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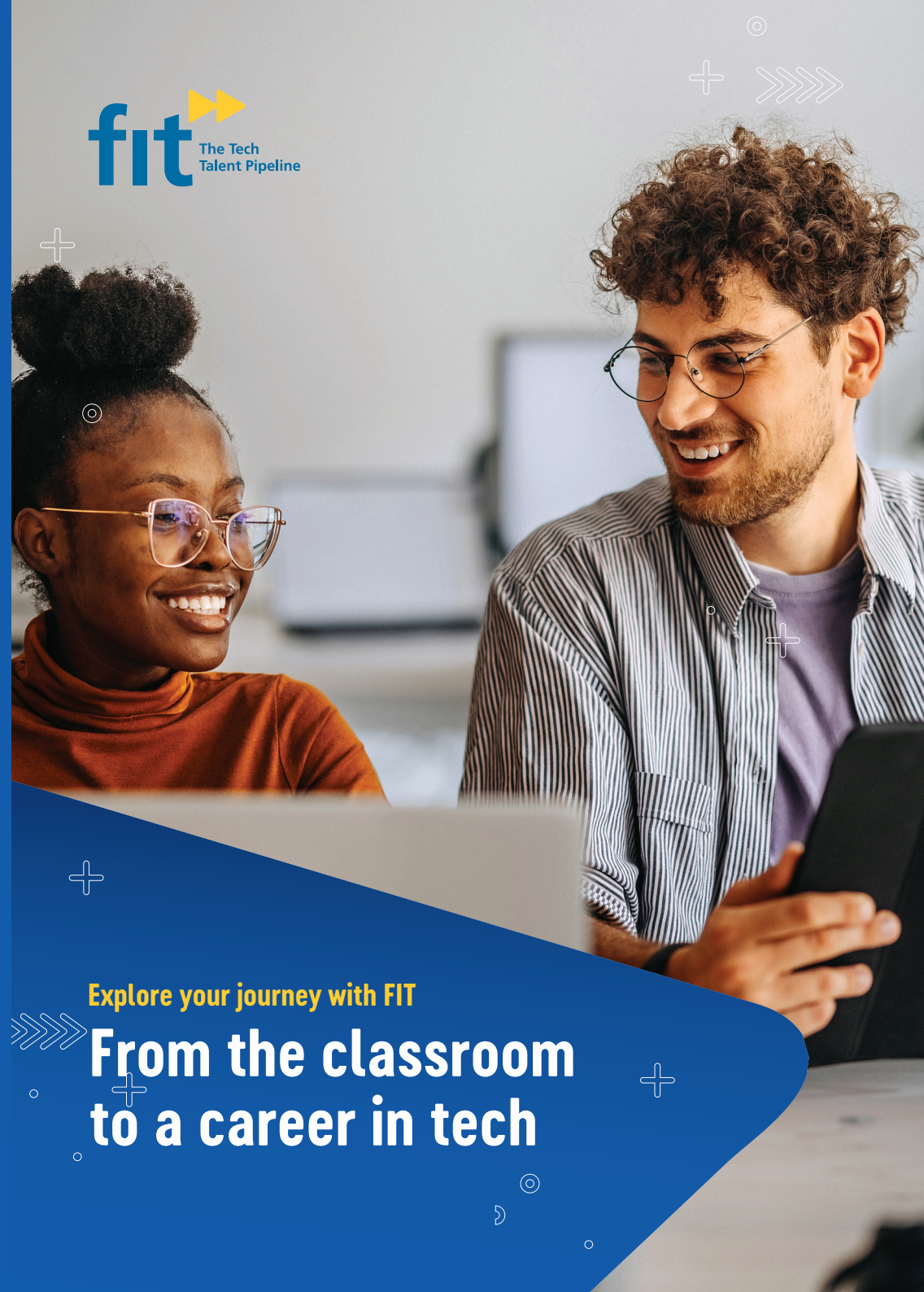
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Explore your journey with FIT

From the classroom to a career in tech



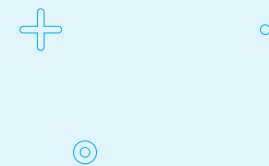
**Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I
remember. Involve me
and I learn.**

Benjamin Franklin



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Considering a career in tech?

