



Careers in Forestry & Arboriculture

Your guide to training, jobs and opportunities

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Level 3 | SEND-friendly options may be available



Why Choose a Career in Forestry & Arboriculture?

- Work outdoors with trees, woodlands and the natural environment
- Active, adventurous work — climbing, cutting and conservation
- Tree care (arboriculture) is in demand with councils, contractors and utilities
- Real skills with real kit — chainsaws, chippers and climbing equipment (with training)
- Help fight climate change by planting and protecting trees
- Clear qualification ladder with well-paid skilled roles



Skills and Personal Qualities

- Physical fitness and a head for heights (for climbing routes)
- Strict safety awareness — the most important skill of all
- Teamwork — tree crews look after each other
- Enjoying outdoor work in all weathers
- Practical confidence with tools and machinery
- Care for nature and wildlife



Useful School Subjects

- Science — how trees grow, diseases and woodland ecology
- PE — fitness for physical and climbing work
- Geography — woodlands, environments and land use
- Design Technology — tools, equipment and safe working



Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

Forestry & Arboriculture Courses

- Myerscough College — Arboriculture and Forestry Level 1 to Level 3 (leading regional provider)
- Myerscough College (Croxteth Park, Liverpool) — land-based entry routes that progress to arboriculture
- Chainsaw and climbing certificates (LANTRA / City & Guilds NPTC) — short courses once you start

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

Apprenticeships and Training

- Arborist Apprenticeship — Level 2 (tree climbing and care)
- Forest Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Forest Craftsperson Apprenticeship — Level 3
- Utility Arborist routes — keeping trees clear of power lines
- Search live vacancies: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Tree careers range from ground crew and climbing arborists to woodland management and conservation.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Grounds / Tree Crew Operative	Tree surgery companies, councils	Level 1 + training
Arborist (Tree Surgeon)	Contractors, councils, utilities	Level 2 + chainsaw/climbing certificates
Forestry Worker	Woodlands, estates, Forestry England	Level 2 Forest Operative
Tree Nursery Assistant	Tree and plant nurseries	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Woodland Conservation Assistant	Wildlife trusts, National Trust	Level 1–2 + volunteering
Utility Arborist	Power line contractors	Level 2 + specialist tickets
Forest Craftsperson	Forestry organisations	Level 3 Apprenticeship

Typical starting salary: £18,000–£24,000. Qualified climbing arborists can earn £25,000–£35,000+.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Volunteer on woodland days with the Wildlife Trust, National Trust or Mersey Forest
- Tree planting days run locally every winter — great first experience
- Conservation volunteering builds fitness, skills and references

Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites
- Search for local jobs: www.indeed.co.uk | www.notjustjobs.com
- Find apprenticeships: www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk

TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers — local careers information and resources
Colleges & Organisations	Myerscough: www.myerscough.ac.uk Mersey Forest: www.merseyforest.org.uk Forestry England careers: www.forestryengland.uk
More Support	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
Apprenticeships	www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk www.indeed.co.uk www.notjustjobs.com