UTC READING

COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
EXCELLENCE FOR 14–19 YEAR OLDS

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK















Dear Candidate

Thank you for expressing an interest in the role at UTC Reading.

UTC Reading is a University Technical College (UTC) specialising in Computer Science and Engineering which opened in September 2013 in a 'state-of-the-art' building. The specialist curriculum appeals to secondary school-aged students keen on developing their talent in these areas. A UTC is different from a typical secondary school because it is designed with the backing of the local business community and has industry partners involved. UTC Reading connects students with industry partners Microsoft, Cisco, Peter Brett Associates, and Network Rail, offering great access to employment and sponsorship opportunities.

We have created an inspirational learning environment where learning is central, UTC Reading offers a unique learning opportunity for young people interested in computing and engineering, by developing the technical, personal and employability skills needed to progress to university and the world of work.

Our vision is to Transform lives through learning. We will use our distinct learning philosophy to develop the brain, emotions and motivation of our young people as they prepare for the working work in front of them. We are part way along this journey and were recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding school in May 2015. In December 2017 the UTC was awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark and was revalidated for this award in December 2020.

We have high aspirations and want every student to leave us ready to take their place in the global computing and engineering sectors. A relentless focus on excellence and a leading-edge approach will make that happen.

We recruit a balanced intake of students across the ability range in each year of entry. We currently have circa 500 students on roll across Years 10-13 and when at capacity will have a total of 500-550 students.

Having made a positive choice to join the UTC, students will be well motivated to work hard and benefit from the UTC's innovative and inspirational learning experience. UTC Reading's 'graduates' will gain the reputation for demonstrating the skills, attitudes, knowledge and experience sought by the world's leading employers. Through the ongoing links with industry partners, they will be personally known to local organisations such as Microsoft, Cisco, Peter Brett Associates and Network Rail, giving them greatly increased opportunities of sponsorship or employment.

The information in this pack has been designed to give as much detail as possible to allow you to decide if UTC Reading is the right career move for you. Please do feel free to contact the Principal, Jonathan Nicholls, via jessica.bryant@utcreading.org.uk or telephone 0118 9381020 if you would like to make an appointment with to discuss the role in further detail.

Activate Learning Education Trust

Activate Learning Education Trust is a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) established by Activate Learning.

We transform lives through learning by providing exciting and innovative education for young people.

Activate Learning is the sponsor for Activate Learning Education Trust, which is run with the support of a number of industry and academic partners.

OUR VISION
Transforming lives through learning

OUR MISSION
To 'transform lives through learning' by igniting confidence, expanding opportunities, energising the community and generating prosperity. Through our Learning Philosophy and core values of empowerment, enterprise, connectedness and transformation, we will provide our students and staff with a safe and supportive environment in which to thrive.

OUR VALUES
Empowerment, enterprise, connectedness and transformation

Activate Learning Education Trust is part of a much bigger organisation that focuses on education as its core business.

More information about Activate Learning and Activate Learning Education Trust can be found on their websites:

http://www.alet.org.uk/
https://www.activatelearning.ac.uk/

Industry and academic partners

Our academic partners are:

- The University of Reading

The key industry partners are:

- Microsoft
- Cisco
- Network Rail
- Stantec

Industry partners are involved in a number of ways:

- consultancy, advice and guidance on curriculum development
- product and services donations
- employer accreditations
- employer-led projects and challenges
- coaching and mentoring
- work experience.
- Participation in the governance of the UTC.

Industry partners enable students to study specialisms and gain globally accepted industry standard accreditations.

Location and facilities

The UTC provides advanced, best of breed facilities for computer science and engineering, giving our students an environment that will feel more like a global company than a school, further preparing them for employment.

Over £8 million has been invested in developing this state-of-the-art learning centre for computer science and engineering. The campus includes a building dedicated to computer science, a building for engineering and related project work and a brand new science centre.

