

Options @ 16 - Working in Construction (Professional/Technician)



The construction industry consists of:

1. Building:

This covers the construction and repair of 'anything with a roof' such as houses, shops and schools, and external building work.

2. Civil Engineering:

This involves projects like roads, docks, tunnels, dams and bridges.

For jobs at the craft level see the handout entitled 'Construction Work (Craft)' in the Options at 16+ series.

Professional careers normally require training or study to degree level. For technician careers, training or study to the equivalent of an Foundation Degree qualification is normally necessary.

Some of the jobs available at the professional level are:

Architects design buildings and remain involved in the construction process until building is complete. Projects may include making changes to an existing building or creating a whole group of new buildings.

Architectural Technicians provide support to other professionals in the construction industry, for example, architectural technologists, surveyors and engineers.

Building Services Engineers design building services such as lifts, lighting or heating in buildings. They often focus on reducing energy usage and spend some time on-site supervising the installation of the services that they have designed.

Building Surveyors advise on various aspects of construction, maintenance, alteration and repair of residential and commercial properties.

Buyers purchase raw materials, equipment, goods and services for use by their organisation, eg, a factory or hospital.

Civil Engineers plan, design and manage construction projects such as roads, tunnels, bridges, sewage and water systems, and factories.

Construction Managers are in charge of the day-to-day organisation of a building site.

Geospatial Engineering Surveyors measure and plot the exact shape of land and the position of features.

Landscape Architects plan and design outdoor spaces such as settings for buildings and recreational areas.

Quantity Surveyors work out the cost of building projects, taking into account labour, materials, taxes and maintenance costs.

Town Planning Technicians give technical and practical support to town planners.

Town Planners decide how land can be developed or conserved for the benefit of society.

What will the job be like?

Most workers in the construction industry will spend some time out 'on site'. These can be dirty, muddy places. Construction takes place all over Great Britain; so travelling is likely to be part of the job. It may be necessary to work long hours or overtime to meet deadlines.

Those in professional construction careers also have an office base at which detailed plans and drawings can be made or correspondence prepared. Meeting clients is part of the job, whether on their premises or on the building site itself.

Skills checklist:

- Able to think creatively
- Able to work in teams (and leadership skills for some jobs, e.g. construction manager)
- Good communication skills
- Methodical and patient
- Problem solving
- Some work requires ability with figures and computer skills.

How much will I get paid and what are the opportunities?

Pay rates for designers vary with the industry and responsibilities. The pay rates given below are approximate.

Architects

Architects earn in the range of £18,000 - £26,000 a year, rising to £35,000 - £46,500. Higher earners can make around £51,000 a year. Partners, directors and consultants can earn around £95,000 a year plus.

Architects work a basic 39-hour week with occasional weekend and evening work according to the demands of the project.

Most architects work in private practice in many types of organisations. There are also career opportunities in government organisations, commercial organisations and on projects in other countries. Architects can also work independently as consultants in education and research.

Architectural Technicians

Salaries for architectural technicians are in the range of £16,000 - £21,000 a year, rising to around £24,000 - £35,000. Higher earners can make around £40,000 a year. Freelance technicians can earn around £15 - £25 per hour.

Architectural technicians tend to work a basic 39-hour week with occasional weekend and evening work according to the demands of the project.

Work is available in all parts of the country in:

- central government departments
- construction companies
- education

- local government
- manufacturing companies
- private practices
- research practices
- the NHS

Opportunities exist to work freelance on short contracts.

Building Services Engineers

Building services engineers earn in the range of £21,000 - £28,000 a year, rising to £32,000 - £39,000. Higher earners can make around £48,000 a year.

Building services engineers work a basic 40-hour week, with occasional evening and weekend work according to the demands of the project.

There are a variety of employment options within this area of work. The largest employers of building services engineers are the large building services contractors.

There are also opportunities with central and local government departments, with small building firms, design consultancies and building suppliers. Some engineers go into research and development work.

There are many opportunities to work on projects abroad.

Demand for building services engineers far exceeds the supply. Therefore, promotion prospects and the chances of receiving pay increases are very good for those going into this career.

Building Surveyors

Building surveyors earn in the range of £19,000 - £25,000, rising to £28,000 - £35,000. Higher earners make £56,000 a year.

Most work around 35-40 hours a week, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes and you may need to work some weekends.

There are employment opportunities in all areas of the UK. Building surveyors work on a variety of projects for a wide range of employers. These include central and local government, construction and property companies, surveying companies, and banks, building societies and insurance companies.

Other building surveyors work on their own or as a partner with other specialists in professional practice.

There are also opportunities to work in other countries.

Buyers

Salary rates for buyers vary depending on the industry they are in and the level of responsibility. Buyers earn in the range of £19,000 - £22,500 a year, rising to £28,000 - £40,000. Higher earners can make around £56,000 a year, and higher salaries are possible.

Buyers usually work office hours Monday to Friday, with occasional late evening or weekend work.

