what is this?

This means doing a job without payment in a workplace with specific structured support/training.

Opportunities that volunteering could lead to:

- Experience on the job
- Building relationships with employers/colleagues
- Getting a work reference
- Networking and potential employment

Starting age:

- 14 years and over

Assessments used:

- Assessment and direct observation
- Performance management - outcomes dependent on the job

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- The want to learn work skills and help within the community

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Highlight interest during the annual EHCP review
- Request support during your careers guidance session
- Apply directly to companies with a letter of interest/CV

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Adviser or Job Coach, SENCO, attend open events, careers fairs and contact voluntary organisations

Volunteering: where could I apply in Essex?



Essex County Council

Essex Local Offer: [Finding a job opportunity](#)



Essex Opportunities Portal: [Tell me about work experience](#)



Get Volunteering: [Search for a local volunteering opportunity](#)



Royal Voluntary Service: [Volunteering](#)



Volunteer Essex: [Volunteering opportunities throughout Essex](#)



Volunteering Matters: [Find an opportunity](#)



Youth Service: [Volunteering](#)

Supported Employment

- what is this?

This is a way of providing help to people with a disability who need extra support to move into work.

Opportunities that supported employment could lead to:

- Experience on the job
- Building relationships with employers/colleagues
- Getting a work reference
- Career development and progression

Starting age:

- 18 years and over

Assessments used:

- Assessment and direct observation
- Performance management - outcomes dependent on the job

Entry requirements - what do I need to apply for this?

- Providers will have their own eligibility criteria

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Highlight interest during the annual EHCP review
- Request support during your careers guidance session
- Apply directly to Supported Employment services

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Teacher, Careers Adviser or Job Coach, SENCO, attend open events and careers fairs

Supported Employment: where could I apply in Essex?



ECL: [Finding a job opportunity](#)



Get Set for Work: [Enquiry Form](#)



NHS EPUT: [Employment Services](#)



Royal Association for Deaf People (RAD): [Make a referral](#)



Shaw Trust: [WHP Pioneer](#)

Employment - what is this?

This is where you work for a person or company to pursue a career of interest.

Opportunities being employed could lead to:

- Skills development
- Building relationships with employers/colleagues
- Gaining a work reference
- Career development and progression

Starting age:

- 14 years and over (part-time), 16 years and over (full-time)

Assessments used:

- Assessment and direct observation
- Performance management - outcomes dependent on the job

How do I apply for a job?

- Gain employability skills, work experience, qualifications or experience specific to the role

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Request support during your careers guidance session
- Apply directly to companies with a letter of interest/CV

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Careers Adviser or Job Coach, attend open events, careers fairs and job centre interviews, join online recruitment agencies, LinkedIn, Facebook, Employer websites and look in newspapers/shop windows

Entrepreneurs/Self-Employment/Freelance - what is this?

This means working for yourself either as an individual or in your own business, selling something you make or a service you offer.

Opportunities could lead to:

- Being your own boss
- Creating a social enterprise
- Developing your specialism or potentially creating jobs for others

Starting age:

- 14 years and over (part-time), 16 years and over (full-time)

Assessments used:

- Assessment and direct observation
- Performance management - outcomes/finance dependent on the job

What do I need to start?

- A business plan, start-up funds, target customers/audience, promotion digital tool and support/advice

Next steps - how do I apply and who do I contact?

- Request support during your careers guidance session
- Speak to Job Centre plus, Kings Trust, local small business forums, attend open events, small business forums and dedicated freelance sites

Who could support me with this?

- Speak with your Careers Adviser or Job Coach, attend open events, careers fairs and job centre interviews, join online recruitment agencies, LinkedIn, Facebook and Employer websites

Entrepreneurs/Self-Employment: where could I apply in Essex?



Basildon for Business: [Support for start ups](#)



Essex County Council: [Start or grow your business](#)



Government.com: [Working for yourself](#)



Let's Do Business Group: [Support in North Essex](#)



The Kent Foundation: [Contact us](#)

Employability and Skills Support: North Essex

- What's Next Guide - What's Next - North Essex
- Advice & Guidance - Advice and Guidance
- Jobs & Opportunities - Job and Opportunities Board

Employability and Skills Support: West Essex

- What's Next Guide - What's Next - West Essex
- Advice & Guidance - Advice and Guidance
- Jobs & Opportunities - Job and Opportunities Board

Employability and Skills Support: Mid Essex

- What's Next Guide - What's Next - Mid Essex
- Advice & Guidance - Advice and Guidance - Mid Essex
- Jobs & Opportunities - Job and Opportunities Board

Employability and Skills Support: South Essex

- What's Next Guide - What's Next - South Essex
- Advice & Guidance - Advice and Guidance
- Jobs & Opportunities - Job and Apprenticeship Board