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🚆 Careers in Rail & Transport

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 Rail & Transport?

- Merseyrail, Network Rail and new train fleets mean real local opportunities
- Rail jobs are known for good pay, pensions and job security
- Varied roles — stations, engineering, cleaning and presentation, customer service
- Clear routines, uniforms and structured teams suit many learners
- Progression routes all the way to train driver (one of the best-paid non-degree jobs)
- You keep the region moving — essential work people rely on every day

🧠 Skills and Personal Qualities

- Safety awareness — the number one priority on the railway
- Punctuality — trains run to the minute, and so do rail teams
- Clear communication with passengers and colleagues
- Calmness when dealing with busy stations or delays
- Reliability and following procedures exactly
- Practical skills for engineering and maintenance routes

📚 Useful School Subjects

- Maths — timetables, measurements and engineering calculations
- English — announcements, reports and safety documents
- Science & DT — useful for engineering and maintenance routes
- ICT — ticketing, information and signalling systems
- Public Services courses — great preparation for rail work

🏫 Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

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

College Routes into Rail

- City of Liverpool College — Engineering and Public Services Level 1 to Level 3
- Riverside College — Public Services and Engineering Level 1 to Level 3
- Wirral Met College — Engineering and Public Services Level 1 to Level 3
- The Learning Foundry — transport and engineering apprenticeship routes

SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

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

🔧 Apprenticeships and Training

- Rail Engineering Operative Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Passenger Transport Onboard & Station Team Member — Level 2
- Rail Infrastructure Operator Apprenticeship — Level 2
- Engineering Technician (Rail) Apprenticeship — Level 3
- Merseyrail and Network Rail advertise apprenticeships on their own websites
- 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

Rail offers roles for every strength — people-facing station work, hands-on engineering, and behind-the-scenes operations.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Station Assistant	Merseyrail and mainline stations	Level 1–2 + training
Train Presentation Operative	Depots — cleaning and preparing trains	No formal qualifications — training given
Rail Engineering Operative	Track and infrastructure teams	Level 2 Apprenticeship
Customer Service Assistant	Stations, on-board teams	Level 2 + training
Depot Operative	Train maintenance depots	Level 1–2 Engineering
Signalling & Control (later route)	Control centres	Level 3 + rail training
Train Driver (career goal)	Train operating companies	Full employer training (21+ usually)

Typical starting salary: £20,000–£26,000. Skilled rail engineers earn £30,000+, and train drivers can earn £50,000–£65,000+.

Work Experience & Volunteering

- Heritage railways welcome young volunteers — great experience and references
- Work experience with transport operators via your school or adviser
- Customer service experience in any setting counts for station roles

🌐 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
Employers & Colleges	Merseyrail: www.merseyrail.org | Network Rail careers: www.networkrail.co.uk/careers | City of Liverpool: www.liv-coll.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