

Thinking of a career in information technology

Information technology — IT — is a fast moving industry that plays a part in all our lives, whether it's emailing your mates or looking for a job! Most people will use IT no matter what industry they work in, but there are jobs where you can specialise in IT, doing things like developing computer programs, building IT systems, setting up computer networks and fixing problems.



connexions

LEICESTER SHIRE

and national

Numbers employed

is expected to grow at 2.5% every year and there will be a significant increase in IT and management roles. Over 140,000 new staff are expected to be employed in the industry.

Over 77,000 people work in IT or related industries

trends

1 in 20 employed people work in IT or the related industries

5% of IT staff in the UK work in Leicestershire

In Leicester and Leicestershire, 1 in 10 employed people work in IT or related industries

Although women make up 40% of the IT workforce, only 18% of IT professionals are women

Routes in and up

Qualifications		Examples	Jobs	Pay
Masters degree PGCE	Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate	MSc computer networks Postgraduate Diploma software development	Applications developer Games designer Web developer ICT manager Server engineer Systems developer	£20,000 to £45,000 a year
Degree		BA (Hons) information technology		
Foundation degree HNC HND	NVQ level 4 NVQ level 5 Diploma or Certificate of Higher Education	HNC computing Foundation degree games and interactive technologies		
A levels BTEC National Progression or Advanced Diploma	NVQ level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship City and Guilds level 3	A level computing BTEC National Diploma for IT practitioners	ICT technician Service technician	£14,000 to £23,000 a year
GCSEs at grades A* to C BTEC First City and Guilds level 2	Higher Diploma NVQ level 2 Apprenticeship	Higher Diploma in Information Technology Apprenticeship in IT	IT operator Helpdesk operator	£9,000 to £14,000 a year
GCSEs at grades D to G BTEC Introductory	NVQ level 1 Foundation Diploma	BTEC Introductory Certificate for IT @ work	Data input operator	

Vacancies recently advertised in Leicestershire

<p>Apprentice</p> <p>needed for a data management company in Coalville</p> <p>£30,000 a year</p>	<p>IT sales manager</p> <p>needed for a data management company in Coalville</p> <p>£30,000 a year</p>	<p>ICT technician</p> <p>needed for a school in Market Harborough</p> <p>£18,000 a year</p>	<p>Database administrator</p> <p>needed for a logistics company in Loughborough</p> <p>£24,000 a year</p>	<p>Server support engineer</p> <p>needed for IT solutions company in Hinckley</p> <p>up to £35,000 a year</p>
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Lisa's story...



Lisa is 21 and works as a web developer for a financial services company in Leicestershire. She is part of a team who design and maintain the company's website. On a day to day basis, her job involves using software to design new pages and liaising with other members of the team to make sure that the website is up to date and easy for customers to use. She always has to make sure that she's up to speed with the latest technology by going on various training courses and conferences. At the moment she earns £21,000 a year.

Lisa left school with eight GCSEs at grades B to D, including maths at grade C, art at grade B and ICT at grade B. She has always enjoyed combining her favourite subjects. After leaving school she went to a further education college to do a BTEC National Diploma in IT and completed optional units in web design. She then stayed at the college to complete a Foundation degree in web design and multimedia.

What next...

Lisa hopes to progress to senior web developer, where she can earn up to £35,000 a year. She would also like to top up her Foundation degree to a honours degree through part time study. This will give her even more options to progress in the company or move to another company.

Employer profile

Badagry Computing Ltd is an IT company based in Coalville, Leicestershire. They offer IT services to other small and medium sized businesses. These services can be supplying computers, setting up networks and fixing problems. This is done by their engineers, who also promote the services to potential customers.

The company provide ongoing training to make sure their staff are up to date with the latest technologies and IT systems. When recruiting new staff, they look for someone with qualifications in English and maths, which are important in any job and, ideally, an IT qualification.

Looking for...

Courses

CourseFinder is the main place to go to find information on local courses and other learning opportunities for 14-19 year olds. Log on to it at www.coursefinder-leics.org

Jobs and Apprenticeships

- Check out www.connexions-leics.org/opportunities or call into your local Connexions centre.
- Check out the Leicester Mercury every Wednesday or other local papers.
- Find addresses of IT companies and send them your CV with an accompanying letter or email.
- Ask around friends and relatives about vacancies where they work.
- Contact your school work experience employer to ask about vacancies.
- Go to www.apprenticeships.org.uk to register with the National Apprenticeship Service.

Quiz

1 Approximately how many people work in IT or related sectors in Leicestershire?

A 5,000 B 10,000 C 77,000

2 Which of the following is not a job in IT?

A ICT technician B software programmer C civil engineer

3 What GCSE grades did Lisa leave school with?

A grades D to G B grades B to D C grades A* to C

4 How many new staff will be needed to work in IT every year across the UK?

A 10,000 B 70,000 C 140,000

5 Which of the following is a level 3 qualification?

A Advanced Diploma B GCSE grades A* to C C HNC

Checklist



I need to:

-  Visit www.coursefinder-leics.org to find out about information on courses, apprenticeships and other training opportunities in and around Leicester and Leicestershire.
-  Visit www.connexions-leics.org/work/ to find out more on jobs and training.
-  Check out www.connexions-leics.org/opportunities or call into my local Connexions centre for job and training vacancies.
-  Research different careers using www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u
-  Use the 'Routes in and up' grid to see what the different routes are to a dream job! Different qualifications are taught using different learning styles, so I need to decide what suits me best.
-  Use **Kudos** – a career matching software program – to find out what jobs my skills and interests are best suited to. Kudos may be available in my school, college or training provider. It is also available in all Connexions centres.
-  Speak to my Connexions adviser for advice about my options and where I can find more information.



Useful websites

- ➔ www.connexions-leics.org - useful information about careers, courses, qualifications, work and training.
- ➔ www.apprenticeships.org.uk - everything you need to know about becoming an apprentice.
- ➔ www.connexions-direct.com/jobs4u - a database of information about hundreds of jobs.
- ➔ www.coursefinder-leics.org - search for courses, qualifications and training opportunities for 14-19 year olds in Leicester and Leicestershire.
- ➔ www.e-skills.com/careers - information from the Sector Skills Council about the IT and telecoms sector.
- ➔ www.bigambition.co.uk - an interactive website from e-skills where you can explore careers in technology.

Where we are...

Leicester

91 Charles Street,
Leicester LE1 1HL
Phone: 0116 262 7254

Coalville

5 Hotel Street,
Coalville LE67 3EQ
Phone: 01530 812231

Hinckley

51 Castle Street,
Hinckley LE10 1DA
Phone: 01455 632719

Loughborough

7 Fennel Street,
Loughborough LE11 1UQ
Phone: 01509 214002

Market Harborough

2 St Mary's Road
Market Harborough LE16 7DU
Phone: 01858 462309

Melton Mowbray

22a Burton Street
Melton Mowbray LE13 1AF
Phone: 01664 569966

South Wigston

50E Blaby Road, South Wigston,
Leicester LE18 4SD
Phone: 0116 277 8090

Connexions how we can help you and where you can find us

Connexions Leicester Shire can give you information, advice and practical support with careers, education, training and jobs to help you make the right choices, fulfil your potential and have a better life and future. Find your Connexions adviser in school, college or at your local Connexions centre.

Visit us at
www.connexions-leics.org

Alternative Formats

For a version of this brochure in large print, on audio, in Braille or in another language, call **0116 261 5923**.

All publications are also available on our website at
www.connexions-leics.org

