IT
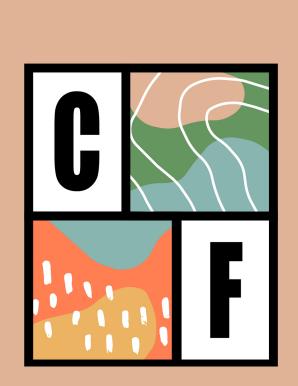
IT CAREERS

There is an ever-growing number of IT jobs around!

We'll be covering just a small number of the opportunities available, so make sure to do your research to find the job that's right for you!

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

As a software engineer, you'll be working in a constantly evolving environment, due to fast-moving technological advances and the strategic direction of the organisation you find yourself working for.

You will create, maintain, audit and improve systems to meet particular needs, often as advised by a systems analyst or architect, testing both hardware and software systems to diagnose and resolve system faults.

The role also covers writing diagnostic programs and designing and writing code for operating systems and software to ensure efficiency. You will also be asked to make recommendations when required.

Depending on the organisation you work for, you may have a more defined role and work within a group of IT specialists which can include system analysts, systems designers and systems testers.

SOFTWARE ENGINEER

How to become a Software engineer:

Although this area of work is open to all graduates, applicants will be expected to have some technical ability. Having studied one of the following subjects may increase your chances of employment:

Computer Science
Electronics
Mathematics
Physics
Information Systems

Many of the larger graduate recruiters will only employ graduates with proven technical skills and a good degree (2:1 or above) in a computing-related discipline.

Relevant work experience is a good way of demonstrating a genuine interest in computing and is regarded favourably by employers. Gain experience through course-related placements, opportunities to work shadow or a year in industry.

IT CONSULTANT

IT Consultants are great communicators and have excellent organisational skills, as well as sound knowledge and understanding of IT systems.

Your role as an IT Consultant is to work in partnership with clients, advising them how to use information technology in order to meet their business objectives or overcome problems. You'll work to improve the structure and efficiency of IT systems in various organisations.

You will provide strategic guidance to clients with regards to technology and IT infrastructures, and will enable enhancements to IT in major businesses. You may well be called upon to provide guidance and technical expertise during processes as well, such as user training and feedback.

There are numerous other responsibilities such as meeting with clients to determine requirements, planning timescales and the resources needed, presenting solutions in written or oral reports, and identifying additional clients for the future, by building and maintaining contacts.

IT CONSULTANT

How to become an IT Consultant:

You can enter IT consultancy work with any degree, but in particular the following subjects may be useful:

Business Studies
Computer Science
Information Systems
Mathematics

If you have an unrelated degree, you may need to show your interest and knowledge of information technology. A 2:1 degree, previous work experience and an interest in consulting increases your chances of securing work.

A pre-entry postgraduate qualification isn't required, but shows evidence of your interest and competence - particularly if your first degree is not in a related subject.

Finding IT-related holiday work or an industrial placement or internship may lead directly to graduate employment. As a first or second year undergraduate, you can apply for internships in the industry.

WEB DESIGNER

As a web designer, you will plan, create, and code web pages, using both technical and non-technical skills to produce websites that fit your customers requirements.

Being involved in the technical and graphical aspects of pages, you'll determine not only the look of the website, but how it works as well. There is also the chance that you become responsible for the maintenance of an existing site.

The growth in touchscreen phones and tablet devices has dictated a new way of designing websites, with the web designer needing to ensure that web pages are responsive no matter what type of device is being used.

Therefore, the need to test websites at different stages of design, and on a variety of different devices, is vital to the websites long term success.

WEB DESIGNER

How to become a Web Designer:

There are a number of entry routes into web design. A formal qualification is not always necessary, as some employers look more at creativity and experience.

Relevant degree subjects are numerous, but could include: Digital Media Production, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Information Technology, Multimedia Web Design, Software Engineering, Web Design or Computer Science.

Many universities offer web design with additional subjects, such as communications, technology, development, advertising, management and languages.

A portfolio of relevant work to show prospective employers will be essential. This could be in hard copy form or using a digital platform such as a website to showcase your work.

Entry without a degree is also possible if you have designed websites and have a suitable portfolio.