

BUSINESS & FINANCE SECTOR

53%

of workers in financial services are female



Almost 1 million people are employed in financial services in England



70,000

Around 70,000 young people start new businesses in the UK each year

78%

(percentage of financial services firms reporting skills shortages)

Some of the biggest salaries going

Consider a career 'in the money'...?

£26,000 - £50,000 per year (typical salary range for a qualified accountant)

A non-stop environment for competitive people



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Careers Insight

Money makes the world go round in this suited and booted sector. If you have ambition and a head for numbers, you could set out for a very rewarding career!

Accountancy

Accountants keep track of companies and individuals' finances so they can manage their money properly.

Entry-level role: Accounts clerk, trainee accountant.

Starting salary: £12,000 – £16,000 a year.

Banking

The banking sector is huge. There are loads of international and domestic banks who manage our money, give loans, exchange money and more.

Entry-level role: Customer service adviser, bank cashier.

Starting salary: £10,500 – £16,000 a year.

Financial advice

It's not just for the wealthy – everybody needs financial advice at some point. Financial advisers help people make the most out of their money, whatever they have.

Entry-level role: Insurance technician, customer service adviser in a bank or building society.

Starting salary: around £17,000 a year.

Entrepreneurial

Think you've got a fantastic idea for a business? Well almost two-thirds of entrepreneurs say that they had no experience of managing a business before they took the plunge. If you have the work ethic you could be a successful entrepreneur.

GET QUALIFIED

There are plenty of academic and vocational courses for this sector...

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a good route into this sector; all of these are NVQ level 2:

- Accounting • Business and Administration
- Marketing and Communications • Payroll
- Providing Financial Services
- Team Leading and Management

Advanced Apprenticeships

You can also do an Advanced Apprenticeship in this sector; all of these are NVQ level 3:

- Accounting • Advising on Financial Products
- Business and Administration
- Marketing and Communications
- Payroll • Providing Financial Services
- Team Leading and Management

You can also do a Higher Apprenticeship, NVQ level 4 in:

- Accounting

A Levels

Here are some A Levels relevant to this sector:

- Accounting • Business Studies • Economics
- Maths • Statistics

Foundation Degrees

A Foundation Degree is a university-level qualification that is equivalent to the first two years of an Honours Degree. They are different from Honours Degrees as they involve learning in the workplace as well as at university or college.

Employer-funded study

You don't have to go to university to train to be an accountant as organisations like PwC and KPMG have recruitment programmes for people who have completed their A Levels.

Professional Qualifications

Professional bodies (such as CISI, ACCA and CIMA) offer short courses which allow you to study specific areas of finance and gain a qualification employers will value.

USEFUL LINKS

www.opendoorsmedia.co.uk - The best careers site on the web.

www.fssc.org.uk - Financial Services Skills Council.

www.icaew.com/careers - The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales.

www.careersbox.co.uk - Home to a fantastic library of free careers videos.