

# Computer Science

## **Overview**

There is a high demand of good IT skills in the UK, and so there are lots of opportunities for computer science graduates and graduates from any degree discipline to learn on the job in some of the best paid roles in the graduate market.

While there will always be some roles which require prior coding knowledge or other technical skills, there are many others that are open to newcomers, from IT Consultancy (e.g. IBM), to software development roles which look for potential rather than prior skill (e.g. Softwire), including those that don’t specify a degree grade (e.g. FDM), to large organisations with both technical, sales and business streams (e.g. Microsoft).

Reading is well-located for all things technical. There are many IT firms with bases in the Thames Valley, including (just in Reading) Fujitsu, Microsoft, Oracle, Sage, Cisco and Virgin, all of which have graduate schemes. We’re also just a train journey away from London, which boasts ‘[Silicon Roundabout](https://siliconroundabout.tech/)’ – the tech start-up hub around Old Street.

## **Roles**

Each job title links through to a broad job description, salary and conditions, entry requirements, typical recruiters, and links to further useful information.

Here are some examples of roles that are relevant to this field of study. Some of them may require further training, specialisation, work experience or a portfolio. [GitHub](https://github.com/).com may be an invaluable resource when applying for some roles.

* [Application analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/application-analyst)
* [Applications developer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/applications-developer)
* [Cyber security analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/cyber-security-analyst)
* [Data analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/data-analyst)
* [Forensic computer analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/forensic-computer-analyst)
* [Game designer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/game-designer)
* [Game developer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/game-developer)
* [Information systems manager](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/information-systems-manager)
* [IT consultant](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/it-consultant)
* [Machine learning (AI) engineer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/machine-learning-engineer)
* [Multimedia programmer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/multimedia-programmer)
* [Software engineer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/software-engineer)
* [Systems analyst](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/systems-analyst)
* [UX designer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/ux-designer)
* [Web designer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-designer)
* [Web developer](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/web-developer)

You can view additional job roles by using the [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/computer-science) and [Indeed.com](https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/jobs-with-computer-science-degree) websites.

## **Building Experience**

During your time studying Computer Science at Reading, you will have the opportunity to gain many relevant technical and teamwork skills and will be able to showcase these skills in class projects. By undertaking summer and a professional year placement you will be able to demonstrate to future employers that you are able to apply these skills to live projects in the business world.

* Build work experience for example through [Campus Jobs](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Campus-Jobs) or [securing an internship](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/)
* Find volunteering opportunities for STEM such as [stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors](https://www.stem.org.uk/stem-ambassadors)
* Apply for a paid research internship [UROP](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/UROP) (penultimate year students only)
* Apply for the [Reading Internship Scheme](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Gaining-experience/RIS) – these are paid summer opportunities with local employers which are exclusive to UoR students. These opportunities, and many others are advertised on [My Jobs Online](https://reading.targetconnect.net/home.html)
* Get a [Thrive mentor](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/Mentoring/THRIVE) and build a relationship with a professional (penultimate year students only)
* Get involved in a society: look at the full list of [societies](https://readingsu.co.uk/student-opportunities/societies) for one aligned to your interests
* If you are thinking about teaching as a possible career, you could consider volunteering for the University’s [Students in Schools](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Opportunities/Volunteering/Students-in-Schools) scheme
* Try out the [Cyber Security Challenge UK](https://www.cybersecuritychallenge.org.uk/).

## **Finding Opportunities**

### IT and Developer Jobs

[Stack Overflow](https://stackoverflow.com/) | [Bubble Jobs](https://www.bubble-jobs.co.uk/) | [BCS Recruit](https://www.cwjobs.co.uk/jobs/computer-science) | [Techno Jobs](https://www.technojobs.co.uk/)

### Computer Gaming Industry

[Games Industry](https://www.gamesindustry.biz/) | [Game Developer](https://www.gamedeveloper.com/)

### Recruitment Fairs for the Industry

[Silicon Milk Roundabout](https://www.siliconmilkroundabout.com/)

### STEM

[WISE Women into Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths](https://www.wisecampaign.org.uk/) (wisecampaign.org.uk)

### Further Study/Research

[University of Reading](https://www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/postgraduate-study.aspx) | [Find a Masters](https://www.findamasters.com/) | [Find a PhD](https://www.findaphd.com/) | [codeacademy](https://www.codecademy.com/).com

### Graduate Jobs

[prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/).ac.uk | [targetjobs](https://targetjobs.co.uk/).co.uk | [milkround](https://www.milkround.com/).com | [ratemyplacement](https://www.ratemyplacement.co.uk/).co.uk | [gradcracker](https://www.gradcracker.com/search/civil-building/environment-and-sustainability-jobs).com | [itgraduatejobs](https://www.itgraduatejobs.com/).com

## **Exploring Further**

The skills and knowledge you’ve developed in your degree will be invaluable in a wide range of roles and sectors, from finance, management consultancies, game companies and start-ups. If you’re thinking of looking further afield but aren’t sure where to start, why not [book an appointment](https://www.reading.ac.uk/essentials/Careers/Advice-and-development/MyJobsOnline) with one of our Careers Consultants? Remember, graduates can use the Careers Centre for up to two years after they graduate.

Explore our [Careers Blog](https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/careers/) for more industry guidance and useful careers advice!