

SECTOR FOCUS:

**National
Careers
Service**

Helping you take
the next step

**Cheshire &
Warrington**

Financial and Business Services in Cheshire and Warrington

The Financial and Business Services sector offers a wide range of career opportunities and is a major provider of local employment. It includes careers in finance and financial technology, legal services, insurance, human resources, recruitment, sales and marketing. Some financial and business services are provided in house so there are opportunities across all types of industry, but sometimes these services are bought in from specialist firms. As a result of advancements in technology, the sector has changed in recent times, this is particularly true in the financial sector where financial technology is one of the fastest growing industries across the UK and is particularly strong in Cheshire East. And although technology has led to a decline in general administration roles, opportunities do still exist to enter the sector this way.

Financial services are hugely important locally and the area is home to high profile brands who are attracted to the area due to the expertise available locally. Apprenticeship vacancies in business and financial roles are in good supply but opportunities to enter with specialist skills and experience are also available locally.

What types of jobs are available?

Average annual salaries in the sector include:



CUSTOMER SERVICE ADVISER
£15,000 TO £24,000



DIGITAL MARKETING OFFICER
£20,000 TO £50,000



SOFTWARE DEVELOPER
£20,000 TO £70,000



PENSIONS ADMINISTRATOR
£20,000 TO £50,000



MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT
£25,000 TO £100,000



BUSINESS ANALYST
£30,000 TO £70,000

Fast Facts

about the Financial and
Business Services sector in
Cheshire and Warrington:



Employs over 45,000
people locally.



Approx. 15,000 are
employed in finance
and insurance alone.



Accounts for one fifth
of the local economic
output.



Makes up around 15%
of local employment
opportunities.



Financial services is
important across the
area, 7,500 employees
are employed in Chester
and Cheshire West
alone and Financial
Technology is strong in
Cheshire East.



What companies are based in Cheshire and Warrington?

Examples of local employers in the Financial and Business Services sector include:

- Assurant, Crewe
- Ascendis Business Finance, Wilmslow
- Barclays Technology Centre, Knutsford
- MBNA, Chester Business Park
- Virgin Money, Chester
- Royal London, Wilmslow
- Radius Payment Solutions, Crewe
- NFU Mutual, Knutsford & Middlewich
- M&S Bank, Chester Business Park

How do I get into the sector?

Entry into the sector depends on the exact role and level of job. There are entry level opportunities for those with limited relevant prior experience or qualifications, including for young people and those returning to the workforce, this includes administration and customer service type roles. For entry to professional level careers then a higher qualification, such as a recognised degree, is often required. Opportunities to train on the job have however increased and apprenticeships are becoming increasingly important for the financial services sector.

Colleges and Universities

There are a wide range of colleges and universities in the area that offer programmes related to the business, finance and technology. Some roles require professional accreditation, particularly in the financial and legal sectors, so it is important to check this before starting on a course. To search for a local course you can use the National Careers Service course search tool at:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/course-directory/home>
or to find out more about university courses go to www.ucas.co.uk.

Apprenticeships

Many businesses offer apprenticeship opportunities, which allow you to study and work at the same time. There are good opportunities locally to enter a business or finance related apprenticeship, and the opportunities to study at a higher level have been increased by the introduction of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships. Apprenticeships are open to both young people and adults and are available at all levels. Recent examples of local apprenticeship vacancies have included:

- Public Relations Higher Apprentice
- Finance Assistant Apprentice
- Customer Service Advisor Apprentice
- Senior Client Accountant Apprenticeship
- Legal Cashier Apprentice
- Digital Marketing Apprentice

How do I find out more about careers in the Financial and Business Services sector?

Careers in financial industries: <http://www.insidecareers.co.uk/>

Association of Accounting Technicians: <https://www.aat.org.uk/>

The Law Society: <https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/law-careers>

Career in the insurance industry: <http://www.discoverrisk.co.uk/>

Graduate career information: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector>

National Careers Service

Help is available online, or with one of our careers advisers by phone or in person.

For more information call 0800 100 900 between 8am to 10pm 7 days a week or search online for National Careers Service.

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