Our UTC is truly at the leading edge of technology in learning. Personal devices can be used anywhere to access your work and study resources. Our Microsoft and Cisco learning labs are hi tech and have their own dedicated server and IT infrastructure that is used for learning.

Right at the heart of the UTC complex is the special place that makes us really different. Our independent learning zone is a vibrant hub combining learning resources with a flexible ‘hot desk’ working environment.

Curriculum

The focused curriculum prepares students for a career in the computing and engineering sectors while keeping other career routes open. It develops well-rounded and well educated leaders, professionals and entrepreneurs for the future.

Students are encouraged to take GCSEs and A levels alongside technical qualifications and gain industry standard employer certifications and professional society memberships. They will be able to make the most of their talents and move on successfully to higher education, further education, apprenticeships and employment.

Formal learning will be enhanced by a variety of enrichment activities:

- sports
- arts
- leadership, building activities, e.g. Young Enterprise, Duke of Edinburgh Award, Combined Cadet Force.

Environment

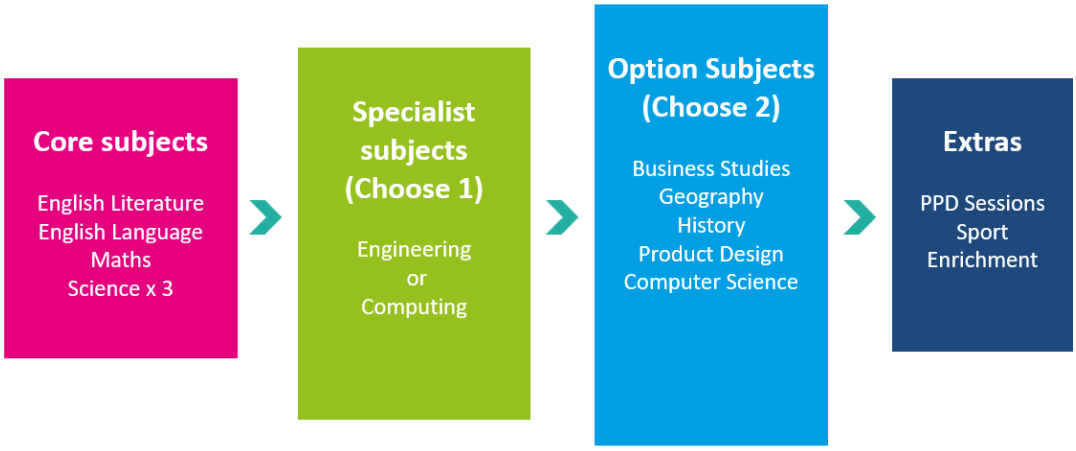
Students at the UTC learn in an environment more like a workplace than a traditional school. The working day is longer than students usually experience, with on-site learning starting at 8.30am and ending at 4:30pm (4:00pm on Monday and Friday) each day. Equipment and facilities in the UTC will be industry standard as specified by our industry partners.

Learning experience

The learning experience blends different forms of learning. It develops a very broad reach of knowledge and strong practical and social skills. Students are coached by tutors and mentored by industry and academic partners. Instructor-led seminars provide students with a formal learning structure that are extended through project-based activities that will be designed by the industry partners to replicate the issues faced in industry. Students are encouraged to develop effective personal learning techniques during individual learning sessions.

