



 **BUILDING  
MATERIALS  
CAREERS**

**Want to make a  
difference in the  
world?**

# A job where you can make a material difference

Imagine a career where you contribute to shaping skylines, creating living spaces, and innovating sustainable solutions. That is the world of Building Materials, where your skills and ambition can truly make a material difference.





# What is Building Materials?



**Building Materials is a large and diverse sector that shapes the world we live in and has a wide range of opportunities for people of all skills and experience levels. Whether you're looking for an entry-level position, technical, outdoor job, or a management career, there's sure to be a role that's right for you.**

What is

## **Building Materials?**

Look around. Almost all of what you see involved the design, manufacture and supply of Building Materials.

They literally shape the fabric of our world: where we live, work and travel.

**Imagine being part of that.**

# Help shape the world around you with a role in Building Materials



**Materially different**

*With a role in Building Materials, you'll be part of a vast and vibrant sector that shapes the fabric of the world around us. Where we live, where we work, where we travel.*

Critical to construction, we're helping buildings, homes and cities, be smarter and more sustainable.

So, if you're looking for a career that can take many paths and will help make a difference to the world around you.

We're looking for people like you.

Explore [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)

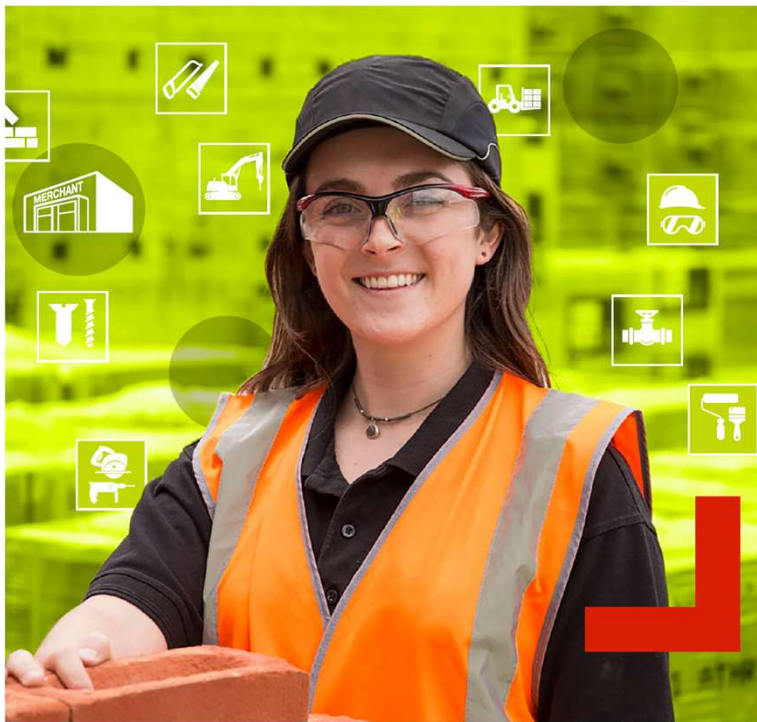




# What type of role suits you?



Whatever your age or level of experience, here are just a few of the job opportunities we can offer, so why not take a look:



## Sales & Marketing

- Sales Manager
- Key Account Manager
- Marketing Assistant
- Marketing Executive
- Marketing Manager
- Area Sales Manager
- Sales Administrator
- National Account Manager

## HR

- HR Assistant
- HR Executive
- HR Manager

## Design

- Kitchen Designer
- Bathroom Designer
- Design Manager
- Engineered Wood Products Designer

## Engineering

- Production Operative
- Engineering Technician
- Machinist
- Design Engineer
- CNC Operator
- General Factory Assistant
- Production Manager
- Production Supervisor

## Warehouse & Storage

- Warehouse Operative
- Quality/Compliance Control
- Stock Supervisor
- Packaging Operative
- Despatch Operative

## Transport & Logistics

- HGV Driver
- Van Driver
- LGV Driver
- Transport Manager
- Transport Admin Assistant
- Forklift Driver
- Head of Logistics

## IT

- Data Technician
- IT Manager
- IT Technician

## Finance

- Credit Controller
- Finance Manager
- Rebates Administrator
- Bookkeeper
- Finance Controller
- Purchase Ledger
- Accounts Assistant

## Sustainability

- Environmental Manager

Explore roles at [bmcareers.com/roles](https://bmcareers.com/roles)

Two Black women are smiling and looking towards the camera. They are wearing dark green zip-up jackets with yellow high-visibility safety vests over them. The woman on the left has her hair pulled back, and the woman on the right has long braids. The background is a blurred industrial or construction setting. A thick red horizontal bar is positioned above the text on the right side of the image.

