

T Level Digital Software Development

Course Overview

Created with leading digital producers, designers and developers, the digital T level in digital production, design and development prepares you for an exciting future in computing, web development and coding. The strong transferable core digital skills you develop with nurturing tutors accompany you onto the digital world stage. You spend 80% of your T level in blended-learning classrooms, loading your toolbox with skills, knowledge and experience that appeal to digital employers and exciting workplaces as well as higher education. For the remaining 20% of your time, you launch into a 45-day industry placement to tackle an employer-set project and get hands-on experience in a real-life setting. We work together to find a placement that plays to your strengths and empowers you to focus on digital production, design and development that most appeals to you. If you are not quite ready for a T level then a transition programme could be for you. This will allow you to improve your maths and English (and any other subjects and areas that you need to improve) to move on to a T level the following year. For more information about these courses, please visit our T levels course page on our website. If you are aged 16 to 18, you will be enrolled on a study programme. You will take part in activities that help you to develop your skills, such as building your character and confidence. This will help you to live well and move into your chosen career.

What you will learn

Year one is your moment to develop your core knowledge and get to grips with key digital-industry concepts, theories and principles. You leap into fascinating data and digital analysis, discover digital environments, understand testing and build your digital toolkit, with learning will take place in classrooms, bespoke labs and workshops, and online. To support your digital future, you get a grounding in diversity and inclusion, learning and legislation, planning and security. This solid foundation gives you the confidence to face whatever the digital world throws at you and launch into a successful, diverse career. With nurturing expert tutors, you also explore the business environment. You get to understand what good customer service looks like, see the value of digital in business and learn how organisations respond to change. Change is something you discuss as you consider the ethical and moral issues raised by an increasing reliance on technology and how it affects society and culture. In year two, all the theories and classroom learning of year one find real-life context as you start your hands-on industry placement. Your focus moves to the key concepts of digital production, design and development as your employer-set project takes centre stage. You work as part of a production, design and/or development team to get a feel for working life in the digital industry. Supporting your digital journey, we integrate English, maths and relevant digital skills into the course.

In Year 2 of the T Level Digital Production, Design and Development, students take on the role of a junior developer by building the backend of a website. This includes running a web server and using a MySQL database to store and manage data, while developing server-side functionality to handle user requests. Students plan and design their system from a given scenario, create APIs, implement features such as user authentication, and ensure everything works correctly through testing and debugging. Alongside coding, they are assessed on their planning, documentation, and evaluation skills, reflecting real-world software development practices. In addition, any remaining industry placement hours are completed, giving you valuable experience working in a real business environment and applying their technical skills in practice.

Entry Requirements

T levels are only for students who will be 16-18 on 31 August of the year they start the course.
Direct entry requires GCSE maths and English at grade 4 or above - 5s in English and maths preferred .and three other GCSEs at grade 5 or above. It would be beneficial if one of these was in a computing subject.
Attending our mandatory Welcome Event is a required part of the application process.

Course Fees

Trip fees will be payable throughout the year as and when trips are organised.

Course Progression

Your digital T level in digital production, design and development is the equivalent of 3 A levels. With it, you can either progress to a higher-level apprenticeship or degree or you're in a good place to start a career in software production and design. You might want to be a: 1. Programmer 2. Web developer 3. IT business analyst 4. App developer 5. Digital marketer.

What Happens Next

Apply online via the College website, or if your school uses the Positive Steps @16 (PS16) application system please apply through this and speak to your careers advisor if you are unsure. You will need details of your qualifications, a reference, and a personal statement to complete your application. Once your application has been successfully processed, you will be sent a conditional offer and be invited to a welcome event at the College to meet your tutors, learn more about your chosen course of study and tour the facilities. You will then need to confirm your acceptance of the course offered to you.

Course Details

Course Code	P00988
Start Date	07/09/2027
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	St Margaret's Campus
Level	3

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