

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](#)' – the tech start-up hub around Old Street.

Roles

Here are some examples of roles that are relevant to this field of study. Some of them may require further training or specialisation and work experience and a portfolio for example, on [GitHub.com](#) may be invaluable for some roles. The following profiles are available on Prospects ([www.prospects.ac.uk](#)).

- [Applications analyst](#)
- [Applications developer](#)
- [Cyber security analyst](#)
- [Data analyst](#)
- [Forensic computer analyst](#)
- [Game designer](#)
- [Games developer](#)
- [Information systems manager](#)
- [IT consultant](#)
- [Machine learning \(AI\) engineer](#)
- [Multimedia programmer](#)
- [Software engineer](#)
- [Systems analyst](#)
- [UX designer](#)
- [Web designer](#)
- [Web developer](#)

Finding Opportunities

- [targetjobs.co.uk](#) (a national graduate careers website with advice and vacancies)
- [Gradcracker.com](#) (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths grad roles and placements)
- [codeacademy.com](#) (free 'learn to code' site)

- stackoverflow.com (jobs for developers on one of the biggest forum sites for the community)
- bubble-jobs.co.uk (job board for all things digital, particularly focused on advertising and marketing)
- [BCS Recruit](https://www.bcsrecruit.com) (job site from the IT professional association)
- technojobs.co.uk (very large IT job site)
- itgraduatejobs.com (linked to Techno Jobs but focused on graduate opportunities)
- gamesindustry.biz (news and jobs for the computer gaming industry)
- gamasutra.com (news and jobs for the computer gaming industry)
- siliconmilkroundabout.com (recruitment fair for the tech sector in London, focused on start ups)
- [WISE Women into Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths \(wisecampaign.org.uk\)](https://www.wisecampaign.org.uk) (events, talks and career opportunities for women into this sector).

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 into live projects in the business world. Other ways to build relevant experience include:

- Student Society – [R.U.Hacking?](https://www.r.u.hacking.com)
- Summer research placements scheme for second years - [UROP](https://www.urop.ac.uk)
- [Cyber Security Challenge UK](https://www.cscw.challenge.com)

Exploring Further

The skills and knowledge you're developing 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 not sure where to start, why not visit the Explore pages of our website or book an appointment with one of our careers consultants?



