

Investment and Stockbroking Careers

Your guide to markets, qualifications and local routes

Liverpool and Merseyside | School to professional entry | Information checked October 2026

◆ What Is This Career Area?

Stockbroker is still a recognised job title, but employers may advertise related roles such as investment analyst, investment dealer, trader, wealth management associate, portfolio administrator or investment operations specialist. The work varies: some roles advise clients, some research investments, some place trades, and others make sure transactions are completed accurately.

- Research companies, markets and economic news
- Analyse figures, risk and possible returns
- Explain investment choices clearly to clients or colleagues
- Place or support trades and keep accurate records
- Follow strict conduct, compliance and confidentiality rules
- Review portfolios and report on performance



Investment work combines numbers, judgement, communication and careful attention to regulation.

◆ Skills and Personal Qualities

- Confident with numbers, spreadsheets and data
- Curious about business, economics and world events
- Calm, accurate and able to make evidence-based decisions
- Clear when speaking and writing to clients and colleagues
- Ethical, discreet and willing to follow detailed rules
- Resilient when markets or priorities change quickly

◆ Useful School Subjects and Qualifications

- Maths — aim for a strong GCSE grade; some degrees require A level Maths
- English Language — clear reports, client communication and applications
- Business and Economics — how firms, markets and the economy work
- Computing — spreadsheets, data analysis and digital systems
- A modern language — useful for international firms and clients

Keep your options broad. Strong English and Maths plus good Level 3 results matter more than having studied a subject called stockbroking.

◆ Local Post 16 Routes

A levels, a Level 3 Business course or a suitable apprenticeship can all lead towards investment work. Course names and entry requirements change, so confirm them before applying.

Provider or route	Location	Relevant study	Entry and progression
Knowsley Community College	Huyton	Business Levels 1, 2 and 3; Business Management and Administration T Level	L3 Business: 4 GCSEs at grade 4 including English and Maths. T Level: 5 GCSEs at grade 4 including English Language and Maths.
Hugh Baird College	Bootle	BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business, including Personal and Business Finance	Equivalent to 3 A levels over two years. The live page asks applicants to contact the college for the current entry profile.
School sixth form or sixth form college	Liverpool City Region	A levels such as Maths, Economics, Business, Computer Science or a language	Typical programmes require around five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, with higher grades for some subjects. Check each provider.
Apprenticeship	Employer based	Financial Services Administrator L3; Investment Operations Specialist L4; Financial Services Professional L6	You need an employer vacancy. English and Maths requirements follow the vacancy and apprenticeship funding rules; entry is competitive.

◆ Local Degree Routes

Provider	Course	Published entry guide
Liverpool John Moores University	Business with Finance and Economics BSc	BBC or 112 UCAS points for 2027 entry; GCSE English and Maths at grade 4.
Liverpool John Moores University	Accounting and Finance BSc	BBC or 112 UCAS points for 2027 entry; GCSE English and Maths at grade 4.
Liverpool John Moores University	Mathematics with Finance BSc	BBC or 112 points, including A level Maths at grade C; GCSE English and Maths at grade 4.
University of Liverpool	Accounting and Finance BSc	AAB for 2027 entry; GCSE Maths grade 5 and English grade 4. Relevant BTEC and T Level routes are also considered.

A degree is a common route, but it is not the only one. Placements, internships, insight days and relevant part-time work can make a major difference when applying.



◆ Pay, Hours and Working Life

- National Careers Service stockbroker guide: about £35,000 starter to £125,000 experienced
- Stockbroking can mean 50 to 60 hours a week; other investment roles have different patterns
- Pay varies widely by role, employer, location, performance and bonus arrangements
- Many trading roles are in London, but Liverpool and the North West also offer wealth management, banking, compliance and investment operations work

◆ Routes from School to the Career Area

Stage	What to do
At school	Build strong Maths, English and digital skills. Follow business and market news critically.
After Year 11	Choose A levels, a relevant Level 3 course, a T Level or an entry apprenticeship.
Build experience	Use virtual work experience, employer insight events, competitions, clubs, customer service or office work to show commercial awareness.
Enter the sector	Apply for an apprenticeship, university course, trainee role or graduate scheme. Expect tests, interviews and background checks.
Develop professionally	Complete the training and professional qualification required by your role and employer; keep learning as markets and regulation change.

◆ Professional Qualifications and Regulation

Employers may support qualifications from the Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment. The exact qualification depends on the job. Some regulated roles also require the employer to assess competence and obtain the appropriate Financial Conduct Authority approval. Before paying for a course, check that employers and the relevant professional body recognise it.

◆ Before You Apply

- Compare the actual job: client advice, research, trading, operations, risk and compliance are different careers
- Prefer courses with placements, live projects or strong employer links
- Practise explaining a company or market story using evidence
- Search apprenticeship vacancies by several titles, not only stockbroker
- Check travel and relocation expectations, especially for trading and investment-banking roles

◆ Sources and Useful Links

National Careers Service	nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/stockbroker
Skills England	skillsengland.education.gov.uk — apprenticeship standards ST0180, ST0177 and ST0472
Apprenticeship vacancies	findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk
CISI	cisi.org — professional careers and qualifications
Local study	knowsleycollege.ac.uk hughbaird.ac.uk ljamu.ac.uk liverpool.ac.uk
TAGS Careers	www.tags.careers — local careers information and support

Information checked 15 October 2026. Courses, vacancies, salaries and entry requirements can change. Always confirm directly before applying.