# It's more than just a job, it's like a community

*The Building Materials sector is a place  
where friendships are made for life.*

Join an open, supportive and inclusive community, where you'll be  
equipped to help shape safer and greener communities.

So if you want to be part of a team that is making a difference,  
we're looking for people like you.

**Explore Branch Manager**  
**[bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)**

 **BUILDING  
MATERIALS  
CAREERS**  
Make a material difference



# 6 reasons to build your career here



## Vital

We're critical to construction, the built environment, and the homes and communities we all live in.



## Varied

Building Materials is a vast and dynamic sector, with thousands of different roles with hundreds of employers, where your career can take many paths.



## Potential

Build a great future from the ground up, with opportunities to progress from entry level roles to senior management, long-term career paths, competitive salaries and benefits.



## Changing

We're modernising, digitising and decarbonising construction, developing new and better products and accelerating sustainable solutions.



## Future-proof

Be part of an industry that always has been and always will be in demand, and which is helping us build a better future for everyone.



## Diverse

Join an open, friendly, supportive and welcoming community, with a need for more diverse people and skills to help us serve a wider range of needs.

## Vital

We're critical to construction, the built environment, and the homes and communities we all live in.



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Make a material difference

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## Future-proof

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## Diverse

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WHAT HAS BUILDING MATERIALS  
DONE FOR ME?

**“I got my  
dream job”**

Explore jobs  
[bmcareers.com](http://bmcareers.com)





# Routes into Building Materials

# 5 ways to enter the sector



1.

Apprenticeships



2.

College



3.

Employment



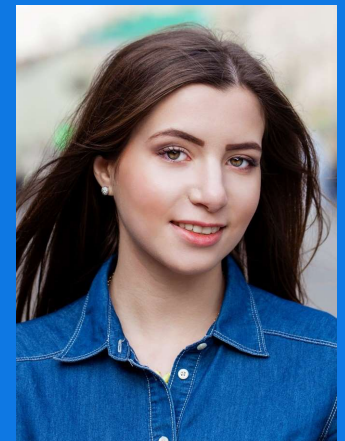
4.

University



5.

Graduate Schemes





# 1. Apprenticeships



Suitable for:	Benefits:
Everyone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Earn, learn and gain experience at the same time</li><li>■ Develop your career</li><li>■ Gain a nationally recognised qualification</li></ul>

An apprenticeship in the Building Materials sector is a great opportunity to jumpstart or advance your career, while earning money and gaining vital experience. With a variety of programmes available, there's something to suit everyone.

Unlike regular academic levels, apprenticeships have their own system: Intermediate, Advanced, Higher, and Degree. It's like levelling up in a game, but for your career.

There are lots of different courses for different types of people, at all skill levels and stages of career – the best approach is to seek a course that is most appropriate to you and your goals.

Apprenticeships are suitable to anyone looking to fast-track their career or learn a new role. Each apprenticeship uses government approved standards and are delivered by industry competent coaches to deliver the exact knowledge, skills and behaviours required in this ever-changing sector.

Apprentices spend 80% of their working week 'doing the job' and the rest of the time either work shadowing, online learning, attending regional workshops and individual coaching sessions or on assignment/project work.

So, seize this amazing opportunity to get paid, feel empowered, grow your confidence and excel in your career.



Promotion 3 times more likely



Gain accredited qualifications



Earning while learning

Find out how to apply for an apprenticeship in Building Materials at [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)



## 2.

# College

Suitable for:	Benefits:
Young people wanting to stay in education, but not in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower tuition fees</li> <li>Smaller class sizes</li> <li>Flexible study options, including part-time</li> </ul>

College is an alternative to sixth form for students who have completed their GCSEs in Year 11. It's like sixth form but in a totally different place, with new faces and friends to make.

Learning takes place in classrooms and practical environments with opportunities for industry placements. You can get some hands-on experience, but you won't get paid like you would on an apprenticeship.

Each course does have entry requirements which usually include Maths and English GCSEs. So, if you didn't quite make it in your GCSEs, additional learning can be sorted out for you at College so you can get your grades.

