



YOUR TECH CAREER STARTS HERE



**MY TECH
FUTURE**

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for inspiring stories, competitions, & more.

Your tech career starts here

Technology connects our world. It's everywhere, from checking train times on your phone to watching movies with eye-popping special effects. Technology is changing our world – and that means career opportunities which are exciting, challenging, varied and well-rewarded.



Why consider a tech career?



EXCITING WORK

If you want to work at the edge of discovery, development and innovation, there are few better places to be. Technology is constantly breaking new ground – and the typical tech work environment involves creativity, energy, problem solving and collaboration.



HUGE VARIETY

The range of opportunities is incredibly wide – with popular areas of the industry today including software, communications and high-tech. While technology is an industry itself, it overlaps with virtually every other industry: tech professionals work in entertainment, fashion, finance, law, media, medicine, politics, retail, transport and so on. This means you can combine interests, enjoying the best of different worlds in your career.



HIGH DEMAND, HIGH PAY

Since technology is so important to success in so many different fields, tech professionals are always in demand and their skills are highly prized. Because the work is challenging, tech professionals are usually well paid compared to their peers.

So where do you start?

That's where this guide comes in – it'll help you think about:



What kind of tech job is right for you



Which path to take
whether you want to study, work, or do both together



How to get a head start
collect digital badges and impress future employers

What kind of tech job is right for you?

There are hundreds of different job roles available in tech – with new roles being created as fast as technology itself is evolving. That makes for exciting opportunities, but it can also be confusing if you're just starting out and want to know what your options are.

To help make sense of the many tech roles that currently exist, here are six broad categories which match to a lot of the entry-level jobs you'll see advertised.

Which one seems the best fit for you?

1

If you're good at ...



Problem solving, Making things happen, Listening, Building relationships



Listening to people, Building relationships, Team working, Problem solving



Creative thinking, Problem solving, Attention to detail, Maths and engineering



Creative thinking, Art and design, Attention to detail, Listening to people



Problem solving, Maths and engineering, Attention to detail, Team working



Listening to people, Building relationships, Creative thinking, Making things happen

You could be a ...

Which means ...

BUSINESS MANAGER

You'll manage people and budgets to get things done and make projects a success. You'll need strong interpersonal skills to build effective working relationships with both work colleagues and customers.

CLIENT RELATIONS PROFESSIONAL

You'll develop relationships with customers and colleagues to translate what customers want into specifications that your colleagues can build. You'll be good at translating technical information into language that non-technical people can understand.

DEVELOPER

You'll translate designs into a workable reality and will find creative answers to technical problems. You could be working in a range of areas – from cyber security, or business process, to building the websites and software that businesses rely on.

DIGITAL DESIGNER

You'll create compelling designs across a variety of mediums which meet the needs of your business and of end users. You'll design the look or workings of websites, games or graphics.

TECHNICAL ENGINEER

You'll build, install, service or repair computer hardware or communication systems. From designing routers and switches, to maintaining networks, you'll be a part of the backbone of your organisation's technology systems.

SALES OR MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

As a marketer, you'll promote your organisation's brand, product or services using a range of digital and traditional media. As a sales person, you'll be out meeting new people to help them buy your products and services.

Which path to take?

The sheer range of opportunities, sectors and companies where tech jobs exist can seem daunting. So where do you begin?

It helps to think about what you want to do immediately after a school – whether it's working, studying or a combination of both.

Here's a quick guide to help you think about your options and make an informed choice.



COLLECT DIGITAL BADGES

Alongside GCSEs and A-Levels, you can earn industry-backed badges to evidence the digital skills and knowledge you have learned online



3

2

I WANT
TO STUDY

I WANT
TO WORK

I WANT
TO WORK
AND STUDY

I am 14+

I am 16+

I am 18+

Take GCSEs or equivalent qualifications

Gain five GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and maths, or equivalent qualifications, to progress to A-levels



COLLECT DIGITAL BADGES

Take A-levels or equivalent qualifications

Gain at least two A-levels at grades A*-C, or equivalent, to progress to university; maths and science subjects will be useful, especially for very technical degrees



COLLECT DIGITAL BADGES

Take a tech degree

Study Computer Science or an industry-accredited degree such as IT Management for Business or Software Development for Business



COLLECT DIGITAL BADGES



Take a tech apprenticeship

Earn a salary, gain on-the-job experience and train for recognised qualifications



Take a tech degree apprenticeship

Now you can earn and learn on the job – and gain an Honours degree all at the same time

TECH DEGREES

'I want to study'

Gain an industry-accredited tech degree that puts you ahead of other students and prepares you for a successful future career.

Technology is everywhere – which means new jobs, new skills and a high demand for motivated graduates. Tech Partnership-accredited degrees are developed by and supported by over 90 leading companies – including British Airways, the BBC, BT, Cisco, Ford, Fujitsu, GlaxoSmithKline, IBM, Microsoft, SAS and Xbox.

Offered by 20+ universities across the UK, a Tech Partnership-accredited degree could give you the best possible start to your career.

