

Options and Opportunities

Below are details of some of the options and opportunities that are available to you locally. These support organisations can help you in your career planning, for example through further education and recruitment.

Details of some of the organisations that can support you are listed below.

Support Services

Connect Project

The Connect Project is open to young people aged 15-25 years who are unsure of what steps to take next or are not ready to move on to employment or further training. Project staff work with young people to develop a personal and flexible programme that meets learning needs and give the skills and confidence needed to move on to their chosen area.

Contact
Karen Mack
Connect Project Co-Ordinator

 01856 872 897

 karen.mack@vao.org.uk

 Connect Vaorkney

Employability Fund

The Employability Fund is run by Orkney College UHI and funded by Skills Development Scotland. It has been developed to help young people gain employment. It is available to any young person aged between 16 and 24 years who is not in school, college, employed or training.

The Employability Fund involves work experience with local employers, job search skills such as CV writing and interview techniques and can also involve certificated short courses.

You must be referred to take part in the Employability Fund.

Who can refer you?

Skills Development Scotland
Department of Work and Pensions (Jobcentre)
Orkney Islands Council
Orkney College UHI.

Employability Fund Stage 4 is also available through Orkney College UHI and it is available to people over the age of 24 years.

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)

CITB is the largest provider of construction apprenticeships in Scotland and they work closely with employers to ensure training and qualifications are right for their business.

If you are interested in an apprenticeship in construction you must register online at www.citb.co.uk/bconstructive. When you register here, you receive a link to BESTest to complete. You will need to complete this test before your application can be processed.

Once you have an apprenticeship you are sent links to a different set of assessments that CITB then use to establish whether or not you have additional support needs.

Contact
Jacqueline Argo
Apprenticeships Officer

☎ 07826 955 905

✉ Jacqueline.argo@citb.co.uk

🐦 @ArgoJacqueline

Stepping Stones

Stepping Stones is a full-time course run by Orkney College UHI. It has been developed to help school leavers who are unsure what to do next or need further qualifications and study skills. In this course, you experience a variety of subject areas, through project-based learning which will provide a variety of creative and practical activities. As part of the Stepping Stones course, you can also take part in work experience.

Orkney College UHI
www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk

☎ 01856 569 000

Future Tracks

The Future Tracks course is run by Orkney College UHI. It has been developed to help school leavers and young people who have not decided on, or are not ready for, a specific vocational course or employment. The main focus is on personal and vocational development. The timetable includes core skills; communication, numeracy and IT. The rest of the timetable is made of units from vocational subject areas plus areas of development required by the individual student. As part of the Preparation for Progression course, you take part in work placement.


Orkney College UHI
www.orkney.uhi.ac.uk

 01856 569 000

Jobcentre Plus

Jobcentre Plus is a government-funded employment agency overseen by the Department of Work and Pensions. Its purpose is to help people find work through services such as job-hunting programmes and external job vacancies, while it also provides financial support to eligible job hunters.

Tankerness Lane
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1AQ

 0800 169 0190

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) provide careers information, advice and guidance. They also provide work-based training programmes aimed at building lifelong career management skills to help you explore your career options and decide what the right route is for you.

2 Albert Street
Kirkwall
Orkney
KW15 1HP

 01856 872 460

 SDS Orkney

Voluntary Action Orkney

VAO supports the third sector in Orkney by providing advice, information and practical services. The third sector in Orkney is made up of voluntary, community and charitable groups.

Volunteering can help you develop transferable skills, improve communication and help develop team-working skills - these are things that employers look for when recruiting.

If you are interested in volunteering, visit www.vaorkney.org.uk. On their website they have a summary of all volunteering opportunities currently available and a simple registration form.

6 Bridge Street
Kirkwall
KW15 1HR



01856 872 897



enquiries@vaorkney.org.uk



Voluntary Action Orkney (VAO)