

Waiting staff

If you're a 'people person' with a winning smile and able to think on your feet, then a career as a waiter or waitress may be for you.

Opportunities

With over 175,000 hospitality outlets in the UK serving food to their customers, the opportunities for talented waiting staff are extensive and varied. You would usually work in a team under the supervision of a head waiter or waitress, sometimes known as the maître d', and you may get the chance to specialise, perhaps as a wine waiter or waitress in a fine dining restaurant.

Full-time salaries for waiting staff can be around £12,000 to £16,000 a year; rising to between £17,000 and £20,000 for experienced waiting staff. Head waiter or waitress earnings can be between £22,000 and £27,000. But the potential to boost your earnings is in your hands – if you look after your customers well, they may reward and thank you by leaving tips.



Requirements

You will not usually need any specific qualifications, but a good standard of English and maths will certainly help. Even more important are excellent 'people skills', enthusiasm for food and cooking, high personal standards of hygiene and a smart appearance. You'll also be a team player, able to multi-task and stay calm under pressure. You should be prepared to work shifts including evenings, weekends and public holidays.

Apprenticeships



Hospitality Team Member Apprenticeship



Hospitality Supervisor Apprenticeship

Career Progression

Apprentice Waiter or Waitress

Waiter or Waitress

Head Waiter or Supervisor

Restaurant Manager

Food and Beverage Manager