WHICH INDUSTRY-ACCREDITED DEGREE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

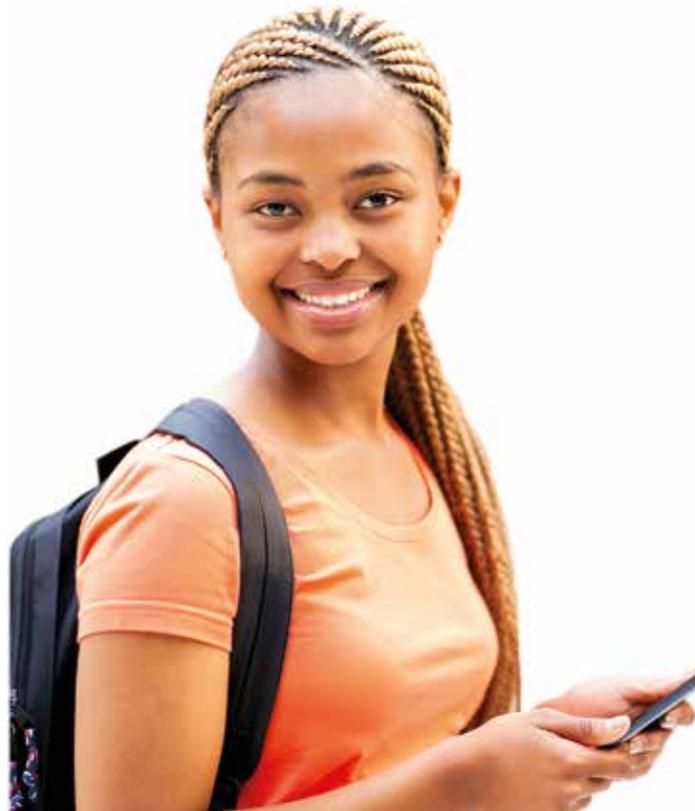
The **BSc IT Management for Business** (ITMB) degree opens the door to a variety of exciting careers. This degree can kick start your career in any industry – from banking, consulting or marketing to retail or entertainment. The ITMB degree is accredited by the Tech Partnership and co-developed with leading graduate employers.



The **BSc Software Development for Business degree** (known as Software Engineering for Business at some universities) is ideal for future techies who want to design tomorrow's products and services. It mixes programming, technologies, projects and professional skills, taught in a curriculum designed by leading graduate employers.



"During my three years studying ITMB, I worked on real business projects created by employers within the IT industry. The employer events were great networking opportunities and enabled me to research and meet future employers."



WHY CHOOSE AN INDUSTRY-ACCREDITED DEGREE?



Improve your chances of gaining a great job

Graduate employers value the mix of technical and business skills that students learn: over 95% of students on these programmes are employed within six months of graduation



Meet leading employers

On top of your usual studies, you'll meet leading employers – from multinationals to dynamic start-ups – attend networking events, CV clinics and workshops and hear from inspirational industry 'gurus'



Hear about work opportunities first

Through an exclusive app, you'll hear directly from employers about their latest work experience and job opportunities



Female friendly

Study for the most female friendly computing-related degree out there – 33% of students on these degrees are female, more than double the number for most computer science courses



Reach your academic potential

75% of graduates on these degree programmes received a First Class or 2.1 degree last year

TECH APPRENTICESHIPS

'I want to work'

Kick off your career in the fast-paced world of technology with a tech apprenticeship. You'll learn a variety of skills, gain on-the-job experience – and get paid.

More and more companies are recruiting apprentices, with vacancies up by a quarter over the last year. So there's never been a better time to think about applying. You can become a tech apprentice after GCSEs or A-levels, and get the training and qualifications you'll need to become anything from a web designer to a cyber security specialist.

WHAT IS A TECH APPRENTICESHIP?

During a tech apprenticeship, you'll work for an organisation with technology at its heart – it could be a small local company or a well-known brand such as John Lewis or Capgemini.

You'll earn a salary (the average for apprentices is £170 per week after tax – or double that amount for degree apprentices) and get all the benefits of being employed, such as paid holidays. You'll also get to train for recognised qualifications with a local college, university or private company.

And from day one, you'll be using the new skills you learn to tackle real business challenges in the workplace.

Most tech apprentices stay with their employer for the long term after they complete their apprenticeship. But you'll also be well-placed to explore other work and education opportunities.

With 130,000 new tech recruits needed each year, apprentices have great prospects – you'll have both the work experience and the qualifications that companies are looking for.



"My problem-solving skills, technology knowledge and general professionalism have vastly improved. I will finish my apprenticeship with great qualifications and fantastic experience that will help me find my feet in the IT and technology world."



WHY CHOOSE A TECH APPRENTICESHIP?

Apprenticeships combine practical training in a job with study. As an apprentice you will:



Earn while you learn

You'll earn a full time salary while you train



Have no university debts

There are no tuition fees to pay and your salary means you have money to live on while you complete your training



Gain practical and relevant experience

While completing your apprenticeship you'll be doing valuable work and learning the real-life practical skills employers are looking for on CVs



Earn a recognised qualification

The qualification you earn at the end of your apprenticeship will be recognised countrywide. This can range from NVQ Level 2 to NVQ Level 4 or even an Honours degree

TECH DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

'I want to study and work at the same time'

Now you can earn and learn on the job – and gain a bachelor's degree all at the same time.

