

How to get into the Information Technology Industry

Choosing GCSEs

- Maths grade B may be a prerequisite for some course/employment options
- English Language is required
- ICT may be required but not essential

Achieving GCSEs or equivalent, the next step, choosing Level 3 Routes

- A Levels – any subjects but Maths is a preferred
- BTEC Diploma (1.5 A Levels) in a range of subjects including: Broad based IT, Games Development, Creative Media Production, Software Development, Networking and IT Infrastructure
- BTEC Extended Diploma (3 A Levels) subjects as above
- OCR Level 2 diploma in IT

Access route for those who have been out of full-time education for a minimum of 2 years

- Access Diploma in specialist subjects such as Maths and Computing; Computing, Business and Multimedia

Post 'A' Levels and other Level 3 Qualifications

- Full Time Degree in IT related subject
- Part Time Degree Course in IT Related subject
- Foundation degree/HND in IT related subject
- Higher Level Apprenticeship in IT subject
- Level 3 apprenticeship
- Employer sponsored Degrees and Employment Programmes

Post Degree

- Graduate employment from IT and non IT related Degrees
- Master's conversion course in IT subject
- Master's degree in an IT related subject
- IT related Academy
- Graduate Traineeship
- Professional qualifications at an FE College



Some specific examples of note include:

Higher Level Apprenticeships

Higher Level Apprenticeships allow people to gain a Foundation Degree programme while at the same time being employed by a company. They spend one day at College and get paid to work in the company for the other four days working in a company. This programme allows students to start their career without the student debt associated with this Foundation Degree. They are advertised by companies wishing to recruit an apprentice and the employers apply for a place on the course for the Foundation Degree.

Academies

Another option for graduates of any subject is Academies. Further education Colleges in conjunction with the Department for the Economy and Invest Northern Ireland have, since August 2013, successfully delivered over 30 Academies under the Assured Skills Programme. This award winning suite of programmes provides an unskilled workforce within Northern Ireland which facilitates new inward investors, and provides existing employers with the human resource to enable business expansion and growth. Topics covered have included Cyber Security, Data Analytics, Power BI, Software Development and Software Testing.



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Career Opportunities in Information Technology

Parents and Carers Guide

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What can they expect to earn in this industry:

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61%
Higher than average Northern Ireland salary

£40,519
Average salary for a programmer

£24,601
Average salary in Northern Ireland

32%
Sector Grown by in last 5 years and plans to grow at the same rate

Reasons for a young person to consider a career in IT

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Highly attractive salaries and conditions



An unprecedented range of employment opportunities both within and outside N Ireland



Excellent career progression opportunities



The IT sector is forecast to grow considerably in the next 5 -10 years and beyond



A wide range of pathways to access a career in IT currently available including fully funded Higher Level Apprenticeships



A fast paced and exciting environment which offers experience of a range of industries and markets



A realistic opportunity for your son/daughter to put their skills and qualifications to use as part of a dynamic global industry

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