Become a distinctive Computing graduate

Whether studying Computer Science, Information Systems, Creative Computing or Smart Systems, your programme will give you a solid grounding in practical and theoretical computing and allow you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. It will equip you to progress to a career or further study in the subject. Courses at Keele will also provide you with ten graduate attributes, which will be of value in your life and career. They are designed to help you become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

What are the attributes and where in the Computing programmes will I develop them?

The ten attributes are listed below. You will develop these throughout your programme, but some of the core places where they are developed are indicated as bullet points below each attribute. Employers will want to know what skills you have gained. What follows will help you recognise and highlight the skills and aptitudes you have gained.

1. An open and questioning approach to ideas, demonstrating curiosity, independence of thought and the ability to appreciate a range of perspectives on the natural and social worlds
   • Lectures and tutorials from active researchers demonstrate this approach
   • Assignments and dissertations develop reasoning, analysis and argument

2. An appreciation of the development and value of your chosen subjects of study, awareness of their contexts, the links between them, and awareness of the provisional and dynamic nature of knowledge
   • From the very start of your first year you will be taught the core concepts of the key technologies and physical infrastructure elements used in computing, and about the nature, development and use of software.
   • Year 3 modules explore the subject at the leading edge of research and practice.

3. Information literacy: the ability to locate, evaluate and synthesise large amounts of frequently conflicting information, ideas and data
   • Modules will guide you through this process.
   • With the guidance of a supervisor, you will survey relevant background literature to provide the academic justification for your final-year project.

4. The ability creatively to solve problems using a range of different approaches and techniques, and to determine which techniques are appropriate for the issue at hand
   • Modules explain how to critically evaluate techniques associated with establishing the requirements of software-based systems, how to design and implement such systems, and how to evaluate systems and methods.
   • Laboratory practicals teach problem solving and a range of programming and other techniques.

5. An appreciation of the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and other activities, including recognition of any ethical implications
   • Early modules explain how computing interacts with social, organisational and individual user factors, and the importance of compliance with legal and ethical standards.
   • A later module includes the more detailed study of ethical and professional issues.
6. The ability to communicate clearly and effectively in written and verbal forms for different purposes and to a variety of audiences
   • Varied assignments involve written work and oral presentations
   • Student participation in tutorials gives practice in communication

7. The knowledge, skills, self-confidence and self-awareness actively to pursue your future goals
   • Your Personal Tutor can help you with your personal development planning
   • One-to-one supervision and planning of your final-year project

8. The ability and motivation to participate responsibly and collaboratively as an active citizen in the communities in which you live and work
   • Opportunities to contribute to open days and student-staff liaison
   • Study of ethical and professional issues

9. A professional and reflective approach, including qualities of leadership, responsibility, personal integrity, empathy, care and respect for others, accountability and self-regulation
   • In a second year module you will work as a member of a development team and develop sought-after team-working skills, recognising the different roles within a team and different ways of organising teams
   • Study of ethical and professional issues

10. The flexibility to thrive in rapidly changing and uncertain external environments and to update skills and knowledge as circumstances require
    • Opportunity to study abroad
    • In your final year project you will produce software and/or research demonstrating skills acquired during the course.