

A PUPIL'S GUIDE

TO A CAREER IN

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

START HERE GO ANYWHERE

WITH AYRSHIRE COLLEGE

**Read on to find out how to get a head
start in your career while still at school**

WHY CHOOSE A CAREER IN SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT?

A career in I.T. has many benefits:

- Skills in computing are highly desirable
- The average digital technologies wage is well above the national average
- 11,500 of new digital technologies jobs in Scotland predicted each year until 2020

If you have an interest in design and maths, and enjoy problem-solving and how things work, a career in I.T. could be for you. For more information on why you should consider a career in this industry visit www.digitalworld.net

HOW DO I STUDY COMPUTING WHILE STILL AT SCHOOL?



You can complete a Foundation Apprenticeship in Software Development as one of your subject choices while still at school. Transport to and from college/employer will be organised and paid for.

The duration of the course is 2 years, starting in S5 and finishing at the end of S6.

- Year 1: Tuesday and Thursday 2-4pm in college (Ayr Campus)
- Year 2: Work placement for 6 hours per week, preferably over 1 full day, plus portfolio work in college either a Tuesday or Thursday from 2-4pm.

WHY DO IT?

- STEP INTO A GROWING AND EXCITING INDUSTRY THAT NEEDS SKILLED PEOPLE
- GAIN A NATIONAL QUALIFICATION RECOGNISED BY EMPLOYERS
- WORK WITH AN EMPLOYER TO GAIN VALUABLE WORK EXPERIENCE
- CREATE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER
- THE EXPERIENCE YOU GAIN WILL MAKE SURE YOUR CV, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY APPLICATION AND JOB APPLICATION STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD
- YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN DESIGN AND MATHS, AND CAN THINK ANALYTICALLY
- YOU LIKE TO FIND OUT HOW THINGS WORK AND ARE GOOD AT PROBLEM-SOLVING

COURSE CONTENT

The Foundation Apprenticeship is designed to provide you with software design and programming skills to write and maintain computer applications. You will create websites and successfully define customer requirements taking them from initiation to final product.

The course is set at the same level as a Higher. During the first year of your course you will study the following units that make up a National Progression Award (NPA) in Software Development:

- Computing: Application Development
- Computing: Authoring a Website
- Software Design and Development

During the second year of your course you will complete the following units in your work placement:

- Personal Effectiveness 2
- Health and Safety in IT and Telecoms
- Event Driven Programming or Procedural Programming 2 or Object-Orientated Programming
- Investigating and Defining Customer Requirements for IT and Telecoms Systems

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You should have or be working towards National 5 qualifications during S5, including either National 5 Maths or Computing. Your guidance teacher should also think you are capable of working at SCQF Level 6, the same level as a Higher qualification.

HOW TO APPLY

If you're interested speak to your Guidance Teacher or your school Careers Adviser in the first instance. Alternatively, if you'd like to speak to someone at Ayrshire College please contact Kirsty Taylor on **01294 559000 ext. 5387** or kirsty.taylor@ayrshire.ac.uk

INTERVIEW

Successful applicants will be interviewed by college staff along with an aptitude test.

If you are offered a place on the course you will be asked to provide a reference from your guidance teacher confirming you are capable of working towards Level 6 (Higher).

NEED TO KNOW MORE?

For further information and frequently asked questions visit: www1.ayrshire.ac.uk/schools/foundation-apprenticeships



PROGRESSION

Once you have completed the Foundation Apprenticeship in Information Technology (Software Development), you will have a solid basis for progression to a Modern Apprenticeship in IT and Telecommunications, or an HNC/HND college course in Software Development.

Foundation Apprenticeships are currently accepted as entry requirements for courses at several universities. If you are considering progressing to university visit Skills Development Scotland's website: www.apprenticeships.scot for more information.

Ayrshire College



Microtech Digital are delighted to be working in partnership with Ayrshire College and the Foundation Apprenticeships programme. As a local company, it is important that we are committed to ensuring our young people have the opportunity to gain essential work experience that will help them kick-start their career. This is an exciting and valuable opportunity for young people in our communities.



- Chris McMail, Managing Director of
Microtech Group

