



Sport, Leisure & Travel

Job Information Sheet

What is sport, leisure and travel?

People now have more leisure time than ever before and, with the increasing emphasis on health and fitness, millions of us regularly take part in sports, recreation and leisure activities. In London, this sector is booming and there are almost 200 different job roles.

Workers in the travel and tourism industry are concerned with helping people book and plan their holidays, trips, flights, etc and making sure they have a good time when they get to their destination.

Are there jobs for 16-19 year olds in sport and leisure?

Sports professions like physiotherapy, sports psychology and sports development require a university degree but most jobs in this sector do not require this level of education. In fact most employers are concerned with developing staff through 'on the job' training. It is possible to start as a trainee or assistant and progress to managerial levels or instructors, for example, leisure centre managers and fitness instructors.

Most employers in sport and leisure require GCSEs or some experience. Good communication skills are essential as most jobs in sport and recreation involve working with the public. Opportunities for professional sportspeople are limited and are only for the extremely gifted and talented in their chosen sport. For some jobs, the best way to find employment is by gaining experience by volunteering, like coaching for a Sunday morning sports team or stewarding at a game.

Are there jobs for 16-19 year olds in travel?

At 16 or 17 most young people in Central London start off in the business as Travel, Tour or Airline Sales Consultants (see below) to train and gain experience. Options are greater for over 18s. The Travel industry is one in which young people can move on into jobs abroad, assistant management and management positions at a young age.

For jobs in the travel industry qualifications although important, are probably not as important, as having an outgoing personality and customer service experience.

Below is a selection of jobs that could be available to 16-19 year olds living in Central London. Further details of these and many other jobs go to nextstep.direct.gov.uk and click on *Browse our job profiles*.

Jobs in sport and leisure

- **Health and fitness instructors** show people of any age and ability how to do exercise and use exercise equipment correctly to improve their fitness. Some sports centres take on new recruits without formal qualifications and experience and provide full training. The usual minimum age is 18.
- **Individual sports people** compete as amateurs or professionals at their chosen sport – including athletics, cycling, equestrian sports, golf, motor sport and tennis. Most top professionals have been playing their sport and competing from a very early age. Information can be obtained from all the sporting professional bodies.
- **Sports leadership** is concerned with inspiring people and communities through participation in sports and leisure activities. This could be at local sports centres, after school clubs or summer camp.
- **Leisure centre/recreation assistants** help and supervise people who visit leisure and fitness centres for any activity. They also work in reception, look after the equipment and pool and keep everywhere clean and tidy
- **Officiating** involves the work of referees and umpires, stewards, marshals and timekeepers. Most of this work is done on a voluntary basis but gives excellent experience
- **Pool lifeguards** watch the pool, keeping a constant lookout for anyone getting into difficulties. Some local councils offer lifeguard training and award professional qualifications
- **Sports coaches** work with people at every level in sport and exercise to develop their talents. The national government bodies of most sports (e.g. The Football Association) offer their own instructor qualifications and these can be done through an NVQ or one of the level 2 sport and leisure courses at Colleges.
- **Team sports people** play against other teams in sports such as football and basketball. Only a few extremely gifted and talented people make their living in team sports. Scouts from professional clubs watch school and youth matches

and will spot the most talented. Alternatively clubs can be contacted for information on any other initiatives for young people.

Jobs for 16-19 year olds in travel

- **Travel Agency, Tour Operator or Airline Sales Consultants** are the most common entry route into the industry. Sales consultants help customers book and plan holidays and trips, usually dealing with people face to face. The Job involves a lot of telephone and computer work, due to checking the availability of hotels, flights etc.
- **Foreign Exchange Sales Consultant** change customer's pounds sterling into the currency they need for their holiday money and change it back into pounds when they return.
- **Transfer Representatives** make sure that travel arrangements for holidaymakers run smoothly. This can mean dealing with any problems, such as lost luggage, and liaising with coach drivers, ferry staff and hotel staff. Often people move on from this to Holiday Representative. Some operators will employ over 18s, but over 20 is more common.
- **Airport Service Representatives** assist holidaymakers at the departure and check in at an airport. It is not impossible for over 18s to get a job as an Airport Service Representative, but companies tend to prefer applicants who are over 20.
- **Holiday Representatives** look after holidaymakers at a holiday resort, usually abroad, accompanying them from the airport to their accommodation. They are always available to answer questions, give advice or help with problems. Some operators will employ over 18s, but most will employ over 20s.

This information sheet covers jobs for 16-19 year olds in Central London. It does not cover graduate jobs or jobs that are rare in Central London. For details of the whole range of jobs in business and finance go to nextstep.direct.gov.uk and click on *Browse our job profiles*.

Sport, Leisure & Travel Apprenticeship Vacancies (on 5th January 2011)



For more details and to apply go to apprenticeships.org.uk and select Search for vacancies under Apprenticeship Vacancies. Search by vacancy reference number using the Ref No from the first column in the table. When this information sheet was published the following vacancies were available:

Ref No	Framework	Business	Borough	Weekly Wage	Qualifications Required	Closing Date
126665	Fitness & Exercise AA	Training	City of London	£105	None	6 Jan 2012
129283 129732	Marketing	Travel	Southwark	£150	GCSE grade B+ in English, C+ in maths & 3 other subjects	9 Jan 2012
129697	Travel	Travel	Wandsworth	£100	GCSE grades C+ in maths & English	20 Jan 2012
122222	Fitness & Exercise	Training	City of London	£105	None	24 Feb 2012

Any vacancies marked ^{AA} are Advanced Apprenticeships leading to Level 3 qualifications, all others are Intermediate Apprenticeships leading to Level 2 qualifications.

To apply for Apprenticeship vacancies you will need to register (if you have not already) at apprenticeshipvacancymatchingservice.lsc.gov.uk/navms/forms/candidate/PreRegisterCandidate.aspx (you will need a valid email address in order to register). You can get further help on using the site and making applications at apprenticeships.org.uk/sitecore/content/avtm/Candidate.aspx

Other Vacancy Sites

Because employers recruit people of all ages many vacancies will not be on the LOIS site (which is just for young people) but on the sites listed below. Many of the jobs listed are unlikely to be filled by 16-19 year olds, but those listed do occasionally have suitable opportunities:

www.leisurejobs.com	Cover jobs in the sport and leisure sector.
www.leisureopportunities.co.uk	
www.jobswithballs.com	
www.mytravelcareers.co.uk	Young people can fill in an application form for roles such as Travel Adviser and Holiday Money Adviser.
www.traveljobsearch.com	
www.thomascookjobs.co.uk	Have a few non-apprenticeship jobs that are maybe suitable for those with good customer service experience.
www.careerdetails.co.uk/tui-uk-sales	TUI are Thomson, Lunn Poly and Britannia (and will all soon be called Thomson). Applications can be currently made online for sales consultants and foreign exchange consultants at around a dozen shops all in South London.
British Airways (www.ba.com)	Can apply for vacancies such as Cabin Crew via website.
Easyjet (www.easyjet.com)	