

EMPLOYMENT

Finding work can be challenging, especially without recognised education or qualifications. Getting a qualification is the best way to find interesting and better paid work. However, even without qualifications you can find paid work.

National Minimum Wage (NMW)

Workers in the UK aged 16 + (and above school leaving age) are legally entitled to a national minimum hourly wage. It does not matter where they work, the size of the firm or the worker's occupation. This includes casual labourers, agency workers, homeworkers, workers on short-term contracts and workers employed by sub-contractors.

<u>Type of NMW</u> (from 1 st April 2017)	<u>Hourly rate</u>
Workers aged 25 and over	£7.50
21 to 24 year olds	£7.05
18 to 20 year olds	£5.60
16 to 17 year olds	£4.05
Apprentices: 16 – 18 year olds and those in their first year	£3.30
All other apprentices are entitled to the National Minimum Wage for their age	

The **living wage** for London is currently: £9.75

Employment Rights

To find out about your rights at work, visit www.adviceguide.org.uk/england/work_e/.

Where to look for jobs

There are many places that you might look for jobs:

- Job Centres – government run offices usually on the high street that advertise jobs
- Online websites – Monster, Gov.UK: <https://www.gov.uk/> etc.
- Recruitment Agencies
- *Work Avenue* and *Resource* (see contact list below). Both these agencies offer free 'work-readiness' workshops and guidance on job hunting, c.v. preparation and interview skills.

Apprenticeships

To develop skills and gain experience that can help you enter the workforce, a good starting place can be via one of the national or local apprenticeship programmes. These build in training and career progression, and although salaries are often below the minimum wage they can be a good entry-level opportunity. Bursaries may be available to top up apprenticeship salaries. Apply to Mavar via email: mavar@mavar.org.uk

- <http://www.londonapprenticeship.co.uk/>
- <http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk/>
- <http://www.connexions-tw.co.uk/help-finding-an-apprenticeship/>
- <http://www.apprenticeshipguide.co.uk/>