Nearly all employers, medium and large, will have a requirement for buyers, buying a whole range of goods, services and materials. These can be firms in:

- financial services
- gas and oil industries
- local and national government departments

- manufacturing, processing and wholesale industries
- public utilities (electricity, gas and water companies)
- the armed forces
- the NHS
- the retail sector

Some buyers work in other countries, often in developing countries, as a member of a project team or in an advisory capacity.

Civil Engineers

Salaries vary depending on the company and level of responsibility.

Civil engineers earn in the range of £23,000 - £28,000 a year, rising to £34,000 - £42,500. Higher earners can make up to £55,000 a year, and higher earnings are possible.

Most civil engineers work around 35-40 hours, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes, and you may need to work some weekends, especially as deadlines approach.

You may work for firms of engineering consultants, building and civil engineering contractors, local authorities, and gas, water and electricity companies.

Some civil engineers work in the Civil Service, in manufacturing industry and in the armed forces. Some civil engineers work independently, as consultants.

Construction Managers

Salary rates for construction managers vary depending on the company and the size of the project. The pay rates given below are approximate.

Construction managers earn in the range of £22,000 - £29,000 a year, rising to £37,500 - £43,500. Higher earners can make around £50,000 a year.

Construction managers work a basic 40-hour week. However, you may have early starts, late finishes and you may need to work at weekends.

Employers throughout the UK are general building firms and building and civil engineering contractors. There may also be opportunities to work in other countries.

Geospatial Engineering Surveyors

Geospatial engineering surveyors earn in the range of £19,000 - £25,000 a year, rising to £28,000 - £35,000. Higher earners make around £44,000 a year. Principals/partners can earn around £60,000 - £100,000 a year.

Most work around 35-40 hours, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes, and you may need to work some weekends.

There are opportunities throughout the UK and overseas. Employers include central and local government departments including Ordnance Survey, construction and property companies, specialist surveying companies, banks, building societies and insurance companies.

Others work as independent consultants or in partnership with other specialists in professional practice.

Landscape Architects

Landscape architects earn in the range of £18,500 - £21,500 a year, rising to around £26,000 - £36,000. Higher earners can make around £43,000 a year.

Landscape architects usually work office hours, with occasional evening work.

You may work for landscape architectural practices, local authorities and building developers throughout the UK. Opportunities to work in the UK and other countries, usually on contract terms, are increasing.

Some landscape architects work independently as self-employed landscape consultants.

It's possible to become a consultant or freelance landscape architect when you have substantial experience.

Quantity Surveyors

Quantity surveyors earn in the range of £19,000 - £25,000 a year, rising to £28,000 - £35,000. Higher earners can make around £56,000 a year. Most work around 35-40 hours a week, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes, and you may need to work some weekends.

There are employment opportunities all over the UK. Employers include central and local government, construction and property companies, specialist surveying companies and industrial and commercial organisations.

Other quantity surveyors work as independent consultants or in a private practice.

Town Planning Support Staff

Town planning technicians earn £16,000 - £19,000 a year, rising to £25,500 - £30,000. Higher earners can make around £31,500 a year.

Most work around 35-40 hours, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes, and you may need to work some weekends.

Most town planning support staff work for central and local government. There are also opportunities within private planning consultancies, construction companies and environmental organisations.

Town Planners

Town planners earn in the range of £18,500 - £27,000 a year, rising to £35,000 - £41,000. Higher earners can make around £55,000 a year.

Most work around 35-40 hours, Monday to Friday. However, you may have early starts and late finishes and you may need to work some weekends.

Most town planners work for local authorities. Other employers are private planning consultancies, water companies, tourist boards, health authorities, construction companies, the Countryside Agency and other environmental organisations.

Apprenticeships/National Vocational Qualifications/Work based Learning.

Apprenticeships/Advanced Apprenticeships – Employer Led

Some employers will employ young people on an apprenticeship programme, however this is a competitive area. Apprenticeships (NVQ Level 2) is the starting point for most young people. Achievement of Level 2 enables progression to Advanced Apprenticeships (Level 3). Apprenticeships are 'Employer Led' and therefore the trainee is employed and will be paid a wage. Apprenticeships last between 2-3 years depending on the person's progress.

Apprenticeships – Programme Led

Sometimes 'Employer Led' apprenticeships are not immediately available therefore it may be possible to start training in an off-the-job setting where the person will undertake job skills and training prior to moving onto employment and an Employer Led Apprenticeship.

**For further information about Apprenticeships ask your
Personal Adviser for details of vacancies and how to apply.**

Full Time Education.

For Advanced level study you will need to achieve a minimum of 4 – 5 GCSEs at grade A-C.

Many people who do 'A' levels go on to higher education. For some careers in building and civil engineering, subjects such as mathematics or physics are desirable. For degree entry, two 'A' levels (or their equivalent) are the minimum requirement, but three are often preferred. Also, if you want to go onto higher education some universities want specific GCSEs such as English and maths.

Vocational qualifications can also be used to progress onto higher education (degrees and HNDs). It may also be desirable to take additional units or an 'A' Level in order to meet entry requirements at certain universities.