Have you ever thought... how is AI created? how can a person build a plane or car? and how products can be mass produced so efficiently?

The answer is with technology!

In today's rapidly evolving world, technology is at the forefront and is constantly advancing by making work and task completion more effective and ultimately improving the quality and standard of our everyday lives. Technology supports Industry and humans everyday and it is not limited to just heavy machines or electronic gadgets or computer programs; it cuts across diverse fields of study and life processes, such as agriculture, medicine, healthcare, transportation, communication, energy, environmental, space exploration, AI, machine learning and lots more. The career paths in technology are diverse creating opportunity for everyone.

There are lots of different areas within technology from coding, web development to robotics and AI. If you are interested to learn more about technology and the career opportunities available to you, then FIT is here to help.



Why would you consider a career in tech?

Tech is an exciting, well-paid, and varied career which offers fantastic opportunities for travel, lifelong learning and has a positive impact on the world. From artificial intelligence, smartphones, the internet, digital media to virtual reality, IT touches every aspect of our lives.

What skillsets are needed for a Tech Career?

IT jobs come in many shapes and sizes and require the use of technical or soft skills. In some cases, some roles require the use of soft skills more than others.

Technical Skills are directly applicable to a task within a specific role or field e.g. understanding coding. **Soft Skills** are transferable across roles and contribute to a positive work environment.

Technical Skills v Softs Skills – both are important!

How do I learn these skills?

With a tech career it is important to keep developing your skillsets and this can be achieved through courses, research, and practical use.

You are also learning skills in everyday life and through the subjects you are being taught in school.



What skills am I learning in school that will help with a future career in tech?

Technical Skills Subjects

Business Studies

Tech professionals often work in business environments.

Mathematics

The ability to use mathematical concepts to solve problems and make decisions which will help with programming, data analysis and machine learning.

Computer Science

The ability to use computer software and hardware to design, develop, and test manufacturing processes.

Physics

Provides a bases for understanding how the physical world works and is important for fields like robotics, electronics, and game development.



Soft Skills Subjects

Problem-solving

The ability to identify problems, analyse them, and develop solutions to solve them.

Related subjects: mathematics, science, and computer science

Critical thinking

Analyse information, evaluate it, and make decisions based on it.

Related subjects: philosophy, physics, literature, and history

Communication

How we share and receive information. It is an essential skill for any career, including technology.

Related subjects: English, writing, team sports, drama & public speaking

Collaboration

Work effectively with others to achieve a common goal.

Related subjects: group projects and team sports

Creativity

Think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions to problems.

Related subjects: art, music, & drama

Adaptability

The ability to adjust to new situations and learn new skills quickly.

Related subjects: foreign languages, travel, and volunteering

Time-Management

Juggling tasks efficiently and meeting a deadline.

Related subjects: all! Project work, homework or arriving to class or school on time!

Remember, soft skills complement technical expertise and contribute to a well-rounded professional profile!

Types of technology careers

Technology is everywhere and there are career opportunities within most industries making it easier to find a career that will meet your needs and interests.

Some key career fields:

Software Engineering

Creating and maintaining software applications

Web Development

Building websites and web applications

Network Engineering

Managing and securing computer networks

Data Science

Analysing and interpreting data for insights

IT Support

Assisting users with technical issues

Virtual Reality (VR)

Designing immersive experiences

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Developing smart systems

Robotics

Building intelligent machines

Cloud Services

Managing data and applications online

User Experience (UX)

Enhancing product usability

Sustainable Tech

Solving environmental and social impact challenges plus creating economical solutions

Cybersecurity

System protection, risk mitigation and security policies

So, we have learnt about technology, the skills required and the career opportunities. Now let's look at how we can achieve a career in tech!

In today's world the options to get to the right career choice for you have expanded and the pathways are no longer a one-way route.

Remember, tech careers offer a universe of possibilities!

