

SEND Apprenticeship and Employment Advice and Support

Sunderland College – Directions: SEND Specialist Provision

Sunderland College offers the "Directions" program, a specialized department catering to students with SEND. This program provides a varied curriculum tailored to individual needs, ensuring positive outcomes and additional support to foster success. Students engage in vocational courses designed to enhance skills and employability, serving as a foundation for future apprenticeships or employment opportunities. [Directions – SEND Specialist Provision - Sunderland College](#)

East Durham College – SEND Programs

East Durham College is a prominent provider of further education for SEND students in the North East. The college offers a wide range of opportunities and support for learners aged 16-24 with special educational needs and disabilities. Additionally, they provide Supported Internships aimed at enhancing the life prospects of young people with SEND by facilitating their transition into sustained paid employment. [SEND Courses Section | East Durham College](#)

New College Durham – Apprenticeships

New College Durham offers a variety of apprenticeships across multiple sectors, providing opportunities for students to earn while they learn. These programs are designed to equip students with practical skills and qualifications, facilitating a smooth transition into the workforce. [Apprenticeships](#)

Durham County Council – Transition Support

Durham County Council provides transitional support for young people with SEND progressing into post-16 education. Discussions about next steps are integrated into the Year 11 Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) reviews or SEN support plan reviews. Secondary schools also incorporate preparation for adulthood into their curriculum and offer independent career advice tailored to the needs of students with SEND. [Young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities \(SEND\) moving on to further education - colleges and training providers - Durham County Council](#)

DurhamWorks

DurhamWorks offers support to students in County Durham schools or residents aged 14–16. They provide various forms of assistance to young people referred by schools or other professionals, focusing on preparing them for post-16 education or employment opportunities. [In School](#)

Durham Enable – Supported Employment

Durham Enable delivers personalized support through one-to-one job coaching for individuals with SEND. Their approach is tailored to meet personal work goals, assisting young people in achieving employment that aligns with their aspirations and needs. [Supported Employment - Durham Enable](#)

Inclusive Apprenticeships

The UK government has implemented measures to make apprenticeships more accessible for individuals with SEND. Notably, there are exemptions from standard English and Maths requirements for apprentices who meet specific criteria related to their learning difficulties or disabilities. These adjustments aim to create a more inclusive environment, enabling SEND students to pursue apprenticeships aligned with their career goals. [Inclusive Apprenticeships | British Association for Supported Employment](#)

Supported Internships

Supported internships are structured, work-based study programs specifically designed for 16- to 24-year-olds with SEND who have an Education, Health, and Care (EHC) plan. These internships focus on substantial workplace experience, typically comprising around 70% of the program, and are facilitated by expert job coaches. This hands-on approach helps students develop essential skills in a real-world environment, often leading to employment opportunities or further apprenticeships. [Supported internships - GOV.UK](#)

National Apprenticeship Service (NAS)

The National Apprenticeship Service supports and coordinates the delivery of apprenticeships across England. They provide resources and guidance to help SEND students find suitable apprenticeship opportunities, ensuring that training providers and employers can meet diverse learners' needs. Engaging with NAS can assist in identifying programs that offer the necessary support and accommodations for SEND apprentices. [National Apprenticeships Service \(NAS\) | Sunderland Information Point](#)

Local Initiatives

Organisations such as Together for Children in Sunderland offer apprenticeship opportunities designed to promote accessibility and provide a supported route into employment for care-experienced young people. These programs often feature simplified application processes and guaranteed interviews, ensuring that SEND students receive equitable opportunities to succeed in their chosen fields. [Helping care experienced young people in Sunderland get into work - Together for Children](#)