Colleges tend to offer A levels, NVQs, Diplomas and Foundation Learning and loads offer construction training and academic courses. Which is a useful starting point for a career in Building Materials.

Once the course is finished you have further opportunities to go to university, start an apprenticeship or employment. If employment is your next step, due to lack of experience the role will be entry level and further training may be required. But, it does mean you will start earning.



Learn more about the Building Materials sector at [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)





### 3. Direct Employment



Suitable for:	Benefits:
Everyone 18+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Paid work</li><li>■ Paid holidays</li><li>■ Fixed working hours</li></ul>

The world of work can be daunting, but Building Materials employers are looking forward to welcoming new people from all ages and skills levels. The sector is known for its open and supportive culture.

Until the age of 18 you must

- Stay in full-time education, for example at a college;
- Start an apprenticeship or
- Spend 20+ hours a week working or volunteering, while in part time education or training.

Going into the world of work with no experience or a qualification i.e. apprenticeship or other formal training programme, means a likelihood of starting at the bottom and working up. However, it doesn't mean you won't get a job, because employers are also looking for great personalities with ambition and drive, so show them what you are made of. Plus, a bit of hard work never hurt anyone, just ask Sir Richard Branson.

When you start your job your employers will provide an induction, health and safety, other essential training, suitable supervision and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

You must be at least school leaving age to get paid the National Minimum Wage and aged 23 to receive the National Living Wage.



Go to [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com) to:  
Find employers in Building Materials  
Learn more about the sector



## 4. University

Suitable for:	Benefits:
Everyone 18+ with entry requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Take your skills to the next stage</li><li>Enter employment at a higher level</li></ul>

After Further Education, if you've rocked those A-Levels, BTECs, HNCs, or HNDs, you can level up with University Higher education!

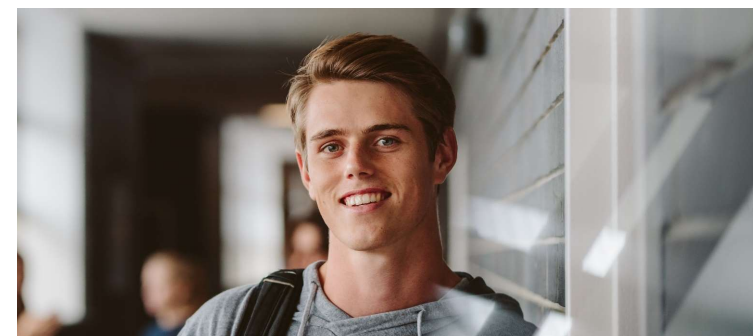
Learning is in classrooms and practical settings, and some courses even hook you up with industry placements. Just remember Degree Apprenticeships? They're like the cool exception to the rule!

Now, here's the deal with universities – each one's got its own entry requirements. Usually, they're all about certain A-Level grades or UCAS Tariff points. But don't stress, just check what your dream uni wants!

Universities offer loads of construction related courses, which are a useful starting point for a role in Building Materials.

It's worth researching some Building Materials employers to see who might be offering employer sponsorships. That could mean getting financial help.

If employment is your next step, the roles may vary from entry level to higher depending on the connection to your degree and further training may be required. But it does mean you will start earning. So, if you're ready to take your skills to the next level, dive into the world of University Higher education.



Go to [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com) to:  
Find employers in Building Materials  
Learn more about the sector  
Or ask your education provider to tell you more about University options





## 5. Graduate Scheme



Suitable for:	Benefits:
Graduates from University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Paid work</li><li>■ Paid holidays</li><li>■ Fixed working hours</li></ul>

If you've completed your degree and are looking to secure your place in the world of work, it's worth researching graduate scheme opportunities.

A graduate scheme gives you:

- hands-on experience of different areas of a company
- a chance for you to follow a structured training programme
- a route to develop your talent as a future leader at a company

Graduate schemes generally last from 1 to 4 years.

The recruitment cycle starts from the summer onwards each year. You'll find a lot of graduate schemes advertised between September and November.

Some companies will recruit all year round. Smaller employers will often recruit when a position becomes available.

**Entry requirements:** You'll usually need at least a 2:1 (upper second-class honours) to get a place on a graduate scheme. Some will allow a 2:2 (lower second-class honours) if you show potential and have a good CV.

Some companies only recruit recent graduates. Others will consider anyone with a degree.



