Digital and ICT

In the UK, like many other countries, we live in an increasingly online world. Digital and other tech skills are in high demand across all sectors - good news for those with the right skills, as these will open doors to lots of jobs.

90% of all jobs
will require some element of digital skills within 20 years

1.2 million
new technical and digitally skilled people predicted to be needed by 2022

Over 130,000 tech jobs
are available each year in the UK

More young people needed
to study IT-related GCSEs

Source: Gov.UK/GBSLEP

Future trends

This sector is about technology but it's about creativity too for many of the jobs. We can expect to see a growing demand for people to work in these areas:

AI (artificial intelligence) | cyber security | **big data management** | gaming | **VFX (visual effects)** | satellite technology | **digital marketing** | web design | **computer programming** | UX (user experience) | **AR (augmented reality) & VR (virtual reality)** | 3D animation | **driverless vehicles** | open data

More women in tech are desperately needed! Just 17% of people working in the tech sector are female and only one in 10 students taking A level computer science .

Digital communications are changing the way in which we work, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, transport and logistics.

In demand:

software developers | IT systems architects | **digital marketing specialists** | data analysts | **3D designers** | business intelligence specialists | **management consultants** | cyber security professionals | **artificial intelligence experts** | games developers | **VFX specialists** | app developers | **ethical hackers** | coding specialists

Skills and qualities

Some employers report that they struggle to find candidates with the right people or personal skills. Employers in these sectors are particularly looking for:

Advanced ICT and digital skills

Creativity

Communication

Problem solving

Analytical skills

Maths

Design

Customer awareness

Written skills

Team working

Business knowledge

Innovation

What could you earn?

These are the average UK salaries for some of the jobs in digital and ICT*. Salaries are likely to be lower for new starters and higher for experienced workers.

IT technician £24,000 #

Graphic designer £25,950

TV, video and audio engineers £32,650

Web designer £30,300

Telecommunications engineer £32,700

Computer games designer £41,250 #

Software developer £41,350

IT systems architect £44,350

Ethical hacker £56,650 #

*Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2017 median salary rounded to nearest £50
ITJobsWatch

The local picture

It's no surprise that the majority of jobs in this sector focus around Birmingham — you may have heard of 'Silicon Canal', a cluster of companies in the area - but look a little further and there are many more companies in the area working across a wide range of sub-sectors.

Greater Birmingham is home to over 7,500 tech firms employing over 40,000 people. 25% of the UK's gaming workforce is based in Greater Birmingham.

Source: Business Birmingham

Our strengths:

Gaming   Animation   ICT services   Cyber security
Environmental technologies   FinTech

ICT services such as cloud services, software development and data support along with creative digital sub-sectors like gaming, animation, virtual reality and digital marketing are all growing areas.

As our commercial districts grow, people with ICT skills will be able to take advantage of new jobs on offer in sectors such as business, finance, IT, leisure and retail.

HS2 will be coming through our region and there are opportunities for people with digital skills including digital design, digital planning, data analytics and digital construction techniques.

Large and valued companies in the area include:

BT | **Virgin Media** | Purplebricks | **Asos** | SCC | **Codemasters** |BBC Guerilla Group | **Arden Group** | Advanced | **Inspired Gaming** | Talis | **Superdream** | Falanx | **Whisk** | Core Gaming | **Click Travel** | Just Say Please | **Mortgage Brain** | Packt | **cloudThing** | Rimilia | **IO Studios** | Enigma Digital | **Character Shop** | Yamination | **The Ticket Factory** | Park IT Solutions | **cloudThing** | BrightTarget

Finding out more

www.creativeskillset.org

www.creative-choices.co.uk

www.bubble-jobs.co.uk

www.thetechpartnership.com/tech-future-careers

www.techfuturegirls.com

www.ada.ac.uk

https://siliconcanal.co.uk

http://careers.hs2.org.uk

Getting in

There are many routes into a digital or tech role but some skills are more in demand than others so it's worth doing some research, especially if you're considering a degree. Check out which courses or apprenticeships local colleges and universities offer and search for employer apprenticeship vacancies on www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk.

The government has introduced a range of new qualifications to help address skills shortages and these include digital and cyber security apprenticeships (including degree apprenticeships) and T-levels (technical level qualifications) are due to be phased in from 2019.

95% of UK games companies are small to medium businesses with the majority employing fewer than five people – rather than relying on traditional recruitment methods, building up experience and making useful contacts could go a long way.

Types of apprenticeships include:

social media and creative content, digital marketing, cyberspace communications specialist, software tester, cyber intrusion analyst, data analyst, infrastructure technician, video games quality assurance, software support, service technician, telecoms and IT engineer