10 great reasons to work in tech:

- 1 Career goals**
tech is everywhere, work in an industry that interests you. 
- 2 Earn great money**
tech careers are generally higher paid salaries. 
- 3 Culture matters**
positive work environments and great perks. 
- 4 Travel the world**
many companies offer opportunity to work overseas. 
- 5 Make an impact**
be a part of the evolution of tech. 
- 6 Be in demand**
the tech industry continues to thrive. 
- 7 Flexible work**
many companies offer hybrid positions. 
- 8 Never be bored**
tech sector offers diverse career paths. 
- 9 Continuous learning**
learn new skills and technologies as you go.
- 10 Creative Freedom**
tech companies encourage innovation & creativity.



Who are FIT?

Fastrack into Information Technology or FIT is a representative organisation of the technology sector, and we are working to build Ireland's tech talent pipeline. We understand that not every career pathway is clear and there will be barriers along the way. At FIT we want to help you overcome these barriers and find a route that works best for you and help you achieve a career in tech.

How can FIT help me achieve a career in tech?

FIT works with industry to see what their employment needs are and in what areas they are recruiting. From this information we build our courses and programmes providing access routes to quality employment with a career in tech.

Our course and programmes are **free** and are available to anyone who meets the eligibility criteria and more importantly have an interest in technology.

FIT programmes range from micro-credential certification to Level 4, Level 5, and Level 6 Awards.

Check out our FIT courses and programmes on the following pages, that can kick start your career in technology.



Tech Apprenticeships

FIT is the National Coordinating provider of Tech Apprenticeships programmes in Software Development Associate, Computer Networking Associate, Data Analytics Associate and Cybersecurity Associate apprenticeship programmes.

What is Tech Apprenticeship?

A Tech Apprenticeship is a learn-by-doing format and is a combination of off-the-job training and on-the-job experience over 24-months.

Having a **demonstrated interest in tech is also important.** By showing that you are genuinely interested in technology and want to learn more is a positive attribute to future employers.

If you meet the above requirements, you then contact FIT, and we will guide you through the next steps.

What would I be doing as a Tech Apprentice?

As a tech apprentice you become an employee of a company for the duration of your apprenticeship (2-years). During this time, you will be studying your selected programme and gaining valuable experience in the workplace learning new skills whilst putting your learnings in to practice.

What is the benefit of a Tech Apprenticeship?

There are many benefits in completing a Tech Apprenticeship:

- You get paid and there is no cost to you to participate in a Tech Apprenticeship
- You are learning valuable workplace skills
- You will have mentor support throughout your apprenticeship
- On completion of the apprenticeship, you will have achieved a QQI L6 Major Award
- Employment opportunities are far greater
- You can continue your education

How do I become a Tech Apprentice?

You must be 18-years or older to apply for a Tech Apprenticeship.

You must have passed your Leaving Certificate with five passes including Maths & English, be an EU Citizen or hold a Class 4 Visa.

Next, let's take a look at what tech apprenticeship programme suits your interests.

Further information on all our Tech Apprenticeship programmes and curriculum can be found at www.fit.ie/techapprenticeships

Computer Networking Associate Apprenticeship



What is Computer Networking?

Computer Networking is interconnected computing devices that can exchange data and share resources with each other.

What work would I do?

With computer networking you will design, install, maintain, and support communication networks, within an organisation or between organisations.

What will I learn as a Computer Networking Apprentice?

The computer networking program teaches apprentices a variety of skills related to computer networking, from the fundamentals of how networks work, to virtualisation and managing cloud environments. Apprentices will gain knowledge and skills in the areas of networking fundamentals, customer support, system testing, data & cybersecurity, safe systems of work, project management, security policies, cloud environments, and intermediate network management.

Key skills required

Problem solving, analytical abilities, technical knowledge, communication, collaboration, and adaptability.

Useful subjects

Computer science & mathematics.

Examples of a demonstrated interest for Computer Networking

Have you built your own computer or taken one apart? Perhaps you are the go-to person for all tech related queries, or you have some knowledge about servers and networks.

Behind every click, download, and video stream there's a network engineer making it happen

How can I gain access to this course?

See chart page 19.

