Discover
I’m uncertain about who I might become, what I have to offer and the world I would like to enter and would like to find out more about this area.

Introduction
It might seem obvious what working in the technology sector would consist of. After all, we all know what tech is and use it in our day-to-day lives. When you think about it, what leaps to mind is probably working with:

- Networks
- Software/app development
- Hardware development
- AI
- Big data
- Computer programming
- Information service activities

And while you’d be right to think this, some argue that we need to broaden our horizons. Tech Nation argue that any business that provide a digital platform or technology and rely on it as their primary revenue source should be considered a tech company, and some extend that argument even further, claiming car manufacturers, banks or retailers could all be deemed as tech companies.

One thing that’s not up for debate is the tech sector’s importance to the UK economy, being valued at £184bn (compared to example the financial services sector, at £119bn). Tech’s expanding 2.6 times faster than the rest of the UK economy, and London ranks as the second most connected place in the world for tech, after Silicon Valley. Employment in the UK tech sector is not limited solely to London though, with 9 cities having above average tech employment.

Skills that will help you stand out to employers in the tech sector include:

- Strong numerical ability
- Generally, some coding skills (although not always – sometimes employers are happy to overlook this if you can display other positive qualities and a desire to learn on the job.)
- Adaptability and an openness to learn new skills; very important in a constantly changing sector.
- An interest in technology is key, as well as an interest in the sector they operate in (for example, if you’re applying for a tech role at Goldman Sachs, having an interest in finance too). Make sure you have an understanding of the company and role you’re applying to.

Your modules & interests may help inform what area of tech interests you, but these resources will also give you an introduction to the field:

TARGETJobs: Ten Jobs in IT
https://targetjobs.co.uk/career-sectors/it-and-technology/286189-ten-typical-jobs-graduates-can-do-in-it
Brief, one-page introductions to some of the core roles available in IT, with links to a more detailed profile of each role.

TARGETJobs: Getting a graduate job in IT and technology: the basics
As the title suggests, a basic introduction to the sector and how to get into it. Links out to further, more specific information.

Prospects: Information Technology
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/information-technology
Various links to information about working in the sector.

Prospects: Graduate jobs in IT
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/information-technology/graduate-jobs-in-it
Detailed information on around 20 graduate level types of role within the tech and IT sector; what the roles consist of, the skills required, salary and location information and links to relevant sites.

National Careers Service: IT job profiles.
https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/advice/planning/jobfamily/Pages/infotechandinfomanagement.aspx
More information on roles in IT & Information Management (not all graduate level)

Gradcracker
www.gradcracker.com
Student-focused site for technology students; features jobs, grad schemes, careers information and advice.

CWJobs: IT Roles
http://www.cwjobs.co.uk/careers-advice/profiles
A series of articles, explaining the different job roles in IT and Tech. A great starting point.
Focus
I’m focusing my future choices and beginning to understand what knowledge, attributes, skills and experience I have to offer and might need to develop.

KCLSU societies
https://www.kcl.ac.uk/getinvolved/societies/.Joiningagroup/
There are at least 8 tech related societies in KCLSU – getting involved with these is a great way of learning more, and demonstrating an interest in the sector to employers.

Code First: Girls
https://www.codefirstgirls.org.uk/
Seeks to work with companies and individuals to increase the number of women working in tech. Their “ones to watch” list includes profiles of women under 30 working in tech, aiming to inspire others to follow them, and features a couple of King’s alumni.

Silicon Milk Roundabout
https://www.siliconmilkroundabout.com/
Annual careers fair for the tech sector with over 200 of the biggest names in the industry attending every year.

Data Science careers blog
https://blogs.kcl.ac.uk/kclgradschool/2016/03/11/case-studies-data-science-careers/
Blog post from the graduate school blog detailing the career paths of four King’s alumni who have gone to work in data science.

Commercial awareness
YouTube
www.youtube.com
Yes, you’ve already heard of Youtube. But tech company’s YouTube channels as well as other general tech ones are a great way of finding out more about the sector.

Computing
www.computing.co.uk
This site contains news and articles relevant to the computing, communications and DevOps sectors.

Computer Weekly
www.computerweekly.com
This site is a portal aimed at IT professionals and resellers. It includes business and IT based articles alongside analysis of the strategy and technology involved in the industry.

TechNation
https://technation.io/

Action
I’ve got a really good understanding of myself and how what I offer enables me to put my plans into action

The way that tech employers recruit varies greatly, so do your research and if there’s specific employers you’re interested in working for then research what their recruitment practices are. The level of coding ability required by employers differs greatly – some ask for high levels of competency in particular languages, while an increasing number are happy for you to display potential and passion, and train in-house.

Some skills, or at the very least awareness of it is vital, and this is a great way to build these. 44% of tech employers believe there is a skills gap in coding, so building your skills in this area is a great way to give you an edge. The following will help you get started:

Codeacademy
http://www.codeacademy.com/
An online interactive site offering free coding classes in over 12 different languages.

Hackerrank
https://www.hackerrank.com/
A commonly used coding tester.

Getting involved in Hackathons and Open Source projects are also a great way of building up relevant and practical experience.

Jobsites
CW Jobs
www.cwjobs.co.uk
An online vacancy database focussing on IT and Technology roles.

TechnoJobs
www.technojobs.co.uk
Thousands of jobs, and a useful graduate careers advice section with up to date articles and developments.

Qreer
www.qreer.com
Europe-wide engineering job site covering many specialisms. Searchable by level of qualification (undergrad, postgrad, PhD) and experience (e.g. 0-2 years)

efinancialcareers
https://careers.igda.org/career-resources/
International Game Developers Association (IGDA) professionals in the technology industry.

jobsites
http://www.techuk.org/
A not-for-profit trade association which aims to support industry professionals. It also looks very good on your CV to join one of these – demonstrating a real focus and commitment to the industry.

Professional Organisations
These are a great source of careers information and commercial awareness. They often have a student membership option, which allows you to attend events and network with industry professionals. It also looks very good on your CV to join one of these – demonstrating a real focus and commitment to the industry.

International Game Developers Association (IGDA)
https://careers.igda.org/career-resources/
US based organisation, their website has useful careers resources.

BCS – The Chartered Institute for IT
www.bcs.org
The BCS is a membership organisation for professionals in the IT industry. It offers student membership, along with the chance to network and start developing your professional skills whilst still studying.

Using this handout
Like the majority of our sector handouts, the content in here is divided into three sections: Discover, Focus and Action. These sections will help you access the right level of...
information, depending on how far along you are with your career plans.

All three of these stages have corresponding pages on our KEATS Careers Hub (www.kcl.ac.uk/career-learning) which you may also find helpful to explore and work out where in your career planning journey you are. You may find that you are somewhere in between these stages, or move from one to another at different stages – don’t worry, this is completely natural!

King’s CareerConnect
www.kcl.ac.uk/careerconnect
King’s CareerConnect is our exclusive online career portal enabling students and recent alumni to engage with our services. Once logged in, you can access our vacancy board and search hundreds of part-time roles, placements, internships and graduate-level opportunities, book one-to-one careers or application guidance appointments, apply for exclusive King’s Internships and view our full events calendar to book attendance at our many events throughout the year.

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