As a degree apprenticeship, you'll join a minimum three-year programme that combines on-the-job learning, relevant skills training and academic study.

Degree apprentices split their time between the workplace and study. As a full-time employee, you'll earn a full salary and gain a bachelor's degree while working towards your chosen career path.

WHAT TECH DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

The BSc Digital & Technology Solutions degree apprenticeship has been designed by leading employers to equip students with skills they can apply across all sectors, including banking, entertainment, health, property, public sector, retail, technology, telecoms and transportation.

Degree apprentices work in a professional tech role and gain a BSc (Hons) Digital & Technology Solutions degree from an accredited university. The programme offers flexibility to support a wide range of job roles, including software engineer, IT consultant, IT business analyst, cyber security analyst, data analyst and network engineer.

To apply successfully, you'll need to meet both the employer's and the associated university's entry requirements. These are explained on each individual employer's recruitment web pages.



"I feel this degree apprenticeship will fulfil my career aspirations. When I move forward and change career roles in the future, I'll have a stronger CV as I'll have been able to work and learn, rather than just having had a learning experience."



WHY CHOOSE A TECH DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP?



No student fees to pay

Degree apprentices do not pay fees. Your employer and the government in combination take care of your fees



Earn while you work

You'll earn a full time salary throughout your degree apprenticeship



An Honours degree tailored to the real-life job market

Designed by leading UK and global employers to make you highly employable, the degree equips you with the skills and knowledge the tech sector needs



Work for a leading brand or a dynamic growing business

Several leading employers support the Digital & Technology Solutions degree apprenticeship, including BT, Goldman Sachs, IBM and Lloyds Banking Group. It's not just major brands who are involved – there are also opportunities to be apprenticed with local growing businesses

DIGITAL BADGES

How to get a head start

Learning today happens anywhere and everywhere: in the classroom, in the community and at home.

Digital badges are an online recognition of a skill or achievement you've earned – and are increasingly being recognised by employers on the lookout for tomorrow's talent.

Discover TechFuture's interactive suite of badged learning, on topics such as apps and games design, coding, and even how to stop a cyber-attack.

All our badges are co-developed with an employer – so the skills you learn are those valued by industry. Our badges are designed to the Mozilla open badge standard – which is the internationally recognised global standard for capturing and communicating skills across the web.

Start collecting TechFuture badges – and gain recognition from future employers for the digital skills you learn.



Add new badges to your backpack

Add new badges to your Mozilla Open Badges backpack – it's easy to set up a backpack if you haven't yet done so



Learn digital skills online

Learn new skills – from apps and games design to cyber security



Digital badges help you

Display your badges to future employers

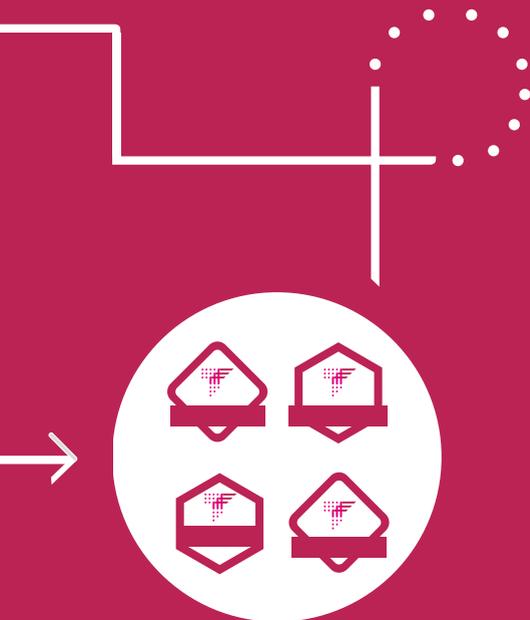
Make your achievements visible online by sharing your badges on social networking profiles, job sites or your online CV



Learn digital skills and knowledge that are relevant to employers



Gain recognition from employers for your new skills



Earn industry-backed badges

Complete a piece of learning, and you'll earn a TechFuture badge co-developed with an employer such as CGI, Cisco, Fujitsu, Samsung, Tata Consultancy Services or Telefonica



Display and share your achievements on social networking and job sites

ABOUT THE TECH PARTNERSHIP AND TECHFUTURE

The Tech Partnership is the network of employers collaborating to create skills for the UK's digital economy. It works to inspire the next generation about technology, accelerate the flow of talented people from all backgrounds into tech careers, and help companies develop the tech skills they need for the future.

TechFuture is the schools and learning brand of the Tech Partnership. TechFuture aims to inspire a new generation about tech skills and tech careers through interactive resources for schools and colleges and classroom visits from industry ambassadors. Designed by employers and teachers, TechFuture helps teachers deliver an inspiring curriculum, enabling students to develop the skills to progress in both education and employment.

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