

COMPUTING

Course Mode	Full-time
Location	Milnthorpe Road Campus (MRC)
Duration	2 Years
Level	3



Course Overview

Software, in all its designs and forms, makes its mark on every aspect of our lives - using the Internet; controlling our gadgets; playing the latest video games; special effects in TV shows and films. All of these programs and applications have been designed and created by qualified and experienced software developers, and there is continuing growth in the market for such people. The software industry produces over GBP160 billion for the UK economy and is the fastest growing sector right now.

Is this course right for me?

Do you have a passion for computing, such as designing and creating programs, using systems for processing images, or managing data with various software tools? Do you want to develop your knowledge of programming paradigms and system architectures? Do you want to work in a field of endless possibilities?

You will develop skills across a broad range of areas such as computational thinking, software development, computer architecture, project planning, IT security, relational database development, the impact of social media, digital graphics, animation and website development.

The course will explore aspects of computing such as the ethical issues linked to self-driving cars, the rules related to interface design, the stages of a software development lifecycle, as well as learning a variety of new programming languages and skills, such as Photoshop.

You can expect to take part in lively discussions about new technology and use technology such as the 3D printer, iPads and the graphics tablets. The department organises talks from employers and universities, for example, Pixel Junction has visited to

explain how to work to a client brief, and we visited Teesside University to learn more about Progressive Web Applications.

This course usually takes place over 3 days per week for two years. You will be studying for a Pearson BTEC 90 Credit Diploma in the first year and a Pearson BTEC Extended Diploma in the second year. The two-year course is equivalent to 3 A-Levels and is worth up to 168 UCAS points (Triple Distinction*).

All of our learners will be given support with their English and Maths skills where relevant to their main course. Those students who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 (or C) at GCSE in these subjects will continue to work towards these important qualifications at a level suited to them. However, students will still have to achieve the stated Entry Requirements before they start the course.

Assessment on the course is in a variety of forms, including externally set supervised assessments and on-screen examination, as well as portfolio-based assignment work.

Entry Requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 5 or above, including English & Maths.

If you have not studied GCSE Computing, or only have qualifications in IT, you would need to bring a sample of your own coding projects with you, for the interview.

NB: Enrolment on this course is dependent on meeting the Entry Requirements stated above.

After your course

There is a huge range of possible Degree-Level routes including programming, games design and business IT. Some learners prefer to gain employment in the IT industries in programming, networking or web design areas.

Fees

£3000.00

The fee displayed is the course fee. Course fees are per year for full-time & degree-level courses, and per course for part-time courses.

There may be other costs associated with this course e.g. kit, equipment, books, trips etc. Financial support may be available to support you with these. See the [Student Money](#) pages for more information.

Courses Fees

The current full-time & degree-level fee information is related to the 2021/22 academic year and is subject to change before the start of the course. Fees for 2022/23 will be updated in the Spring Term 2022. There may also be additional costs associated with the course.

Entry Level, Level 1 & Level 2 Courses

You may qualify for financial support to cover the cost of a government-funded qualification if any of the below apply to you:

- Receive an eligible means-tested benefit e.g. JSA, ESA or Universal Credit
- Have an annual salary of less than £17,374.50
- Were aged 16-18 on 31/08/21 and are not studying at another school/college
- Were aged 19 or over on 31/08/21 and do not already have a Level 1 or 2 qualification
- Have a household income under £25,000 and are in financial hardship

See the [Student Money](#) pages for more information.

Student Finance (Degree-Level Courses)

Whether you qualify for student finance depends on specific criteria. The main student finance package for full-time students includes a tuition fee loan and maintenance loan for living costs. Part-time students can access a tuition fee loan to pay for your course. Generally, you will only get student finance if you're doing your first degree-level qualification. This is true even if your previous course was self-funded. For further information please see www.gov.uk/student-finance.

The Access to Learning Fund is a non-repayable discretionary fund that gives students facing hardship extra financial support to access and remain in higher education. This can be accessed via the college. Please speak to [Student Services](#) for more information.