Software Development Associate Apprenticeship



What is a Software Developer?

The main role of a Software Developer is to build tech, test, and modify high quality code.

What will I learn as a Software Development Apprentice?

The software development program teaches apprentices a variety of skills from the fundamentals of programming and design principles to cloud development practices and everything in-between. Apprentices will gain knowledge and skills in the areas of C#, Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Customer Support, Data & Cybersecurity, Procedural Programming, Event-Driven Programming, Object Oriented Programming, Project Management, Quality Assurance & Software Testing, and Systems Development.

Key skills required

Technical skills, communication, project management and personal development skills such as being able to work alone or as part of a team (collaboration).

Useful subjects

Computer science, maths, physics, programming languages.

Examples of a demonstrated interest for Software Development

Have you tried coding, completed computer science for your Leaving Cert or even attended a CoderDojo?

How can I gain access to this course?

See chart page 19.



iFIT* - all female Software Development programme

iFIT is a Software Development programme developed to boost female participation in the tech sector and showcase untapped talent.

If you are passionate about tech and want to progress to a tech career, the iFIT programme is for you.



* Dublin based only

Cybersecurity Associate Apprenticeship



What is Cybersecurity?

Cybersecurity refers to any technology, measure, or practice for preventing cyberattacks or mitigating their impact. The primary role of a cybersecurity apprentice is to maintain and support the network security of an organisation.

What will I learn as a Cybersecurity Apprentice?

The cybersecurity programme is made up of a variety of industry certifications, CompTIA network plus, CompTIA Security Plus, CompTIA Security Analyst and optional CompTIA penetration tester.

There's no silver bullet with cybersecurity; a layered defense is the only viable option.

James Scott



Key skills required

Attention to detail, communication, collaboration and problem solving.

Useful subjects

Computer Science, IT, Mathematics

Examples of a demonstrated interest for Cybersecurity

Have you tried out ethical hacking with Kali Linux, or having an understanding of the different types of attacks that companies and individuals need to protect against.

How can I gain access to this course?

See chart page 19.

Data Analytics Associate Apprenticeship



LAUNCHING 2025

What is Data Analytics?

Data Analytics is the process of collecting, analysing, and interpreting large datasets to find patterns, trends, and correlations such as customer churn rates, marketing campaign performance or bottlenecks in production processes. It helps organisations make informed decisions and optimise performance from the data provided.

What will I learn as a Data Analytics Apprentice?

The Data Analytics program teaches a variety of skills in which the apprentice will learn to analyse and interpret data including big data competently. An understanding of AI and machine learning for data analysis and boosting insights into data.

Data really powers everything that we do.

Jeff Weiner



Key skills required

You will need a blend of technical and soft skills. Problem solving, collaboration and strong key skill is communication. Solid number skills are also important.

Useful subjects

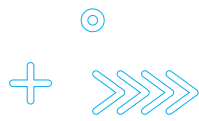
Computer Science, Mathematics

Examples of a demonstrated interest for Data Analytics

Have you participated in data science or analytics competitions, hackathons, or coding challenges? Completing a project related to data analysis is also beneficial.

How can I gain access to this course?

See chart page 19.



Pre-Tech Apprenticeship

What is a pre-tech apprenticeship?

A pre-tech apprenticeship is a 9-month programme which aims to prepare you for a tech apprenticeship by showcasing tech roles and providing skills sampling in growth areas such as Computer Networking, Software Development Cybersecurity and Data Analytics.

Why would I complete a pre-tech apprenticeship?

If you are unsure of which tech apprenticeship programme to choose, a pre-tech apprenticeship provides a sample of each programme to give you a better understanding of what area works best for you. It is a stepping stone to starting a Tech Apprenticeship if you do not meet the eligibility criteria. It is also not necessary to complete a pre-tech apprenticeship if you meet the eligibility criteria for a tech apprenticeship.

What would I be doing?

You will engage in practical assignments that focus on your technical and professional development and you will learn more about each of the Tech Apprenticeship programmes.

What are the benefits of a pre-tech apprenticeship?

