

Games Design

Your Careers Adviser
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Skills developed in college

You've developed a range of skills through your education, work experience and personal interests and achievements.

Understanding what skills you have to offer and like to use can help you understand what you want in a career, as well as providing key information for job or further study applications.

In terms of securing a job, academic qualifications alone will not guarantee success. Evidence-based skills sections on your CV can demonstrate the broad range of qualities you have to offer employers.

[Opposite are some of the main skills you may have developed while in college:](#)

Communication skills, both verbal and written

Expressing ideas effectively and conveying information appropriately and accurately. Influencing others by expressing self effectively in a group and in one to one situations. Showing a range of verbal and nonverbal signals that the information being received is understood.

Teamwork/working with others

Working effectively and confidently within a group to achieve a common goal or task. Including understanding your role within the team, and listening and supporting other team members.

Problem-solving ability

Identifying, prioritising and solving problems, individually or in groups; possessing the ability to ask the right questions, sort out the many facets of a problem, and contribute ideas as well as answers regarding the problem.

Time-management skills/ability to meet deadlines

Managing several tasks at once; being able to set priorities and to allocate time efficiently in order to meet deadlines.

Planning and organising

Establishing a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Planning proper assignments of personnel and appropriate allocation of resources.

Leadership skills

Motivating and taking responsibility to lead other people, in order to achieve set goals and objectives.

Initiative & self-management

Identifying opportunities and being proactive in putting forward ideas and potential solutions. Self-disciplined and self-motivated, in the pursuit of studies and professional practice.

Ability to make quick decisions/work under pressure

Making decisions and taking action. Maintaining performance under pressure and/or opposition.

[You may also have developed a wide range of technical/specific course related skills](#)

Types of employers/industry sectors

Some of the main types of employers/industry sectors in which Games Design graduates work include:

- Education
- Marketing
- Animation firms
- Books, magazine publishing companies
- Corporate art and graphic design departments
- Electronic media companies
- Film and television companies
- Independent contracting and consulting firms
- Graphic design/digital media agencies
- Game design agencies
- Retail stores
- Game designers –indigenous companies Ireland. Mainly UK, Scotland, Canada, France, Germany
- Government departments & agencies
- Museums and other public institutions
- Non-profit organisations
- PR Consultancies/PR Departments
- Small 'indie' development – growing industry in Ireland. e.g. Arcade, Iphone, Android, Mobile games, casual games
- App stores developing casual games – iPhone, Android apps, etc.
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For sector information see:

www.gradireland.com
www.careersportal.ie
www.prospects.ac.uk
www.targetjobs.co.uk

Career options with your course

Some of main occupations and job profiles secured by Games Design graduates include:

- Game Designer
- Game Programmer
- Game Testers
- Audio Designer
- Audio Tester
- Game Software Development
- Level Designers
- Game Managers
- Project Managers
- Consultants
- Games Analysts
- Games Quality Assurance
- Media Content Developer
- Audio and Video Programmer
- Entrepreneur/Business set up
- Localisation Manager
- Animator
- Game Client Developer
- Game Server Developer
- Lecturer
- Unity Game Developer

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Job Hunting

It is important that you access both the advertised and hidden jobs market and use any and every means available to you to job hunt effectively.

Advertised Jobs

Most University and IT Careers Services have jobs listings on their websites:

www.tudublin.ie/jobscene

Graduate programmes and immediate vacancies

www.prospects.ac.uk & www.targetjobs.co.uk <http://www.gradcracker.com/engineering-jobs>

Graduate jobs UK

www.gradireland.com

Immediate jobs/Summer/Graduate programmes

www.mondotimes.com

Local and national press

www.publicjobs.ie

www.localgovernmentjobs.ie

Public service

www.irishjobs.ie/agencies

Complete list of recruitment agencies/online recruitment sites

Company websites - includes immediate and internship roles

Other

- Careers fairs – Gradireland Fair – Autumn and Summer Fair, plus many others.
- Notice boards/Student email account/Lecturers
- Company Presentations
- Specialist Magazines & Publications

