**Convert to an IT career with an IT conversion course**

With a postgraduate qualification in IT, the doors of the IT world are open to you even if your undergraduate degree has no element technology in it. There is growing interest in IT conversion courses from both prospective graduates and graduate IT employers. From the graduate's perspective, many see the value of adding practical, concrete skills to a more generalist degree background. From the employer's point of view, good conversion course graduates increase the size of the pool of graduates with both soft skill and technology appeal from which they fish. Remember that the number of honors-BSc computing graduates in Ireland and internationally is only a fraction of what industry needs, therefore there are lots of opportunities out there in different aspects of the IT industry.

**What can an IT conversion course do for you?**

'IT conversion courses are designed to provide a basic grounding in computing and IT for graduates of disciplines other than computer science,' explains Dr Russell Beale from the University of Birmingham's School of Computer Science. 'They should provide students with the skills and techniques necessary to develop a career in the world of computing and technology.'

Professor Uday Reddy, Head of School at Birmingham, agrees, adding: 'Some students combine the expertise from their original discipline with the knowledge of IT gained in a conversion course to open up new career opportunities. A biology graduate may do an IT conversion course and specialize in bioinformatics; a social sciences graduate may combine IT knowledge to specialize in economic or financial modelling.' Other examples of where an IT conversion course can complement an existing qualification include, language and IT graduates going into software localization, English/history and IT graduates going into technical writing, design and IT graduates going into game or web design, engineering and IT graduates going into mathematical areas of IT, business and IT graduates going into systems design and database systems. The list is almost endless.

**Using your new-found skills**

Students go on to work in a range of areas. Many graduates from IT conversion courses go on to work in IT consultancies, the software and web development (e-commerce) industries or the IT departments of finance and industrial organizations. Some go on to non-IT jobs where IT knowledge is still very valuable, for example, working as financial organizations or sales and marketing professionals in IT organizations, while others have started their own businesses.

For most students from conversion courses, employment success comes from combining their newfound technology skills with the general skills and competences gained through their undergraduate studies.

IT practitioners in the industry need strong people skills, empathy with clients, understanding of the diverse needs of IT users, as well as a technical knowledge. Communication skills are crucial. In the workplace, you need to present your ideas both verbally, through presentations and in written documents.

IT conversion course are a well-established career route for non-IT graduates all around the world. Are you ready for a new adventure?