Leicester College

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Computing (Software Engineering) HTQ Higher National Diploma

Course Overview

The intensive two-year computing software engineering HTQ Higher National Diploma, awarded by Pearson, prepares you for a successful career in software/network engineering. In hands-on workshops and engaging lectures, you learn practical skills and build the knowledge employers look for. So when you finish the programme, you can step confidently into industry with a deep understanding of software/network engineering concepts and the skills to make you a valuable employee.

 The comprehensive curriculum covers core software/network engineering principles, advanced software/network engineering concepts, practical project experience and industry-relevant skills development.

What you will learn

In year one, you will develop essential skills that are fundamental to your success going forward. These skills will help you to prepare to apply them in year two.

 Programming
 Networking
 Professional practice
 Database design development
 Security
 Planning a computing project (Pearson-set)
 Software development lifecycles (software programme)
 Maths for computing

In year two, you add workplace context to your year-one knowledge, so you are ready for work in industry.
 Computing research project (Pearson-set)

 Business process support
 Discrete maths
 Data structures and algorithms
 Applied programming and design principles
 Systems analysis and design
 Network management

Entry Requirements

To apply for computing software/network engineering HTQ Higher National Diploma, you need at least 48 UCAS points at T level, A level, BTEC National or an equivalent recognised level 3 qualification in a related subject. You might also have an Access to Higher Education Diploma, international qualifications (with IELTS 5.5 where (reading and writing must be at 5.5) or relevant work experience to make you an impressive candidate for the course.

 Our Recognition of Prior Learning policy means we can consider your previous learning or experience to award you with certain qualifications or units of a qualification.

 The practical nature of the course means you will need access to an entry-level personal computer running the most current Windows operating system

Course Progession

Higher technical qualifications (HTQs) are primarily designed for entry into skilled employment or those looking to retrain or upskill, you could also progress to further study and/or training.

 It will give students an opportunity to further academic progression as well as career progression in computing and software engineering. We will work with employers to provide the opportunity for practical skills to be learnt through a work placement/work-based environment.

What Happens Next

Applications to this full-time undergraduate course should be made through UCAS at ucas.com using the course code CM76, institution code L36. If you haven't started a UCAS application yet, and only want to apply to Leicester College, you can apply directly to us using our direct application form via the College website and we will process a UCAS application on your behalf. Due to the nature of this programme, you may also be invited to attend an interview, or where necessary, other means of interview (i.e. telephone, web-based, Microsoft Teams) can be arranged.

Course Details

Course Code	P00540
Start Date	21/09/2026
Study Hours	Full Time
Duration	2 years
Campus	St Margaret's Campus
Level	5

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