Go to [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com) to:  
Find employers in Building Materials  
Learn more about the sector  
And check student and graduate websites for vacancies  
Or look for employer events or careers fairs at your university



# Further sources of information

## NCS National Career Service



### Who are NCS

They provide careers information, advice and guidance and can help you make decisions at all stages in your career.

NCS are great to help you decide what your next steps should be. On their website you can;

[Explore Careers](#) (Check out the Construction Supply ones - we think they are great)

[Do a skills assessment](#) - Learn more about your skills and like magic it matches you to potential new careers!

[Find a course](#) - If you decide that learning is your next step then they have loads of courses for you to choose from.

[Find out more](#) about NCS and how they can help you.

### Speak to an adviser

Wherever you are with your decisions, you can call them on 0800 100 900

## YEUK Youth Employment UK



### Who are YEUK

Youth Employment UK is an independent, not for profit social enterprise founded in 2012 to tackle youth unemployment.

YEUK are all about helping young people into employment. On their website they offer:

[Careers advice](#) - Not sure what you want to do, have a chat.

[Build skills with young professionals](#) - Free training and online courses.

[CV Advice](#) - Learn how to write a killer CV to help you stand out and bag yourself a job.

[Careers quiz](#) - Take the quiz and find jobs to match your interests.

### Contact them

Email [info@youthemployment.org.uk](mailto:info@youthemployment.org.uk)  
Phone 01536 513388



# Further sources of information



## UCAS

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service

### Who are UCAS

UCAS helps to inspire and empower people to make aspirational choices about higher education and learning.

UCAS is more than just an undergraduate admissions portal. They offer several services including:

[Choosing what and where to study](#)

[What can you do next](#) - Not sure what to do next? Get ideas and all the info on your options to help decide the right route for you.

[Apprenticeships](#) - An undergraduate degree isn't the only option – discover more about apprenticeships, and you could learn and earn at the same time.

[Applying to University](#) - How and when to apply!

### Speak to an adviser

0371 468 0 468

## Work Experience Jobcentre Plus



### Who are Jobcentre Plus

They help prepare you for work, including training, guidance, help with your CV and interviews.

Jobcentre Plus are helping to develop local talent and skills.

As well as job search help, they can provide work placement programmes, work experience and job trialling.

How does this benefit you and how can you get work experience? Check it out.

[Find your local Jobcentre Plus](#) - All big cities and many towns have one. They can offer you help, find jobs and opportunities, financial support, free training and more.

### Contact them

[Find your local Jobcentre Plus](#)



WHAT HAS BUILDING MATERIALS  
DONE FOR ME?

**“I’ve started  
my first job”**

Explore jobs  
[bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)





WHAT HAS BUILDING MATERIALS  
DONE FOR ME?

**“New skills  
working in a  
huge sector”**

Find employers near you  
[bmcareers.com](http://bmcareers.com)



WHAT HAS BUILDING MATERIALS  
DONE FOR ME?

**“I turned my  
interest  
into a career”**

Explore apprenticeships  
[bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)



