

DfE Skills Bootcamps - Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Do I need to live in a certain area to apply?

A1. Yes, we can only accept applicants from the following regions: Greater London, Hertfordshire, Essex, Buckinghamshire, Surrey, Kent, Berkshire, Oxfordshire. We'd love to support learners from across the country however, the aim of this programme is to help students find a job in tech. Our network of employers is currently concentrated in London and the South East so we feel best equipped to support candidates from these areas. There are some great providers offering places in other regions of the UK, please check out the DfE website for details.

Q2. I don't currently live in one of the listed areas but I am relocating to one of these areas, can I apply?

A2. Yes, of course. As long as you can provide the address you're moving to and it's in one of our specified areas.

Q3. Is there any support to help me with living costs whilst taking part in the skills bootcamp?

A3. The fund will just cover the cost of training. You'll need to cover your living costs for the 16 weeks of the course as well as throughout the job hunting period. This takes on average 3 - 6 months (but can be longer). It's important to ensure you can sustain yourself for this whole period before applying, if you have any questions, please chat to our Course Managers.

Q4. I will be 19 later in the year, when I intend to join the Skills Bootcamp. Can I apply now even though I am still 18?

As long as you are 19 when you start the course you will be eligible to apply, unfortunately anyone under 19 is not currently covered by this fund but there are a number of other schemes available on the DfE website.

Q5. Can I take time off during the training?

A5. No, please don't take time off during training for holidays or non-essential engagements. If you have a medical appointment, childcare arrangements or an emergency, of course the team will support you and help you to cover any work missed. If you have any concerns, please chat to the Course Managers when you apply so we can prepare to support you during the course.

Q6. Can I study around flexible hours?

Q6. Unfortunately not. We want you to get the best from the course so make sure you're available to study from Monday to Friday between 9:30 - 5:30. Workshops, pairing and group assignments happen between these times so you need to be available so you and your cohort get the full learning experience.



Q7. I don't have a computer, how can I access the course?

We can loan all students a Macbook for the 12 week, full time section of the course, you'll just need to let the Course Management team know. Unfortunately we can't lend everyone a Macbook for the initial 4 week precourse. If you are struggling with access to a computer, please let our team know and we'll do our best to find a solution for you.

Q8. Once you've finished the course, are students obliged to work with one of Makers partner companies for a set amount of time?

No, students don't have to work for one of Makers partner companies, you are encouraged to apply to positions inside and outside of our hiring partner network. The benefit of working with one of our hiring partners however is that our team has assessed that they are a good company for a junior to work with and roles are exclusively available for our students to apply to.

Q9. Why has Makers chosen Ruby as the starting language?

A9. Ruby almost looks like English so beginners are less likely to be intimidated or distracted by unfamiliar symbols and syntax. Students develop an understanding of the core concepts that exist across all coding languages when learning Ruby, so it's easier to pick up the more complex languages afterwards. You can read more [here](#).



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