

# Food and Drink Process Operator

Level: 2  
Duration: 15 months

**Food and drink process operators work in one of the largest manufacturing sectors in the UK, ensuring that food and drink products are manufactured safely and to high-quality standards.**

## Apprenticeship overview

This apprenticeship prepares you to operate machinery and equipment used in the production of food and drink. You will learn how to monitor the manufacturing process, identify technical issues, and ensure that all products meet strict safety and quality specifications.

### Core skills, knowledge and behaviours you will learn

- Food safety and hygiene standards (HACCP)
- Quality management and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Health and safety in a food manufacturing environment
- Machine operation and basic fault finding
- Sustainability and waste management in production
- Effective communication and teamwork

### In addition to the core content, you will choose one option from:

- Production (Processing)
- Packing and Distribution

### Typical job roles

- Process Operator
- Production Operative
- Plant Operator
- Filling and Packaging Operator

### Where you might work

- Large-scale food manufacturing plants
- Craft bakeries or dairies
- Drinks and bottling facilities
- Fresh produce processing sites



### Good to know

Work involves wearing specialist PPE (hairnets, overalls, boots)

Shift work (including nights and weekends) is common in this sector

Work can be physically and emotionally demanding