
Finding Experience in the IT/Computing Sector

The IT/Computing industry is buoyant and offers a wealth of work experience opportunities. However positions are still applied for in great numbers so be prepared for a competitive application process. Work experience can be paid or unpaid, undertaken during holidays, through a placement year or degree module, or as temporary employment alongside studies. But through whatever mode of work experience you undertake, you will be achieving a greater sense of what interests you and making yourself more employable.

Below are some suggestions for finding work experience in the IT/Computing sector. However please be aware that for some of these experiences a cost may be involved - particularly those overseas. Please check the website information closely for details. In addition, please view the preliminary links which detail everything you need to know about work experience, including essential advice on 'know your rights' and the national minimum wage:

General Advice:

- www.allaboutcareers.com/careers-advice/internships
- www.prospects.ac.uk/work_experience.htm
- www.targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/engineering/282911-engineering-work-experience-a-beginners-guide
- www.targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/engineering
- www.allaboutcareers.com/articles/post/engineering/engineering-work-experience.htm
- www.contractoruk.com/first_timers/graduate_guide_contracting.html

Job Boards:

- www.port.ac.uk/purpledoor - View Purple Door Jobs Board to search the latest vacancies, save job searches and set up job alerts.
- www.gothinkbig.co.uk/opportunities - An online digital hub to bring students/graduates information on work experience opportunities.
- www.gradcracker.com/work-placements - Opportunities listed through the Gradcracker website.
- www.ratemyplacement.co.uk - Details latest student work placement & internship opportunities.
- www.insidecareers.co.uk - A site listing internship, placement and work experience opportunities.
- www.enginterns.com - Technical internships, placements, and work experience opportunities with companies throughout the UK.
- www.thebigchoice.com - Links to lots of internships & placements in the UK.
- www.studentladder.co.uk - Information on over 2500 work placements & internships for 16-24 year old students.
- <http://jobs.theguardian.com/searchjobs> - A site listing internship, placement, and work experience opportunities.
- www.internavenue.com - An intern directory listing paid internships.
- www.milkround.com - A graduate career resource with 100's of internships and placements.
- www.workcircle.co.uk/jobs/internship - A job search engine detailing jobs from job boards, agencies and employers across the United Kingdom.
- <http://targetjobs.co.uk/work-experience> - Opportunities listed through Targetjobs website.
- http://graduatetalentpool.direct.gov.uk/cms/ShowPage/Home_page/p!ecaaefg - A site connecting graduates to businesses through internships.

- www.inspiringinterns.com/Computing-&IT-internships - A site focussed on helping students and graduates find great internships that offer fantastic experience and lead to permanent jobs.
- www.e4s.co.uk/jobs/3-internships-jobs-in-portsmouth.htm - A facility for students to find term time and holiday jobs.
- www.glassdoor.com/Job/computing-it-jobs-SRCH_KO0,12.htm - A job database of 6 million company reviews, job opportunities, CEO approval ratings & much more.

Companies:

- <http://financialsystems.sungard.com/careers/uk-student-centre> - Sungard Financial Systems: A provider of software and IT to the financial services industry.
- <http://graduates.teachfirst.org.uk/index.html> - Teach First Insight Programme: A two week work experience programme aimed at gaining first-hand experience of what it's like to teach a STEM subject.
- www.mottmac.com/careers/graduate - Mott Macdonald: A global management, engineering and development consultancy.
- www.centrica.com/index.asp?pageid=15 - Centrica: Specialists in sourcing, generating, processing, storing, trading, supplying, servicing and saving energy.
- www.bmtdsl.co.uk/careers - BMT Defence Services: A delegated Naval Authority which supports many UK and international naval and land platform programmes.
- www.te.com/en/about-te/careers.html - TE Connectivity: A technology leader helping industries connect with power, data and signal.
- <https://graduates.bnpparibas.com> - BNP Baribas: A leading European investment bank.
- www.imgtec.com/graduates/uk - Imagination Technologies: A technology manufacturer.
- www8.hp.com/uk/en/campaign/graduate/index.html - HP: A multi-faceted technology company.
- www.sparx.co.uk/careers - Sparx: An organisation which explores ways in which technology can be created and adapted to optimise learning.
- www.nationalgridcareers.com/Development-Opportunities - National Grid: An international electricity and gas company which connects people to the energy they use.
- www.fordgradrecruitment.com/graduates2014/default.aspx - Ford: A global automotive industry leader.
- <http://careers.gl-nobledenton.com/graduate-industrial> - DNV GL: A global independent provider of technical services and software to the oil and gas industry.