Voluntary Sector/Charities

www.activelink.ie

Voluntary Sector/Charity/NGO vacancies in voluntary sector

www.volunteeringireland.com

www.dochas.ie

Association of non-governmental development organisations

www.comhlahm.org

Volunteering opportunities

www.wheel.ie/directory

Directory of voluntary and community organisations

www.tudublin.ie/careers

Unadvertised Jobs

Networking

- Networking – who is in my network? – classmates, lecturers, alumni, family, neighbours, colleagues, clubs and societies, TU Dublin Career Development Centre, professional bodies
- Informational Interviewing/Shadowing
- College work – projects, thesis, placement, guest speakers, student website
- Societies – e.g. guest speakers/events
- Attend events, conferences, short courses, trade shows (e.g. professional bodies, etc), National Digital Conference, Dublin, businessandleadership.com (events), Digital Learning Festival – May, <http://www.gamesfleadh.ie/expo/whats-on>, cross industry events, i.e. TechBrew/ISIN events/Dublin start-up Commissioner, DubLUDO (game events), Codess (female coder events for women), Dublin Unity User group, etc.
- Meet up groups, e.g. - 'Data Scientists Ireland' and 'Tech for good - Dublin'
- Join Alumni Association/Linked-in TU Dublin Alumni group//Related groups on linked-in, e.g. digitalmediajobsnetwork
- Find a mentor/keep a job hunting record

Contacting and Tracking Companies

- Speculative applications + cold calling. Think about your offering
- Contact organisation with ideas (ways to reduce costs, make them more money, research project, Your Unique Selling Point)
- First Destination Reports (where have previous graduates gone?) – TU Dublin Linked-in
- Use directories –Kompass.com, Irish Media Contacts Directory, Marketing Services Directory, Creative Ireland Directory, <http://www.thedigitalhub.com/companydirectory>, www.mediastreet.ie – Irish Media and Creative Business Directory, www.techireland.org – list of tech companies
- Check out industry award recipients – Best Workplaces in Ireland (download on gradireland.com), Ireland's top 1000 companies
- <http://www.top1000.ie/companies> Award recipients – Digital Media Awards (digitalmedia.ie), Media Awards, ICAD awards (creative excellence in advertising), IFTN awards, etc
- Check out Labour Market trends, www.careersportal.ie, IDA (Industrial sectors), IBEC, www.tudublin.ie/careers (labour market news), www.siliconrepublic.com/topics/jobs-announcements
- Search newspaper business pages on-line to get success stories on businesses as they are growing – TU Dublin Careers website (labour market news)

Start Ups:

- Start-up companies – www.startupdublin.com, dublinstartupjobs.com
- FDI and indigenous – www.makeitinireland.com, www.itshappeninghere.ie
- <https://angel.co/> - start up jobs worldwide

Entrepreneurship

- Freelancing/Work experience/Self-employment/Start-Up
- <http://www.dit.ie/careers/studentsgraduates/interestedinselfemployment/>
- TU Dublin Hothouse - www.dit.ie/hothouse/
- Local Enterprise Office - www.localenterprise.ie
- The Digital Hub - www.thedigitalhub.com

Other Proactive Ideas:

- Social networking sites (facebook, twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook, Blog, Discussion Groups) Linked-In (set up a profile, link to others, search for companies - employees who have Linked-in profiles, advertised jobs, follow companies) -<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ocp1MNpSkWs> (How to use LinkedIn)
- Join linkedin discussion groups
- Think of small companies not just big brands
- Consider alternative roles (marketing, advertising, journalism, sales)
- Blogs/Editors with articles, radio contributor, guest lecturer
- Undertake voluntary work in areas you are interested in
- Student Awards – Digital Student of the Year (Digital Media Award)
- Scholarships/Competitions

For more information on how to go about finding a job and job-hunting sites, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Interviews

For more information on how to perform in interviews, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

CVs/Cover letters and applications

For information on how to put together a great CV/Cover Letter or Application, [See www.tudublin.ie/careers](http://www.tudublin.ie/careers)

Useful links (e.g. Company Databases, Professional Bodies, LinkedIn Groups)

This list contains links to some of the most useful websites for your course including professional bodies and associations, employer directories, information sources and LinkedIn groups.

