

StepIn2Tech

Your Pathway to a Digital Future



Take your first step to a career in digital technology

What is Stepin2tech?

Developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, StepIn2Tech is designed to support anyone who is interested in developing their digital skills. It is a mentored pathway to a career in the technology sector and the latest learning pathway to be added to Microsoft Ireland's Pathways For Life education and training programme. StepIn2Tech complements recently announced government re-skilling initiatives as it aims to bridge a growing skills gap within the Irish economy by providing online skills training that matches the in-demand skills from industry. Importantly, it also provides one-to-one advice and mentoring from Fastrack to IT's Digi-Chaperones.

Who is it for?

- Senior cycle secondary school students and school leavers
- College students
- Those impacted by the pandemic looking to reset their plans
- Mid-career changers looking to develop digital skills

A collaboration between



Supported by



What does the programme involve?

Each course is completed online and at each student's own pace, deepening their knowledge and skill levels. Students can choose to participate in one or all of the following course subjects:



CODING



INFRASTRUCTURE



CLOUD



PRODUCTIVITY



DESIGN

What are the benefits to the student?

- > Opportunity to gain in-demand technical skills from home and at a pace that suits the student.
- > Develop soft skills, learn interview techniques and take your CV to the next level.
- > Gain insights to various technology roles in order to choose the most suited career path.
- > Experience world-class mentoring from Fastrack to IT's Digi-Chaperones.
- > A learning journey that can be completed at the student's own pace.
- > A passport to a digital future – digital and professional skills development.



What opportunities exist in the tech sector at the moment?

In Ireland, over 12,000 jobs are currently available in the tech sector. Within this growing tech sector, there are several key job roles where the demand for skilled workers outstrips the current supply.

StepIn2Tech aims to guide individuals to jobs that meet their career ambitions providing them with both technical and valuable soft skills (CV writing and interview techniques), to help them succeed and prosper in the tech sector.

Here are just some of the roles in demand that you or someone you know may be interested in pursuing a career in:

IT Support / Helpdesk

IT Administrator

Digital Marketer

Graphic Designer

Software Developer

Data Analyst

Where to next?

Students will develop the technical and soft skills required to either gain an entry-level role in the rapidly growing parts of the economy – either directly in a technology company or within traditional sectors that are becoming increasingly digitised.

Upon completion of the StepIn2Tech programme students will have gained the necessary knowledge as to which digital technology career is right for them.

Who are FIT?

FIT (Fastrack to Information Technology) is a representative organisation of the technology sector committed to growing Ireland's tech talent pipeline. FIT's mission is to promote an inclusive Smart Economy by creating routes to marketable technical skills for job seekers and career changers wishing to pursue quality professions in Ireland's thriving digital economy.

Through regular skills needs analysis with its industry partners, FIT determines the impact and skills employment opportunities arising from emerging technology trends and designs training programmes that enable a broad and diverse cohort of people to acquire in-demand tech skills identified. Designed for Further Education Training (FET) provision these programmes are delivered with the support and collaboration of Education and Training Boards (ETBs) nationally. FIT tech programmes while responsive to industry demands are built in accordance with requirements and standards of the National Qualifications Framework.

In total over 21,000 job seekers have completed FIT skills development programmes to date, of which in excess of 18,500 have secured quality employment.

FIT is also the National Coordinator ICT Tech Apprenticeships at NFQ Level 6 and is delivering three apprenticeships programmes in Network Engineering, Software Development and Cybersecurity with a fourth in Cloud Computing currently in development. The adoption of the Tech Apprenticeship programme by industry has been quite phenomenal and we envisage 500 Tech Apprentices this year, rising to 3,000 by 2023. Already some 150+ Corporates, SME's and Government Departments have availed of this new tech talent pipeline.

Your Digi-Chaperone will guide you to the most suitable pathway, either a new career or continued learning, where you can gain tech skills and certifications from:

FIT Apprenticeships

Further Education & Training Course Hub

eCollege

Microsoft Global Skills Initiative

So 2021, despite the challenges of the pandemic looks like being another extremely busy one for FIT, via continued expansion of the tech apprenticeship programme, adding to and increasing student uptakes on multiple FIT supported training & skills development programmes and driving forward with multiple gender diversity and inclusion activities.

However, one of our newest and most exciting training programmes in partnership with Microsoft Ireland is StepIn2tech, with the aim to equip 10,000 people in Ireland with the digital skills required to transfer to emerging and in-demand roles within the digital economy.

Are you a teacher, lecturer, guidance counsellor, parent and know someone that you think would benefit from this programme?

Please encourage them to check it out today on www.fit.ie/stepin2tech/

Want to find out more or get started today yourself?

www.fit.ie/stepin2tech/

Interested in finding out more about other pathways to a technology career? Visit us at www.fit.ie