**For details of recommended subjects and expected grades please check
with your Personal Adviser as they vary according to particular jobs.**

Construction Work (Professional/Technician) Course Information

Course	Where?	How Long?	Entry Requirements
National Diploma in Construction	Grimsby Institute	2 years	GCSE grade C in Maths, English, Science and one or other relevant intermediate qualifications
BTEC National Award/Certificate in Construction	Hull College	1 year (day release) BTEC National Award in Construction plus 1 year top-up to BTEC National Certificate in Construction.	At least 4 GCSEs at grades A-C (to include Science, Maths and English). Appropriate knowledge and/or experience from work or from other related qualifications.
BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma in Construction	Hull College	1 year National Award in Construction; 1 year BTEC National Certificate in Construction; or BTEC National Diploma in Construction if additional units taken.	At least 4 GCSEs at grades A-C (to include Science, Maths and English) An initial assessment maybe carried out prior to an offer of a place.
Entry Tracks Construction	Hull College	1 year	No formal qualifications required, however applicants must demonstrate that they are interested in this area of work and must successfully complete the Tracks induction programme.
Foundation Tracks Construction	Hull College	1 year	No formal qualifications required, however applicants must demonstrate that they are interested in this area of work and must successfully complete the Tracks induction programme.
BTEC National Award/Certificate/Diploma in Construction	North Lindsey College	2 years	4 GCSEs A-C grades which must include English and Maths.

Course	Where?	How Long?	Entry Requirements
Construction National Diploma/National Certificate/National Award	York College	1 year (Certificate) /2 years (Diploma)	For National Diploma 2 'B's and 2 'C's at GCSE including Maths, English and Science (or accepted alternative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Certificate is aimed at students already employed as trainees within the construction Industry • National Award is aimed at applicants from alternative disciplines who wish to switch their careers to the construction industry.
Getting Started in Construction	Yorkshire Coast College	1 year	No formal entry requirements for this course but you must be enthusiastic, hard working and be willing to learn. Successful applicants will have performed well at interview and have good references.

For information on any of the above courses and to make an online application go to either:

East Riding & Hull Prospectus:

www.logonmoveon.co.uk

North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Prospectus:

www.lincs2.co.uk

Please check with Colleges directly as course details and entry requirements may change. Before making any final decision or if you need help to understand this leaflet, discuss all the options with your Personal Adviser.

Useful Addresses

Construction Skills

Bircham Newton
Kings Lynn
Norfolk
PE31 6RH

☎ 01485 577 577

🌐 www.constructionskills.net

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

66 Portland Place
London
W1B 1AD

☎ 020 7580 5533

🌐 www.architecture.com

Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists

397 City Road
Islington
London
EC1V 1NH

☎ 020 7278 2206

🌐 www.ciat.org.uk

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

RICS Contact Centre
Surveyor Court
Westwood Way
Coventry
CV4 8JE

☎ 0870 333 1600

🌐 www.rics.org

Chartered Institute of Housing

Octavia House
Westwood Way
Coventry
CV4 8JP

☎ 024 7685 1700

🌐 www.cih.org

The Royal Town Planning Institute

41 Botolph Lane
London
EC3R 8DL

☎ 020 7929 9494

🌐 www.rtpi.org.uk

Institution of Civil Engineers Surveyors (ICES)

Dominion House
Sibson Road
Sale
Cheshire
M33 7PP

☎ 0161 972 310

🌐 www.ices.org.uk

WISE (Women Into Science, Engineering and Construction)

2nd floor
Weston House
246 High Holborn
London
WC1V 7EX

☎ 020 3206 0408

🌐 www.wisecampaign.org.uk

For further information look in your Connexions library under classification

'Building and Construction'



Connexions Centre Addresses

Beverley Connexions Centre

3 North Bar Within
Beverley
HU17 8AP

 01482 862741

Bransholme Connexions Centre

76 Goodhart Road
North Point Shopping Centre
Bransholme
Hull
HU7 4EF

 01482 835780

Bridlington Connexions Centre

20 Blenheim Road
Bridlington
YO16 4LD

 01262 678943

Goole Connexions Centre

71-73 Boothferry Road
Goole
DN14 6BB

 01405 608810

Grimsby Connexions Centre

Queen Street
Grimsby
DN31 1JA


 01472 355303

Hessle Connexions Centre

1st Floor
Library Building
Southgate
Hessle
HU13 0SN

 01482 647127

Holderness Connexions Centre

To make an appointment to be seen in Hedon, Hornsea or Withernsea please call Beverley Connexions on  01482 862741 or your local Customer Service Centre.

Hull Connexions Centre

84-86 Paragon Street
Hull
HU1 3QA

 01482 223081

Pocklington Connexions Centre

Pocklington Youth Centre
25 New Street
Pocklington
YO42 2QA

 07824 486538

Scunthorpe Connexions Centre

60 Oswald Road
Scunthorpe
DN15 7PQ

 01724 282200

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