



## Careers information sheet

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### **Hospitality and Catering**

The Hospitality and Catering industry provides the public with food, drink and accommodation. It is constantly changing and growing so employment prospects are good for qualified staff.

Hotels offer accommodation for the travel and leisure market as well as conference services to businesses.

The number of food and drink outlets is increasing rapidly - including themed restaurants, fast food outlets, pubs, clubs and pub-restaurants.

Jobs range from those preparing food and cooking, serving food and drink, welcoming guests, and housekeeping behind the scenes. All these require managers with higher level business and management skills, especially marketing and people management. Some jobs, such as skilled chefs, are highly creative.

There are many relevant courses to prepare for entry to the industry at all levels and those with ability and who are hard working can progress quickly. Small employers may offer more limited opportunities for promotion so moving between employers may be necessary to progress.

Some people set up their own business, for example a restaurant or small hotel. However, strong practical skills, experience and knowledge of the hospitality and catering industry are needed to ensure success.  
(Source: jobs4u)

You can get your qualifications by taking vocational courses or studying while in employment as well as by the more traditional full time education route. The important thing is to choose a route that suits you.

#### **Additional sources of information**

The Sector Skills Council for Hospitality & Catering is People 1st  
<http://www.people1st.co.uk>

UK Skills Passport has a qualifications guide to the industry.  
[http:// www.theskillspassport.co.uk](http://www.theskillspassport.co.uk)

Springboard UK has careers information for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism.  
<http://www.springboarduk.org.uk/regional/london>

The Hotel and Catering International Management Association (HCIMA) is developing a new suite of qualifications at Levels 2, 3 and 4.

<http://www.hcima.org.uk>

Careers advice and jobs information for those wanting to work in the Hospitality and Catering sector.

<http://www.caterer.com>

The British Hospitality Association is the national trade association for hotels, restaurants and caterers.

<http://www.bha-online.org.uk>

In the South East Region, Centres of Vocational Excellence for Hospitality and Catering are:

Thanet College

<http://www.thanet.ac.uk>

Isle of Wight College with Hospitality Training Partnership

<http://www.iwightc.ac.uk>

### **What else should I be doing?**

There's a lot you can do to help your Hospitality and Catering career outside formal learning:

- look for work experience that involves face to face contact with customers
- get a part time job in a hotel, bar or restaurant so you can see what goes on
- improve your team working skills
- develop your personal skills – especially communication (including using the phone)
- develop your people skills
- read trade magazines such as Caterer and Hotelkeeper
- become a student member of the HCIMA