

Careers Information

Information for entry-level positions within the sector

This section provides support for learners on the scope and structure of the digital sector. The UK digital sector is a dynamic and ever-evolving field, offering a wide variety of opportunities for those seeking an entry level position.

It is essential to build a strong foundation in relevant digital skills. This may include learning programming languages such as Python, JavaScript, or HTML/CSS, gain an understanding of databases, and become familiar with basic networking concepts. Numerous free and paid online resources, such as courses from FutureLearn, OpenLearn, Cisco and the National Careers Service, can help to develop these skills.

Practical experience is highly valued by employers within the digital sector. Learners could consider building a portfolio of personal projects, contributing to open-source software, or undertaking internships and work experience placements. Hackathons and coding bootcamps are valuable avenues for developing and showcasing abilities.

Tailoring a CV and cover letter to each application is vital. Highlight relevant skills, experiences, and projects that align with the requirements of the role. Learners should familiarise themselves with the most common entry level job titles, such as Junior Developer, IT Technician, or Digital Marketing Assistant. Consider applying for graduate schemes, apprenticeships, and trainee roles, which are designed specifically to help individuals start their careers in the digital sector.

The digital landscape changes rapidly, and ongoing professional development is key to maintaining a competitive edge. Learners should endeavour to be curious, adapt to new technologies, and remain open to various pathways, including contract and freelance work, which can sometimes lead to permanent positions.

Teaching Ideas

1. **Digital landscape overview:** Begin with an introductory presentation outlining the current digital landscape, using real-world examples of cyber incidents to demonstrate their impact on organisations, individuals and society.
2. **Cyber incident case studies:** Use case studies or recent news articles on cyberattacks to illustrate the importance of cybersecurity roles and the consequences of security failures across different sectors.
3. **Industry guest speaker session:** Invite a digital professional to share insights into their career pathway, daily responsibilities and current industry challenges, helping contextualise learning within real workplace practice.
4. **Career pathways research activity:** Facilitate an activity where learners research potential career routes in the digital sector, including required qualifications, expected experience and progression opportunities. Learners can analyse job descriptions to distinguish between essential and desirable knowledge and skills.