

Did you know that a new high-speed rail service will be coming through our region in a few years' time? High speed Two (HS2) can run up to 225 miles per hour - faster than any other European high-speed train – and will create thousands of new jobs both in the building of the network and once it's up and running.

25,000 jobs

and 2,000 apprenticeships in its construction

1,300 jobs at HS2 national construction headquarters

3,000

people to operate it

500

jobs at the rail maintenance depot

140

jobs at the National Control Centre

Source: Gov.UK/GBSLEP

Future trends

HS2 is a project that will continue well into the future. It will need forward-thinking people who can come up with ways to do things better and who can use and adapt to new technologies.

This means HS2 is on the look-out for people with:

STEM qualifications | creative talent | problem solving skills | digital skills | flexibility

As the project develops, the job roles needed will change. We can also expect to see businesses grow around the main station in Birmingham and near Solihull. This means for jobs in areas such as business and finance, creative, retail, leisure and manufacturing. Other types of businesses will be attracted to the wider region as HS2 opens up more possibilities for travel.

Skills and qualities

There's a wide range of jobs involved in making HS2 successful. Some of the skills in demand are:

Problem solving

Advanced ICT and digital skills

Maths

Creative thinking

Flexibility

Leadership and management

Communication

Teamwork

Design

Attention to detail

Languages

What could you earn?



These are the average salaries you might expect to earn working on HS2*. Salaries are likely to be lower for new starters and higher for experienced workers.

Rail construction operative £27,000

Electrical fitter £30,800

Environment professional £33,250

Construction project manager £36,050

Civil engineer £40,300

Quantity surveyor £42,600

Electronics engineer £46,500

Rail and rolling stock builders £47,000

Legal professional £49,600

IT project manager £51,100

Train driver £52,850

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50

¹ CITB ² CITB

The local picture

The main hubs in our area will be Birmingham Curzon Street and the Interchange Station near Solihull which will provide access to Birmingham Airport, the NEC and beyond.

Birmingham Curzon Street is due to open 2026 – plans for new offices, a tram line and 4,000 new homes around this hub could potentially create 36,000 jobs.

In Birmingham's Central Business District the construction headquarters for HS2 will eventually be home to around 1,300 professionals designing the line, stations and track side equipment.

There will also be an HS2 rail maintenance depot at Washwood Heath.

Local employers and colleges are creating hundreds of apprenticeships for people in the area so that they can develop the skills needed to access the many jobs which will be available over the next decade or so.

Employers involved in the project include:



Balfour Beatty | VINCI | Carillion | Eiffage | Kier | Skanska | Costain | Strabag | Bouygues | VolkerFitzpatrick | Sir Robert McAlpine

Routes in



HS2 has both apprenticeship and graduate programmes to fill some of the positions available but there will be many more opportunities within the supply chain, particularly in advanced manufacturing and engineering. The National College for High Speed Rail has two colleges – one in Birmingham and one in Doncaster. The courses on offer are: level 4 high speed rail and infrastructure higher technician apprenticeship, level 5 operations and departmental manager apprenticeship and level 4 cert HE in high speed rail and infrastructure. The college website gives more details including entry requirements (www.nchsr.ac.uk) – 1,100 people will start a new apprenticeship each year but competition for places is high. BTECs, HNC/Ds, a degree and a range of NVQs will also teach the skills needed to access jobs working on HS2.

Types of apprenticeships include:



high-speed rail and infrastructure technician, engineering design and draughtsperson, transport planning technician, welding, rail infrastructure operator, passenger transport (onboard and station) team member, composites technician, project management, maintenance and operations engineering technician, CNC machinist, performance engineering, legal support assistant, social media, business administrator, project planning, procurement

Finding out more



<http://careers.hs2.org.uk/>

www.nchsr.ac.uk

www.youtube.com (search for National College for High Speed Rail)

www.tomorrowsengineers.org.uk

www.futuremorph.org/my-future-finder

www.wisecampaign.org.uk