General websites — useful links

- www.gamedevelopers.ie – Irish Game Developers
- www.imirt.ie – Irish Game Makers Association
- www.irishgamers.ie – Irish Gamers
- www.iga.ie – Irish Games Association
- www.icad.ie – Institute of Creative Advertising and Design
- www.mii.ie – Marketing Institute of Ireland
- www.creativeireland.com – Job desk, directory of web designers, discussion forums
- www.iapi.ie – Inst. of Advertising Practitioners in Ireland
- www.aai.ie – Association of Advertisers in Ireland
- www.asai.ie – Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland
- www.oma.ie – Outdoor Media Association
- www.idma.ie – Irish Direct Marketing Association
- www.iaa.ie – Irish Internet Association
- www.publishingireland.ie Publishing Ireland
- www.camfoundation.com – Communication, Advertising, Marketing Education Foundation UK
- www.designbusinessireland.org – Design Business Ireland
- www.theesa.com – Entertainment Software Association (US)
- www.ukie.org.uk – Trade Body Games/Entertainment (UK)
- www.tiga.org – Games Industry UK
- www.i-cando.ie/ - Global Digital Skills Foundation

Others:

- [IAB – Digital Advertising](#), [Irish Internet Association](#), [Irish Computer Society](#), [Institute of Creative Advertising and Design](#), [Illustrators Guild of Ireland](#), etc.

Forums:

- digitalmediaforum.net, creativeireland.com, forums.frontier.co.uk, [Irish Games facebook page](#), <http://www.techrepublic.com/forums/>, [Irish Computer Society forum](#), technology-ireland.ie forum, etc.

General websites:

- [Worldwide Media guide - www.mondotimes.com](#)
- [Yellow and White pages directories from around the world - www.superpages.com/global/](#)
- [Specialists in Student Travel - www.usit.ie](#)

Careers open to all disciplines (Including 'Paths Into...' Series)

Many graduate vacancies don't require specific degree subjects as possession of a degree is taken as evidence of intellectual ability. What is more important to the potential employer is the range of transferable skills and experience you can demonstrate.

Many graduate training programmes take final year students from a wide range of disciplines, register with the [Career Development Centre's Jobsence](#) for a full list of programmes. Here is a range of career areas that are potentially open to graduates of all disciplines. It's important to note that some of these options may require further study either on the job or beforehand.

If you are considering diversifying or changing career direction a postgraduate conversion course may be a viable option.

Some examples of career areas open to students of all disciplines:

- Teaching & Education
- Financial Services & Accounting
- Marketing, Advertising and PR
- Retail, Sales and Customer Service
- Banking, insurance and financial services
- Charities and voluntary sector
- Fund management / administration and investment banking
- Human resources, recruitment and training
- Management consulting
- Management, business and administration
- Media and publishing
- Public sector and civil service
- Social, community and youth

For further information see: www.gradireland.com/career-sectors

Further Study

Are you considering further study or training? See www.tudublin.ie/careers for comprehensive information

Conversion courses

Some graduates find that their primary degree did not meet their expectations, either vocationally, academically or personally, and seek change career direction. Conversion courses offer the opportunity to diversify into another chosen career area while meeting the necessary entry requirements for that discipline. However, it should be noted that this is not the case for all disciplines e.g. disciplines such as science and engineering will require an undergraduate degree in that discipline.

Self Employment

Ever thought of being your own boss? Think you have an innovative product or service idea that could have commercial value? Want to commercialise your research? See www.tudublin.ie/careers

Other Options (e.g. Time out, travel etc.)

Volunteering and working with communities with is a great way to gain valuable real world experience, to develop new skills, to meet new people, to do something worthwhile and to improve your employability. For more details, see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Labour Market Information

For information on the latest labour market trends see www.tudublin.ie/careers.

Additional Information/Advice

For any query you might have, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Disclaimer: TU Dublin Career Development Centre offers advice in good faith on the basis of the best information available.
The Centre accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals based on such advice.