

Careers links

General:

Cascaid

www.cascaid.co.uk

It opens with the line 'A new way to make your students feel future ready'. If that doesn't put you off, you can see their marketing video (following the 'see it in action' button), and that really will.

Although the site may well have something great to offer, without paying I can't see it - doesn't even have pictures of inanely grinning students living the dream to inspire you to keep looking. The free ones look generally better and more useable. This one looks like a corporate business.

iCould

www.icould.com

Love this one!!! You get to find out what animal you are, just like in Smash Hits and Just 17!! I'm an eagle!!! There really isn't any more you need to know. You can watch videos about other people's careers (<https://icould.com/explore>), but once you have found out you are an eagle, the rest starts to feel a little bit too irrelevant.

National Careers Service

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>

It isn't going to win any website of the year awards, but it does the job. You can type in a job and it tells you what that job entails, how to get into it, how much you can expect to earn, qualifications needed, etc. etc. You can also just put in a general area of employment, e.g. hospitality, and it will give a list of all the jobs in the at field, which you can then look at individually.

Admittedly, many of us are in jobs that weren't invented twenty years ago, so perhaps loads of these positions will be obsolete in 10 years' time with new ones created, but at least it can give a place to start, even if you don't end up where you thought you might.

If you need more hands-on help you can also speak to a careers advisor via a number of platforms including (for those that like to go old skool) the telephone.

Start Careers 11-18 years

www.startprofile.com

A particularly boring looking site, but if you delve a bit closer it gets better. Although it never says it, it kind of focuses on your career as being a job in itself, hence you have 'modules' (<https://guest.startprofile.com/workbook/modules>) to help you become 'the better, more productive, more focused you' (it doesn't say that bit either, but I get the distinct impression that that is where it is going). You can sign in and build up your own profile (for free), but I don't think you get to an end place with this website, as it seems to be much more about a continual development process - there are even modules for when you have finished school and are 'learning' at home (<https://guest.startprofile.com/workbook/module/84>) - but for the very 'career' focused, it might be a useful tool. What is cool is that at the bottom of the page you can press a button that puts it in 'dyslexic mode'!!! As a dyslexic, I couldn't wait to see what it did. Turns out, it just changes the font to one that is possibly a bit harder to read. For me, that about sums up the whole site.

Youthoria

<http://www.youthoria.org>

"It's all about Youth," or so the website tells you, which is somewhat depressing for those of us over the age of 25, but given that it is targeting itself at the 11-19 age group, I don't think they are really focusing on what the rest of us were thinking - if they were, they wouldn't do that thing with the raised 'th' for a start.

Anyway, the site: aimed at youth specifically in Cambridgeshire, not only does it have links to career websites (<http://www.youthoria.org/home/work/1338900132.753/>, some of which are mentioned in this document), it also has links for everything else you might ever want a link to if you were a 'youth' in the county of Cambridgeshire. (I suspect they might turn a blind eye if you are accessing it from the surrounding counties, as long as you are within spitting distance of the county line, but outside of that distance, I'm afraid you may well be taking your life in your own hands.)

What is handy is the page giving you all the open days of sixth form colleges in Cambridgeshire (<http://www.youthoria.org/home/learning/1494497246.862/>), and the 'things to do' and the 'volunteering' section of 'fun stuff' (is it just me or, for the average 16 year old, 'volunteering' and 'fun stuff' are somewhat oxymoronic?) gives a whole list of possible opportunities to pad out your CV.

University:

The Complete University Guide

www.thecompleteuniversityguide.com

Probably designed by an accountant, but the content is great for all things university.

UCAS

<https://www.ucas.com>

All things further education, higher education and alternatives. Just what you would expect, complete with picture of happy student, carefree young person and pensive student pictures.

Apprenticeships and other non-uni options:

Amazing Apprenticeships

www.amazingapprenticeships.com

Nice website, but designed more for schools than the individual. You do pay for the bulk of their resources, some of which look quite fun, but I have no idea whether they are worth the money.

Gov.uk: Find an Apprenticeship

www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Can search for apprenticeships in your area - a bit like the a digital version of the job centres of old.

Not Going to Uni

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk

Loads and loads of adverts for gap year, distance learning, internships, apprenticeship etc. all over the country. Easy to use and content is more inspiring than the home page. It is well worth giving up your time to go through it, even if you think uni might be your preferred option.

Options for Teens with Additional Needs:

Cambridgeshire Council Local Offer

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/local-offer/local-offer-preparing-for-adulthood-14-25>

linking to...

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/asset-library/imported-assets/>

[Moving%20On%20Document%20Updated%20September%202019%20v2.pdf](#)

‘Moving on’

A booklet produced by Cambridgeshire County Council for Parents and Carers of school leavers with additional needs. Really comprehensive and takes you through the process of helping your child on to the next level.

General tips to find your career, boost your CV and increase employment opportunities:

- Try and get work experience with everyone you know - always handy for the CV, but also gives you a test of different employment sectors without having to commit long-term to any
- Maths and English GCSE/IGCSE at level 4 or above - you are seriously limiting your options if you don't get these. Some colleges and most universities won't take you unless you have at least a level 5 in these subjects. Ideally grade 6 or above would be best.
- Try and gain as many 'transferable skills' as you can. The jobs market is constantly changing, but some skills are consistently in demand, these include such things as good team-work skills, well-developed communication skills, leadership skills etc. (<https://www.skillsyouneed.com/general/transferable-skills.html> - not the best site, but it gives you an idea of the things you can be thinking about when boosting a CV.)
- If you know what career you would like to pursue, make sure you know what qualifications you would need to get there. The earlier you can work this out, the better, so that you can keep the doors you know you need open for as long as possible.
- Start looking into possible careers from 11 onwards - it may sound young, but it will help you make good 'career-minded' choices as you work your way through your early teen years and, of course, you can always change your mind later.
- One rejection does not mean you are on the wrong path - think J.K.Rowling submitting the Philosopher's Stone to multiple publishers only to keep getting rejected (<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/mar/25/jk-rowling-harry-potter-posts-letters-of-rejection-on-twitter>). Building up resilience and self-belief is an important part of most people's journey.
- Don't panic. You are allowed to not know what you want to do, and even if you think you do know, it is not set in stone, you are allowed to change your mind at any point (although it does become harder the more you commit in terms of time and money to a course of action). You will most likely change your career path multiple times throughout your working life, so there is no pressure to 'get it right' straight off. Many people go back and retrain as mature students multiple times, so don't let it stress you out before you have even started on your first career.