- Lay the foundations of your career in tech.
- It will determine if a Tech Apprenticeship is for you and which stream is your preferred option, Computer Networking, Software Development, Cybersecurity or Data Analytics.
- You will enhance your employability in the tech sector through technical & professional development.
- Enhance your prospects of securing a position on a Tech Apprenticeship programme.
- Achieve a QQI Level 5 Certificate on completion of the programme.
- Advance to higher education.

What skills do I need to do a pre-tech apprenticeship?

Tech skills or experience is not essential but having an interest would benefit you.

How can I get started on a Pre-Tech Apprenticeship programme?

- Start dates commence at various times throughout the year - email info@fit.ie to get more information.

Eligibility: 18-years or older, Junior Certificate with 5 passes including Math & English, be an EU Citizen or hold a Class 4 Visa.

TRAINING PROGRAMMES



Advanced Manufacturing

What is Advanced Manufacturing?

It is the practice of using innovative technologies (robotics, 3D, AR, VR, AI) and methods to improve manufacturing process and enhance a company's competitiveness in the manufacturing sector.

What type of work would I do?

There are many different areas to work within Advanced Manufacturing such as a Welder, Robotics Specialist, Quality Assurance Analyst, Manufacturing Technician or Manufacturing Engineer.

What roles are there in Advanced Manufacturing?

There are several entry-level roles (L4/ L5) that can serve as stepping stones for your career such as a welder, assembly line and machine operators. Progression to a Manufacturing Technician or Engineer can be achieved through experience and/or higher qualifications.

A Manufacturing Technician assists in assembly, production, and maintenance. A Manufacturing Engineer optimises production processes, designs, and quality control.

Advanced Manufacturing tip

If you like hands-on, practical work, this may be a career for you. Skills such as problem solving, teamwork and attention to detail are also beneficial.

Useful subjects

Arts or sciences. Computing, technological subjects and mathematics is a considerable advantage.

How can I get started in Advanced Manufacturing?

FIT have two courses in Advanced Manufacturing.

Introduction to Advanced Manufacturing – L4

- 39-week programme including 3-weeks work placement
- Dunshaughlin and Ballina Training Centres

Advanced Manufacturing Traineeship – L6

- 46-week programme including 12-weeks work placement
- Navan and Ballina Training Centres

Eligibility: 18-years or older, Junior Certificate with 5 passes including Math & English, be an EU Citizen or hold a Class 4 Visa.

Green Technology/ Circular Economy Skills Initiative



What is the Green Technology?

It is the use of science and engineering to create products and services with a lower environmental impact. It is sometimes known as 'clean technology.'

What is it important in Technology?

Green technology is still advancing technology but plays an important role by reducing its impact on the environment such as reducing energy consumption, waste and our carbon footprint.

What career opportunities are there within Green Tech?

There are positions in quality control, manufacturing and renewable energy plus many other roles, the opportunities are diverse. If you are passionate about technology and the environment, combining scientific knowledge with practical skills, will prepare you for a career in Green Tech.

At FIT we are working to create employment opportunities for all who are interested in sustainability, waste reduction and overall environment wellbeing through our Circular Economy Skills Initiatives.

Useful subjects

Science, Geography (environmental studies), Mathematics, Technology and Business and Economics.

How can I get started in Green Technology?

FIT have a White Goods Field Service Technician programme.

White Goods Field Service Technician

- 36 week programme including 12 weeks work placement
- Training centre – Dunshaughlin
- No experience is necessary.



ELIGIBILITY GUIDE

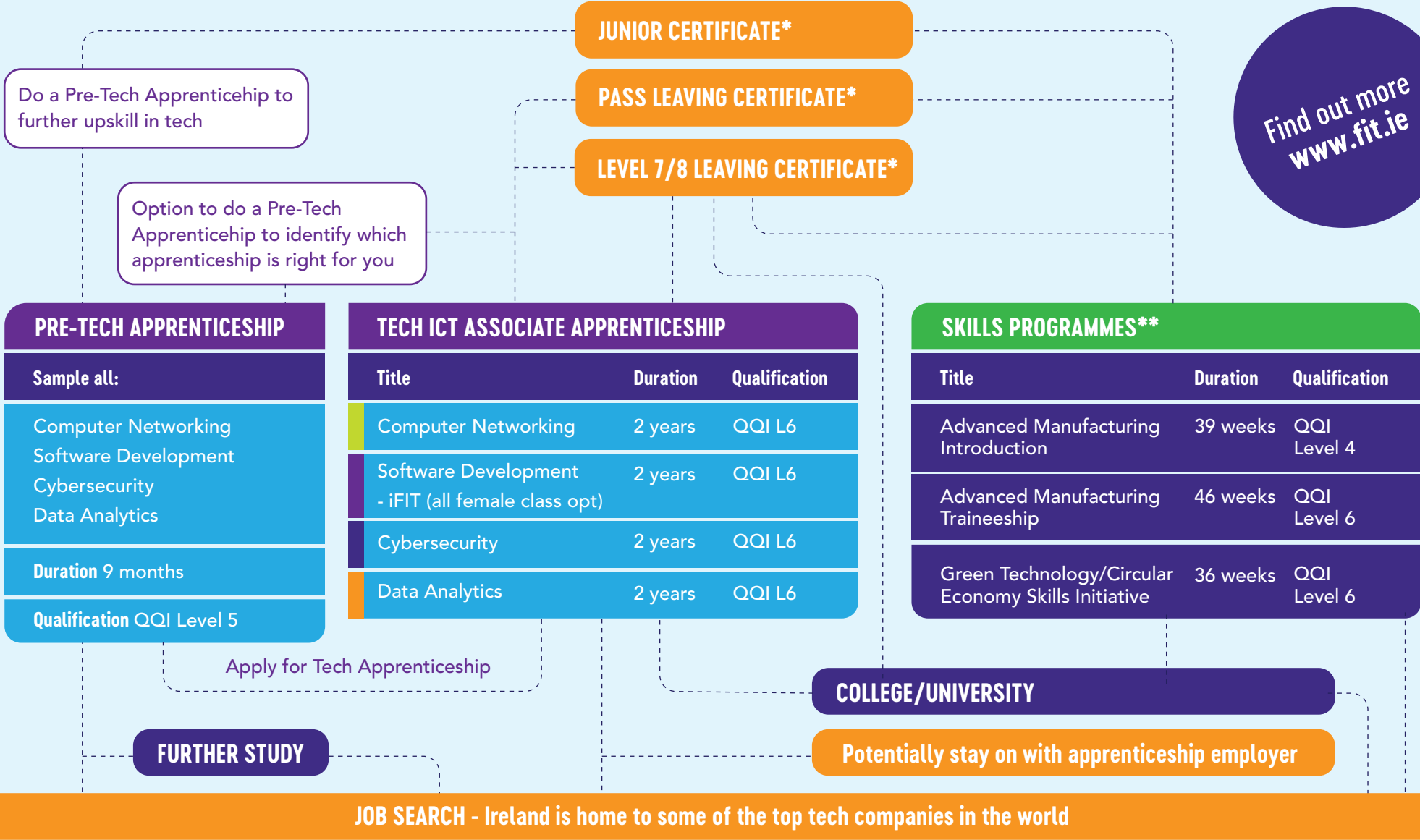
Below are the eligibility requirements for FIT programmes. If you do not meet these requirements, don't give up. FIT will help you get to the level you need to be to take that first step to a tech career.