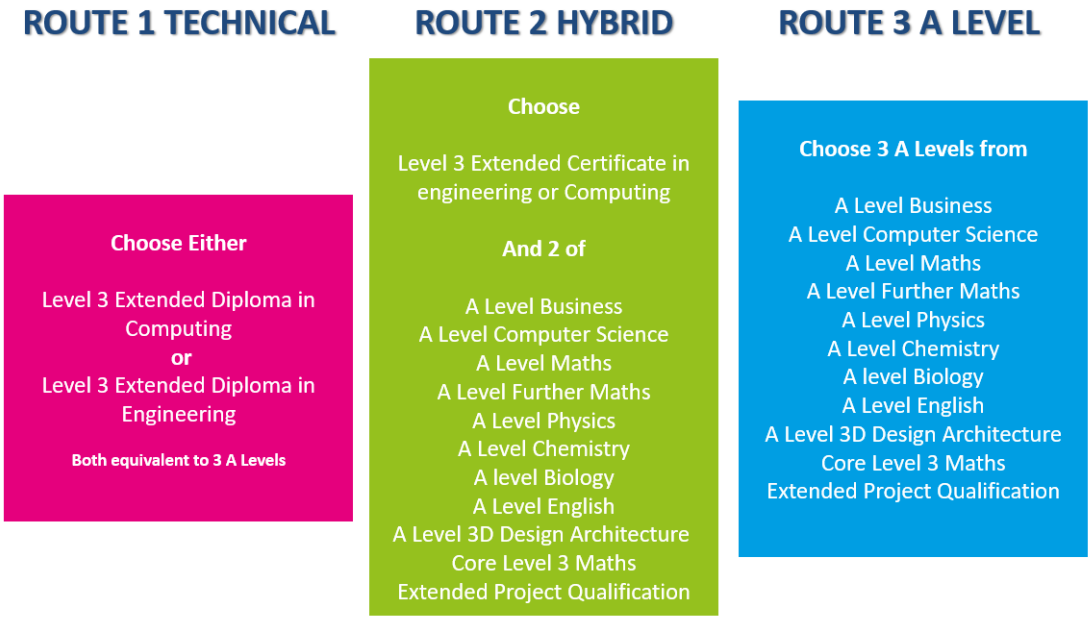
The Key Stage 4 programme

All students study GCSE, English, Maths and Science. They then can choose to study technical qualifications in either Engineering or Computing which they study across the two years of the key stage. In addition, the students are expected to choose two other GCSE options rom Geography, History, Business Studies, computer science and Product Design.



The Key Stage 5 programme

Students are able to join the UTC at 16 or progress to this stage from Key Stage 4. Students in the 6th form are able to choose one of three routes of study which are:



Terms and Conditions of Employment

Proposed start date
Please see advertisement

Salary
Please see advertisement

Pension
Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Holidays
You will be entitled to receive your normal remuneration for all Bank and Public Holidays normally observed in England and Wales and to a further 40 days holiday in each holiday year (being the period from 1st September to 31st August).

Working hours
The post holder will be required to work as many hours as are reasonably necessary to fulfil the requirements of the role. Our core working hours are 8:15 – 17:15 Monday to Thursday and 16:45 on Friday

Place of work
The principle place of work will be Crescent Road, Reading RG1 5RQ. As part of your duties, you may be required to travel within the United Kingdom or further afield. Such travel may include attendance at conferences or seminars or meetings.

Travel to work
As part of your Contract of Employment you should live within reasonable travelling time/distance of the UTC to fulfil the requirements of the role.

Health check
Confirmation of appointment to the post will be contingent on a satisfactory health check.

References
Confirmation of appointment is also subject to satisfactory references.

Background
In accordance with the criteria defined in and the provisions of the joint Home Office/ Department of Education and Science circular Protection of Children; 'Disclosure of Criminal background of those with access to children' dated 17th July 1986; the appointment is subject to a check by Criminal Records Bureau in respect of any possible criminal convictions.

The Employee warrants as follows:

1) The post holder will disclose to the Employer any previous criminal convictions that he/she may have and which are not spent within the meaning of section 1 of the Rehabilitation of Offender's Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 9for example, where the Employee is involved in the teaching, supervising or training of persons under the age of 18.

2) That the post holder will disclose to the Board of Governors immediately upon conviction, the fact that he/she had been convicted of any offence during the period of his/her employment.

AND in the event that the Employee fails to disclose any convictions in accordance with paragraphs 1 and 2 above, such failure to disclose may be deemed by the Board of Governors to be gross misconduct.

The Application Process

Please see the advertisement