

# Routes into forestry careers

Whether you're just starting your career or considering a change, here's what you need to know to become a practical forester

Before you begin, explore the qualifications and experience needed for key roles in forestry and then follow the right route for you

Start here

## Early careers and qualifications route

Gain the qualifications you need for your future role in forestry

## Career changers and professional development route

Build on your transferable skills and gain valuable forestry experience and certifications

**Level 1 & 2 qualifications**  
(GCSEs and apprenticeships)

Choose an option:

**Level 3 qualifications**  
(A levels, T levels, apprenticeships)

Choose an option:

**Level 4-7 qualifications**  
(Degree level)

Choose an option:

### GCSE options (Levels 1-2)

From biology and chemistry to geography and business studies, there are plenty of subjects that support a career in forestry

### Forestry and Arboriculture college courses (Level 1-2)

### Arborist Apprenticeship (Level 2)

### Distance learning courses

**Next step:**  
Move on to a Level 3 qualification

### A Level options (Level 3)

From biology and chemistry to geography and business studies, there are plenty of subjects that support a career in forestry

### Forestry and Arboriculture college courses (Level 3)

### Forest Craftsperson Apprenticeship (Level 3)

### Distance learning courses

**Next step:**  
Move on to a Level 4-7 qualification

### Forestry undergraduate and degree courses

You can find courses through [Royal Forestry Society](#) or [UCAS](#) course search

### Professional Forester Degree Apprenticeship (BSc, Level 6)

### Distance learning courses

### Next step:

Consider professional development opportunities

### Volunteer

Get involved in practical tasks in your local community woodland to learn basic techniques

Some volunteering suggestions to explore:

- [Forestry England](#)
- [The National Trust](#)
- [Woodland Trust](#)
- [The Wildlife Trusts](#)
- [National Parks UK](#)

### Placements and work experience

Use these opportunities to build your practical skills

Look for placement opportunities on the [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#) website

### Short courses

Upskill to gain valuable skills

[Lantra](#) or [City & Guilds](#) and [NPTC](#) list short courses and some may be eligible for the [Forestry and Arboriculture Training Fund](#)

### Traineeships and apprenticeships

'Earn as you learn'

• [Royal Forestry Society Forestry Roots traineeship](#)  
• [The National Coppice Apprenticeship Scheme](#)  
For more apprenticeships follow the early careers and qualifications route

### Gain professional recognition

Become a member or apply for certifications that recognise your professional skills

Get certified with:  
• [Royal Forestry Society](#)  
• [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#)

### Chartered status

Get your professional skills internationally recognised

Get chartered status with the [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#)

## Top tips for finding your role in forestry

Check out your local job boards and [Civil Service Jobs](#) for forestry roles

You can directly apply for forestry jobs with related degrees such as biology, engineering, environmental science and geography

Consider what transferable skills you can demonstrate in your job applications. Examples could be community engagement, dealing with stakeholders and problem solving

A driver's licence and vehicle, or the ability to travel to remote locations is essential for on-site forestry roles

The [Royal Forestry Society](#), [Lantra](#) and the [Institute of Chartered Foresters](#) have great careers resources on their websites for you to explore your options

Many foresters are self-employed. Visit [GOV.UK](#) for advice on [working for yourself](#) and [setting up as a sole trader](#)

Find more helpful resources on our [careers page](#) on [GOV.UK](#)

#Forestry Careers