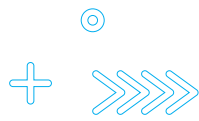
Programme	Duration	Programme Format	Location	Junior Cert*	Leaving Cert*	18 Years +	EU Citizen/Class 4 Visa	Awarding Qualification
Pre-Tech Apprenticeship	9 months	Study	Dunshaughlin	✓		✓	✓	QQI L5
TECH APPRENTICESHIPS								
Computer Networking	24 months	Study & work placement	Nationwide		✓	✓	✓	QQI L6
Software Development	24 months	Study & work placement	Nationwide		✓	✓	✓	QQI L6
iFIT Software Development (All Female)	24 months	Study & work placement	Dublin ONLY		✓	✓	✓	QQI L6
Cybersecurity	24 months	Study & work placement	Nationwide		✓	✓	✓	QQI L6
Data Analytics	24 months	Study & work placement	Nationwide		✓	✓	✓	QQI L6
Skills Programmes								
Introduction to Advanced Manufacturing	39 weeks	Study, practical work & 3 weeks work placement	Dunshaughlin & Ballina	✓		✓	✓	QQI L4
Advanced Manufacturing Traineeship	46 weeks	Study, practical work & 12 weeks work placement	Navan & Ballina	✓		✓	✓	QQI L6
White Goods Field Service Technician	36 weeks	Study, practical work & 12 weeks work placement	Dunshaughlin	✓		✓	✓	QQI L6
* Junior Certificate with 5 passes including Maths & English								
* Leaving Certificate with 5 passes including Maths & English								

Pathway to a career in tech

DEVELOP YOUR DIGITAL SKILLS (for free) Fit offer a range of free programmes that you can put on your CV to demonstrate your interest and ability in tech. These include: Choose Tech | Skills to Succeed | Skills for Jobs | IBM SkillsBuild

Find out more
www.fit.ie





Develop your digital skills

What can I do now to develop my digital skills and tech knowledge?

Improving your digital skills and tech knowledge is important for all careers, especially within technology. The tech sector is a fast moving business and upskilling or reskilling is the way forward for work sustainability and FIT have a number of **free** online programmes that help with skills development and career choices.

ChooseTech

ChooseTech is a fun, online platform with 80+ micro-credential modules that support & inspire you to learn about the world of technology, grow confidence with tech and provide tasters in the different areas such as Robotics, Web Development, AI, Farmtech and Cybersecurity plus lots more. You will learn about the pathways to a career in tech, such as a tech apprenticeship. Choose Tech is also a Gaisce Challenge Partner so students can learn new skills whilst achieving their Gaisce Award.

www.fit.ie/resources/choosetech

Skills for Jobs

Skills for Jobs program is a global skills initiative, designed by Microsoft and LinkedIn, which is providing free access to 350 courses and nine new Career Essentials Certificates for nine of the most in-demand jobs in the digital economy - Generative AI, Sustainable Tech, Cybersecurity, Administrative Professional, Project Manager, Business Analyst, Systems Administrator, Software Developer or Data Analyst.

Through LinkedIn Premium, complete a career certificate, get access to the 18,000 LinkedIn Learning courses, completely free through www.opportunity.linkedin.com
www.fit.ie/skillsforjobslearningpathways

IBM SkillsBuild

SkillsBuild is an online easy to navigate open learning platform, developed and supported by IBM, and hosted by FIT. This training can support you in guiding you towards the specific training that would open career opportunities in the Tech Sector. This suite of industry recognised credentials, certification and digital badges will enable you to gain skills in your chosen area from Computer Basics, Troubleshooting for Hardware Networks, Security Basics to supporting a customer with a Network issue. The possibilities are endless in training in your specific areas of interest.

www.fit.ie/ibmskillsbuild



Skills to Succeed Academy

Created specifically to meet the needs of job seekers, Skills to Succeed Academy offers 36 bite-sized, interactive modules. Jobseekers will be guided on the entire journey, from choosing the right career and finding a job to achieving success in the workplace.

The training is interactive and features engaging and relatable characters. It focuses on building the skills and confidence to empower jobseekers to take ownership of their job search. Innovative simulations provide a safe environment where learners can practice real-life scenarios, such as job interviews, and instantly see the impact of their decisions
www.s2sacademy.ie/about-academy

Future in Tech

Future in Tech is a free 1-year upskilling initiative for unemployed job seekers, designed specifically to help them develop new digital skills and build a career in tech across a range of in-demand areas covering the 9 areas of IT Technical Support, IT Networking, Cloud Practitioner, Digital Marketing, Cybersecurity, Software Development, Web Development. Data Analytics, and Helpdesk Analyst. Programme may not run in 2025.

www.futureintech.ie

Sign up for FREE and get started with any of our online programmes