



Careers in Hospitality & Catering

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 Hospitality & Catering?

- Fast-paced, dynamic work with real variety every day
- Build strong customer relationships and team skills
- Wide range of roles — restaurants, hotels, catering, events, cruise ships
- Flexible working patterns and promotion opportunities
- Growing demand across the Merseyside hospitality sector
- Excellent pathway to management and business ownership

Skills and Personal Qualities

- Excellent communication and customer service
- Teamwork and reliability under pressure
- Physical stamina and ability to stand for long periods
- Attention to detail and presentation standards
- Food safety and hygiene awareness
- Quick problem-solving and adaptability

Useful School Subjects

- Food Technology & Catering — practical cookery, nutrition, food safety
- Science — understanding food chemistry, health, safety procedures
- Maths — costing, budgeting, measurements, portion control
- English — customer communication, menu writing
- Business Studies — running a business, customer service

Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

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

Chef & Culinary Arts

- City of Liverpool College — Professional Cookery L1-L3
- Hugh Baird College — Professional Chef L2-L3
- St Helens College — Chef Training & Cookery L1-L3
- Knowsley Community College — Professional Cookery L2-L3
- Riverside College, Widnes — Professional Cookery L1-L3

Front of House & Hospitality

- City of Liverpool College — Hospitality L1–L2
- Hugh Baird College — Events Management & Hospitality L1–L3
- St Helens College — Hospitality & Food Service L1–L2
- Riverside College, Widnes — Hospitality & Food Service L1–L2

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Greenbank College — supported catering, food preparation and hospitality skills
- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

Apprenticeships and Training

- Chef Professional Apprenticeship — Level 2 (18 months+)
- Hospitality Supervisor Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Commis Chef Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Food Preparation Assistant — short courses at local colleges
- 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

There are many different roles in hospitality and catering — from independent restaurants to large hotels and event management.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Chef / Cook	Restaurants, hotels, catering companies	Level 2 Professional Cookery / Chef NVQ
Commis Chef	Kitchens, restaurants, hotels	Level 1–2 Food Preparation & Cookery
Waiter / Waitress	Restaurants, hotels, pubs, events	Level 1 Hospitality Service
Bar Manager	Pubs, hotels, clubs	Level 2 Hospitality + experience
Front of House Supervisor	Hotels, restaurants, events	Level 2 Hospitality + supervisory training
Head Chef / Executive Chef	Restaurants, hotels, catering	Level 3 + extensive experience
Events Catering Manager	Event venues, catering companies	Level 3 Events Management
Kitchen Porter / Assistant	Hotels, restaurants, catering	No qualifications needed (on-the-job training)

Typical starting salary: £18,000–£22,000. Managers and head chefs can earn £28,000–£40,000+.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Volunteer at community events, charity dinners or food festivals
- Help at school / college open days in catering facilities
- Ask your school or adviser to arrange work experience at a local restaurant or hotel

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	City of Liverpool College: www.liv-coll.ac.uk Hugh Baird: www.hughbaird.ac.uk St Helens: www.sthelens.ac.uk Knowsley: www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk Riverside: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk
More Support	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs

