



# Specialist Employability Support

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For people with a visual impairment

## Your RNC

The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC) is the provider of the Specialist Employability Support (SES) contract for people with a visual impairment.

Becoming an SES customer with RNC gives you access to the country's leading training and facilities for job seekers with a visual impairment.

Whether you are partially sighted or fully blind, and whether your sight loss is recent or has always been part of your life, we have the expertise to support you in developing the skills you need to find the job you want.

## Your SES

No two customers are the same, which means no two SES journeys will be the same.

The RNC SES package is tailored to meet your needs. Support is available in your own area through our regional suppliers, listed below.

Alternatively you can undertake all or part of your training at RNC in Hereford where you will benefit from round the clock support to embed your skills and get you ready for work.

This means you can choose the amount and type of support you need and receive it in the place best suited to you.

It starts with you!

## SES Programme

RNC SES is not like other employment programmes. A team of experts in visual impairment and employment will work with you every step of the way to help you find a permanent job.

We will help you develop the skills you need to succeed, put you in touch with employers who recognise what you have to offer and support you every step of the way. During your Pre-Entry Assessment we will discuss your experience to date, the barriers you have found in seeking employment and the type of work you want to do. We will then tailor a programme to your individual needs.

We will work with you to design a flexible package using experts at RNC and in your home area to help you achieve your goals.

The programme will last up to 12 months. Many customers stay at RNC in Hereford on a residential basis while completing the training, with accommodation and subsidised food provided. Our campus is fully accessible and guide dogs are welcome.

You may want to consider training in a new field through one of our specialist vocational training courses, including the opportunity to undertake hands-on work in a real-life setting to enhance your CV and employability.

You will have the opportunity to try a range of assistive technology to find the right working medium for your personal needs, which you can then use when you enter employment.

The programme is best suited for those seeking intensive support, potentially including mobility and living skills training.

SES programme is also available in your home area, depending upon your personal barriers to employment, providing support to embed your new skills and stay in touch as you start your new life.

“  
The training was brilliant; the encouragement absolutely priceless. The whole environment was uplifting and helped me regain my belief and self-esteem.  
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## SES Supporters

Although SES is a new programme, RNC has decades of experience in supporting people with visual impairments to find employment.

We have partnered with 3SC, who specialise in building nationwide networks of expertise to work on programmes like SES. Some of the 3SC organisations helping to deliver the RNC SES programme in your local area are:

- Aspire
- Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Black Country Housing Association
- Bootstrap Company Ltd
- Breakthrough UK Ltd
- Destiny Enterprise Solutions CIC
- Disability Information Bureau
- ELITE Supported Employment Agency Ltd
- Gecko
- Groundwork (three franchises covering different regions)
- Lancashire County Council
- Leonard Cheshire Disability
- Mencap
- Merthyr Tydfil Institute for the Blind
- PossAbilities CIC
- QED UK
- RBLI
- Shores
- Tai Calon Community Housing
- The Rehab Group
- WECIL



# Case Study

Steve, 41

Trained in: Audio Media Production

Steve never thought music and media could be a viable career path for him until he heard about RNC SES. He began at RNC in September 2015 and gained experience working with live bands, live streaming over the internet and recording radio productions. Steve also received employability skills support, which included help updating his CV and practicing interview techniques.

Steve now works in editing at the production company Action Image Productions (AIP). "My first day couldn't have gone better; it was fantastic. I'm really excited to be going out on video shoots, undertaking studio work and getting involved in the whole production process."



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"The support I've been given from day one has been amazing. I can honestly say I don't think I would have the confidence or skills to find employment without coming to RNC."

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It was the primary focus of RNC that really impressed me – helping people with visual impairments. The attitude of staff is genuine. They want you to do well.

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# Your Journey Starts Here



## What Support and Training is Available?

### Vocational Training and Skills

Courses designed to prepare you for a career in specific areas including:

- NVQ Business Administration
- NVQ Instructing Exercise and Fitness or Personal Training
- ITEC Holistic Massage, Reflexology, On-Site Chair Massage or Sports Massage
- Audio Media Production

### Employment Skills

Through the SES programme you can develop the type of skills required for most modern employment, such as:

- Using Microsoft Office in the workplace
- Assistive technology – finding the right hardware and software for you
- Independence skills – such as personal safety and workplace adaptations

### Self-employment Skills

- Benefits and challenges of self-employment
- Setting up a new business
- Writing a successful business plan

### Job Hunting Skills

- Finding vacancies that match your skills and researching companies
- Writing a compelling application form and CV
- Understanding your rights as a person with a visual impairment
- Interview skills – making the right impression first time
- How to succeed in your new job and build a relationship with your employer

Please note not all options will be available in your home area. Some courses may require a minimum level of IT knowledge and previous experience or qualifications within the field.





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