Is Leaving Certificate Computer Science for you?

Gear your subject choice to one of the fastest-growing sectors
Why should you study Computer Science?

Computer Science (CS) courses are quickly becoming one of the most sought-after areas of study. Let’s have a look at why you should consider CS as a Leaving Cert subject.

- CS is relevant to all sectors of the economy, from banking to pharmaceutical and everything in between. You could be a CS specialist looking at medical images like brain scans, predicting what might happen for those patients, or a cyber specialist who uses computer forensics to solve crime.
- Almost all career paths now involve working with tech in some way.
- The skills you will learn are in high demand.
- LCCS is a pathway to careers such as software programming, data analytics or information technology.

“I thought the subject would have been all programming and coding, but it was so much more. I was really surprised by how broad the term ‘Computer Science’ was, but I love everything about the subject.”

Past Leaving Certificate CS Student
How do I know it’s for me?

Do you enjoy puzzles, problem-solving, tinkering and logical and creative thinking?

- Do you have an interest in the effect technology has on society, and how computers can have a positive social impact on the world?
- Are you interested in effective communication and managing information?
- Do you enjoy working in groups to solve problems?

There are several ways you can enter the tech industry, from tech apprenticeships to online courses – you do not need a degree to work in this industry!

Those with an artistic eye make good interface designers, while those who like languages can work in the area of Natural Language Processing.

While Computer Science does require maths, you don’t have to be a math whiz to be successful in the industry.
What will CS students learn?

**Computational thinking**
How to solve problems and think creatively.

**Computer systems**
What is going on inside a computer and how it works.

**Computers and society**
Ethics and social implications of computers.

**Problem-solving**
Students will plan, design and build solutions to real-world problems.

**Programming languages**
A computer language is what programmers use to develop software programs, scripts, or other sets of instructions for computers to execute.

**Learning by doing**
Learning practically through project and group work.

**Design and development**
Students are creators and designers of technology.

More information about how the programme is structured is available [here](https://cc.careersportal.ie/school/lc_subject_detail.php?course_id=55).
Where to next?

The range of career opportunities with this subject is wide. As well as this, the skills learned (problem-solving, logical thinking and programming) will be hugely valuable in many workplaces and activities.

Some career examples are:

- IT Consultant
- Games Designer
- Data Analyst
- Digital Media Designer
- Software Engineer
- Web Developer
- Information Architect

Computer science attracts all kinds of people – there is no stereotype in this industry. Computer science is for everyone, including you!

Ireland is now home to all of the top ten global technology companies

240,000+ employed in digitally intensive sectors in Ireland
What is the outlook for a graduate in the technology sector?

Ireland is a European tech powerhouse and one of the tech capitals of the world. A career in the Irish tech sector means working in the fastest-growing and fastest-changing career sector.

Computer science rewards innovation and creativity but demands accuracy and massive attention to detail.

Find out more at https://gradireland.com/careers-advice/information-technology/your-career-technology.

You can also hear from recent graduates who have gone on to pursue a career in the Technology Sector. Find out at https://gradireland.com/search/advice?search=%23gradstories what they love about their jobs, what their main role responsibilities are, what skills they need to be successful in their roles, and much, much more.