Overseas:

- www.port.ac.uk/careersandrecruitment/jobsworkexperience/workingoutsidetheuk - A resource providing links to information on employment opportunities outside the UK.
- www.internoptions.com/it-computing-internship - A site focusing solely on internship opportunities in Australia.
- www.internships.com/it - A platform detailing internship opportunities in the USA.
- <http://computeroxy.com> - An academic search firm specialising in contacting and assisting in the recruitment of Technology professors, researchers and academic managers worldwide.
- www.placement-uk.com/ops/jobs.php - A site dedicated to European placement & internship opportunities.
- www.crcasia.com/internship-sectors/it - CCRC is a provider of internships in Asia.
- www.gointernabroad.com/career-fields/information-technology-and-computer-science-internships - A site dedicated to international internships.
- www.tsuprofessionals.com/singapore-internship-3-months/sectors/it-computer-science - TSU Professionals is a provider of 12-24 week internships in Singapore.
- http://internships.globalchoices.co.uk/?type_id=4 - Global Choices is a provider of international internships & work experience opportunities.
- www.fsdinternational.org/about/mission - Foundation for Sustainable Development (FSD) is a provider of 9-52 week internships for young professionals looking to gain international development experience and training.

- www.westinghousenuclear.com/careers/internships_and_co-ops.htm - A U.S. based electric company specialising in nuclear innovation & technology and a provider of many international internships.
- www.epo.org/about-us/jobs/vacancies/internships/science-engineering.html - European Patent Organisation offer a limited number of three to six month internships in France & Germany.
- www.studentjob.co.uk - A site dedicated to international internships.
- www.placementindia.com/placement-resources/overseas-placement.htm - A portal to placement opportunities in India.
- www.vso.org.uk - An independent international development organisation providing volunteering opportunities abroad.

Finding experience in the IT/Computing industry will take time and effort; employers receive many CV's every week so you will have to work hard to stand out from the crowd. The key to success is to prepare thoroughly, do your research and organise your experience in good time. Think about small and medium size companies as well as large commercial organisations.

Speak to your tutor or other members of faculty staff researching in the areas that interest you. Students are sometimes recruited to work on research projects over the summer. Be proactive and make direct contact with organisations that interest you. Check their websites for information about vacancies and schemes.

Additional Support from Purple Door:

Need help with CV, covering letter or application form writing for your work experience opportunity? Not sure on what work experience role or route is best to take? Need help in preparing for an interview, assessment centre or aptitude test? Please drop-in to Purple Door any time during our opening hours to get further advice and support or feedback on your draft CV, covering letter and/or application form. For information on the full service we offer, please visit: www.port.ac.uk/purpledoor

If the range of advertised work experience opportunities are not right for you it is worth considering creating your own work experience opportunity through speculative approaches to organisations. For further information on how to approach and apply to organisations speculatively, please view our 'Guide to Speculative Applications' which is available from Purple Door or on our website at: www.port.ac.uk/careersandrecruitment/careersadvice/downloadzone

For further IT/Computing work experience opportunities, please view Purple Door's 'knowledgebanks'. Each 'knowledgebank' is dedicated to a specific career and/or area of work along with information on career options, training, funding, jobs, employers, news and much more:

www.diigo.com/list/uopcareersin/computingandit
www.diigo.com/list/uopcareersin/creativetechnologies

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