



Meet Some of Our Apprentices

If you are looking for an apprenticeship, you won't find anywhere quite like the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) to begin your career. We work with incredibly advanced technologies and equipment on some of the most exciting research, engineering and computing projects around.

Each year we employ a number of apprentices in STFC Scientific Computing.



Kieran Howlett, a computing degree apprentice, who is currently working on deploying an etherpad instance for cloud users. Etherpad is an open-source variant of google docs that allows collaboration between users.

Kieran says, "Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to get into the field you are interested in. The ability to have your qualification alongside having a full-time paid job is a great balance. You get to learn with professionals in the field who are willing to help the next generation of apprentices. Apprentices rotate between departments every six to twelve months which gives you a good variety of knowledge as to what goes on at Scientific Computing".

Georgia says, "the apprenticeship programme has given me some amazing opportunities to develop my knowledge and skills; being supported through my qualifications while having the chance to work with and learn from professionals not only in my local groups, but also across the wider organisation and externally with academic institutions and businesses- often liaising with world-leading researchers".



Georgia Lomas joined STFC in 2019 as a Business Administration Apprentice. After completing her apprenticeship, she gained a permanent role within the Scientific Computing Admin Team. She is now completing an upskill apprenticeship and is due to graduate with a Chartered Management Degree in July 2023.



Matthew Richards, who has recently completed his computing degree apprenticeship. He worked in the Data and Software Engineering Group in Scientific Computing as an apprentice software engineer.

Matthew says, "I felt like STFC provided a better work-life balance than other companies providing apprenticeships. Looking back, this is certainly true. I feel STFC is a good place to learn, and as an apprentice, I was never punished for making mistakes. Instead, they were turned into learning experiences, which is good for building confidence."

Viktor says his interest in STEM grew from playing various games as a child. He says, "Playing games from an early age sparked my interest in STEM. As I grew older, I started taking apart computers, trying to understand how all the different components worked together. This led me to be more curious about how computer software was made, and this curiosity is what ultimately sparked my passion for programming".



Viktor Bozhinov, who has recently completed his apprenticeship and has started a graduate role in the Data and Software Engineering Group within Scientific Computing.



Rowan is keen to encourage other young people to start a career in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. He said, "STEM is as important as ever – there will never be a lack of need for STEM careers. The variety of interesting opportunities presents a fascinating and diverse working career. In my current role, seeing the work that I do being used by people all over the world is pretty surreal".

Rowan Moss is currently working in the Grid Tools Team, which manages data for the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

Find out more about STFC apprenticeships:

ukri.org/about-us/stfc/work-for-stfc/stfc-apprenticeships/



Written and designed by Briana Doherty,
STFC Scientific Computing Placement Student 2023