



### Why consider a business career?

Business skills are in demand across many sectors in Northern Ireland, as organisations of all sizes, from small local businesses to large employers across the **public, private, and community and voluntary sectors**, need people who can effectively manage resources, projects, services and teams.

Whether you are looking to progress in your current role, return to work, or change career, business careers offer a **wide range of opportunities** with transferable skills that are valued across many industries.

### Who are business careers suitable for?

Business careers can suit people at different stages of life, including:

- ▶ **adults already in work** who want to progress or specialise
- ▶ **career changers** with experience from other sectors
- ▶ **returners** looking to re-enter the labour market
- ▶ **graduates or non-graduates** with transferable skills

Roles vary widely, and many employers value practical experience and transferable skills, alongside formal qualifications.

### Types of business roles

Roles exist across virtually all sectors, such as professional services, retail, finance, ICT, health and the public sector.

Examples of business careers include roles in **administration; finance and accounting; human resources (HR); import/export and international trade; marketing and digital marketing; operations and management; procurement and supply chains; and sales and business development.**



You can read more about these careers in the DfE Careers Service Business careers bulletin and on the [Careers A-Z](#)

### Skills and qualities employers look for

Employers in business roles value skills such as:

**problem-solving**  
**decision-making**  
**time management**  
**communication teamwork**  
**digital/data handling**  
**leadership**  
**interpersonal organisation**

The specific skills needed will vary depending on the role. Many of the skills above are transferable and may already have been developed through previous work, study, volunteering, or caring responsibilities.

### Myth-busting business careers

#### Quick myth-busters

- Myth: Business careers are mainly about sales or finance.**
- Reality:** Business careers cover many areas including business administration and project support, HR, marketing, operations and procurement, across a wide range of sectors.
- Myth: It's too late to move into a business career.**
- Reality:** Many people move into business roles mid-career, using transferable skills built through previous work, volunteering, study or caring responsibilities.

## Entry routes and progression

**There is no single route into a business career.**

Entry and progression routes can include:



further or higher education courses



part-time or flexible study



professional qualifications



apprenticeships or work-based learning



moving sideways into a business role within your current organisation

Many people enter business roles at different points in their career, and progression often happens over time through a combination of experience, continuous learning and taking on additional responsibility, rather than through a single step.

## Thinking about a career change into business?

If you are considering moving into a business career:



take stock of your existing skills and experience



think about how these could transfer to business roles



research roles and employers that match your interests and values



Speak to a careers adviser for impartial guidance



consider short courses, part-time study or professional development to build confidence and skills



small, practical steps can help you test whether a business career is right for you.

## Support and next steps

You can get further help by:

- ▶ speaking to a Careers Service adviser for free, impartial guidance
- ▶ exploring training and entry routes through [A Guide to Career Entry Routes](#)
- ▶ researching roles through [NiDirect Careers](#) and trusted careers websites
- ▶ talking to people already working in business roles

## Summary

Business careers are flexible, varied and open to many different strengths and interests. By building skills and exploring options over time, you can prepare for a wide range of business careers in Northern Ireland.

## Want to find out more?

This factsheet is based on the [Careers Service Business Careers Bulletin](#).



The [DfE Careers Service](#) provides free, professional and impartial careers advice to help you explore your options and plan next steps.