## Exercise 1

# What are building materials?

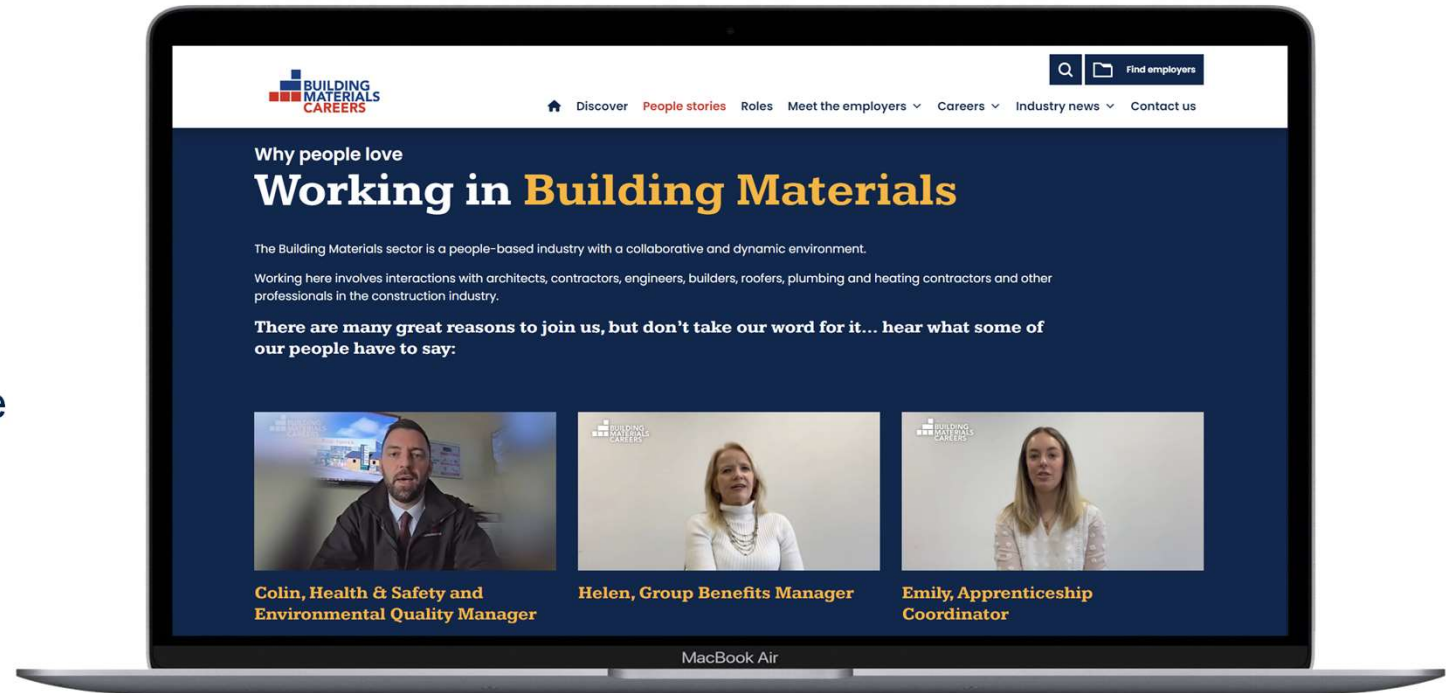
- Look at some of the iconic buildings in your area
- Take a photo of them or download off the internet
- List all the building materials that you think goes in to building them?
- Go to [bmcareers.com](http://bmcareers.com) for help



## Exercise 2

# Why people love a Building Materials career

- Go to [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com) 'people stories' page
- Choose which 3 you want to watch
- Take notes and list the reasons why people love working in the sector



## Exercise 3

# What products do we sell

- Research what a 'builders merchant' is
- List all the products you think they sell





## Exercise 4

# What role do you want?

- Go to [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com) 'roles' page, or use the brochures
- List all the roles you think you would most enjoy
- Explain why



### Sales & Marketing

- Sales Manager
- Key Account Manager
- Marketing Assistant
- Marketing Executive
- Marketing Manager
- Area Sales Manager
- Sales Administrator
- National Account Manager

### HR

- HR Assistant
- HR Executive
- HR Manager

### Design

- Kitchen Designer
- Bathroom Designer
- Design Manager
- EWP Designer

### Engineering

- Production Operative
- Engineering Technician
- Machinist
- Design Engineer
- CNC Operator
- General Factory Assistant
- Production Manager
- Production Supervisor

### Warehouse & Storage

- Warehouse Operative
- Quality/Compliance Control
- Stock Supervisor
- Packaging Operative
- Despatch Operative

### Transport & Logistics

- HGV Driver
- Van Driver
- LGV Driver
- Transport Manager
- Transport Admin Assistant
- Forklift Driver
- Head of Logistics

### IT

- Data Technician
- IT Manager
- IT Technician

### Finance

- Credit Controller
- Finance Manager
- Rebates Administrator
- Bookkeeper
- Finance Controller
- Purchase Ledger
- Accounts Assistant

### Sustainability

- Environmental Manager

Explore roles at [bmcareers.com/roles](https://bmcareers.com/roles)

# Get your copy of the Building Materials brochures at [bmcareers.com](https://bmcareers.com)



# So, what are you waiting for? Take the next step



## Explore **bmcareers.com**

- The place to explore roles and opportunities in Building Materials
- Discover what roles might suit you best
- Find work experience, apprenticeships, open days
- Research employers and find the ones closest to you
- Send us your profile details so you can get noticed
- Join our social media communities





DISCOVER  
BUILDING MATERIALS

**“Find a  
job made  
for you”**

Explore jobs  
[bmcareers.com](http://bmcareers.com)

Building Materials Careers is run by  
the Builders Merchants Federation Ltd  
(BMF) [www.bmf.org.uk](http://www.bmf.org.uk)

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