



Careers in Manufacturing

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 Manufacturing?

- Make real products — food, cars, medicines, packaging and more
- Merseyside has major employers including Jaguar Land Rover (Halewood), Unilever and pharmaceutical manufacturers
- Clear routines and structured teamwork suit many learners
- Entry-level roles available without GCSEs, with training on the job
- Good progression from operative to technician, quality or team leader roles
- Growing demand for modern manufacturing and green technology skills



Skills and Personal Qualities

- Reliability and good timekeeping — shifts depend on the whole team
- Accuracy and attention to detail when checking products
- Following health and safety rules carefully
- Enjoying routine tasks and getting really good at them
- Teamwork and clear communication on the production line
- Practical confidence with machines, tools and equipment



Useful School Subjects

- Maths — measuring, counting, checking quantities and quality
- Design Technology — understanding materials, tools and production
- Science — how materials and processes work
- ICT — many factories use computers and digital systems
- English — reading instructions and recording checks



Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

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

Engineering & Manufacturing Courses

- City of Liverpool College — Engineering & Manufacturing Level 1 to Level 3
- Hugh Baird College — Engineering routes Level 1 to Level 3
- Knowsley & St Helens College — Engineering & Manufacturing Level 1 to Level 3
- Riverside College, Widnes — Engineering Level 1 to Level 3

- Wirral Met College — Engineering & Manufacturing Level 1 to Level 3

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

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

Apprenticeships and Training

- Lean Manufacturing Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Engineering Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Food and Drink Process Operator Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Manufacturing Technician Apprenticeship — Level 3
- 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

Manufacturing offers many different roles, from production lines and food factories to high-tech engineering plants.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Production Operative	Factories, food plants, assembly lines	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Machine Operator	Manufacturing plants, workshops	Level 1–2 Engineering/Manufacturing
Assembly Worker	Car plants, electronics, packaging	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Quality Checker	Factories, food and pharma plants	Level 2 + on-the-job training
Warehouse & Production Support	Factories, distribution sites	Level 1 or no formal qualifications
Maintenance Assistant	Manufacturing plants	Level 2 Engineering
Team Leader	Production lines (with experience)	Level 2–3 + experience

Typical starting salary: £17,000–£23,000. Skilled technicians and team leaders can earn £25,000–£35,000+.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Ask your school or adviser about factory visits and employer talks
- Work experience in warehouses, workshops or production settings
- DT and engineering clubs at school build useful practical skills

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: www.liv-coll.ac.uk Hugh Baird: www.hughbaird.ac.uk Knowsley & St Helens: www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk Riverside: www.riversidecollege.ac.uk Wirral Met: www.wmc.ac.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