

If you want to improve your digital skills this pathway can help you plan your learning journey. After you've spent some time exploring OpenLearn, the pathway suggests resources to build your digital skills.

## Challenge yourself

### IT in everyday life

(introductory level, 4 hours)

We now live in a global village where distance is no longer a barrier to commercial or social contact. This free course will enable you to gain an understanding of the information and communication technologies that drive our networked world.

### Simple coding

(introductory level, 2 hours)

Have you ever wanted to try out simple coding? Want to understand the basics of what it entails? This course introduces you to the skills, concepts and jargon of coding.

### Introducing ICT systems

(introductory level, 9 hours)

Information and communication technologies (ICT) systems now dominate our everyday lives. This free course will explain what constitutes such a system and how ICT systems work. You will also look at how ICT systems convey, store and manipulate data, and how they process data.

## Gain a badge

### Introduction to cyber security: stay safe online

(introductory level, 24 hours)

Gain essential cyber security knowledge and skills to help protect your digital life. We shop online. We work online. We play online. We live online. As our lives increasingly depend on digital services, the need to protect our information from being maliciously disrupted or misused is really important.

### Digital literacy: succeeding in a digital world

(introductory level, 24 hours)

This free course will develop your confidence and skills for life online, whether study, work or everyday life. It explores a range of digital skills and practices, including digital identity, digital well-being, staying safe and legal, finding and using information and online tools, and dealing with information overload.

There is no limit to the amount of time you can spend on OpenLearn or the number of courses you can take.

[www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-for-work](http://www.open.edu/openlearn/skills-for-work): Digital Skills

## Your next steps

If you want to continue learning online, check out the digital boost courses on Business Gateway. CodeClan is a Scottish digital skills academy offering industry-focused courses in a range of digital skills.

If you'd prefer to learn on the job while working towards a qualification, the OU offers a Graduate Apprenticeship programme within the Digital and IT sector [www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/graduate-apprenticeships](http://www.open.ac.uk/scotland/study/graduate-apprenticeships)

## Studying with the Open University

The OU offers a range of digital and IT modules leading to recognised qualifications. To find the level that's right for you, check out page 19 of the Open Pathways learner guide, visit: [www.open.ac.uk/courses](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses) or speak to one of our advisers on **0300 303 5303**.

Students in Scotland can study for free if their personal earnings are under £25,000 per year. [www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding](http://www.open.ac.uk/courses/fees-and-funding)

Module	OU level	SCQF level
Science, technology and maths	Access module	SCQF level 6
Introduction to computing and information technology 1	OU level 1	SCQF level 7
Technologies in practice	OU level 1	SCQF level 7
Algorithms, data structures and computability	OU level 2	SCQF level 8
Cisco networking (CCNA) part 1	OU level 2	SCQF level 8
Communication and information technologies	OU level 2	SCQF level 8
Object-oriented Java programming	OU level 2	SCQF level 8

## Where will my learning journey take me?

Your learning will build your confidence navigating an increasingly digital world. How far you take it is up to you. It could improve your employability or lead to completely new opportunities. Advances in technology are opening up new methods of manufacturing products and analysing data, sometimes called Industry 4.0. These will change the type of job roles in organisations, so keeping up with new technology and improving your digital skills can help future-proof your career.