

What is the upReach Tech500?

Interested in a career in technology? [Join the upReach Tech500](#) to benefit from a free programme of exclusive career events, skills development opportunities, mentoring and 1-to-1 support.

The Tech500 programme runs from when you join until graduation, after which you automatically become part of the upReach alumni network.

The aims of the programme are to help you explore your career options, develop key skills to enhance your employability, widen your professional network, and - ultimately - to secure top spring weeks, summer internship and graduate job opportunities in the technology sector.

The Tech500 programme includes upReach's standard personalised employability support, plus additional access to exclusive resources, events, and workshops, such as our Summer Bootcamp, Hackathon, and Tech Speaker Series.

Am I eligible for this programme?

upReach is a social mobility charity, and our objective is to support students from under-represented backgrounds. This means every student we support (we call them "upReach Associates"), including those in the upReach Tech500, must meet our general eligibility criteria including:

- **University:** You must currently be an undergraduate that is in full-time study. This programme is open to students at any UK university.
- **School:** You must have attended UK state schools only (or since age 14 if educated abroad before then)
- **Degree year:** This programme is open for applications from students who are currently in their first or penultimate year of undergraduate study
- **Degree subject:** We encourage students from any degree background to apply. There is no need to be studying a computer science or STEM degree to be eligible for this programme - what's most important to us is your interest in the technology sector, not your existing knowledge.
- **A-level grades:** Achieved at least BBB in top 3 A-Levels on a **contextualised basis** (*see below) or an equivalent qualification.
- **Household income:** This must be below £42,620, as assessed by Student Finance.

* Please note we consider grades on a contextual basis, meaning we also take into account factors such as the school you attended or the area you live in. We believe this gives us a better indication of your true academic potential.

All applicants complete our REALrating form, which will tell you your contextual grades. For example, if you achieved a C in A-level Maths, you may find that your contextual grade is actually a B, once your background is taken into consideration. We will consider your REALrating result when determining your eligibility.

What does being part of the upReach Tech500 involve?

When joining the programme, you'll be matched with a dedicated upReach Programme Coordinator, who will get to know you and be on-hand to provide ongoing 1-to-1 support throughout your time with us.

Your Programme Coordinator will be able to give you extensive support at each stage of the job application process, including:

- Reviewing your CV and offering feedback,
- Reviewing your applications and cover letters for the technology and related sectors
- Mock job interviews, and
- Assessment centre preparation

As well as support from your upReach Programme Coordinator, you'll also have access to:

- Exclusive work experience opportunities
- Exclusive employer events, like insight days to help you learn more about different organisations
- Specific Tech500 events, such as our Summer Bootcamp, Hackathons, and Tech Speaker Series
- Extensive online resources, including guides to different employers, practise online tests, and career courses to help you understand the technology sector in depth
- Daily 'Video Forums' (webinars) to help you build your employability skills
- The opportunity to be matched with a professional mentor in the industry

upReach is able to provide this free programme thanks to the support of [The Hg Foundation](#), and support from employers in the sector. We work with our partner employers to provide opportunities in both tech and non-tech roles:

