

A day in the life of a tech professional

Skills that this session will develop:

Knowledge, Research

By the end of this session the mentee will be able to:

- Explain what their mentor's profession is and routes into that role
- Describe a day in their mentor's working life, including the challenges they face as well as pros and cons to their role

Session Preparation:

1. Mentee to research their mentor's profession, including routes into the role.
2. Mentee to prepare questions for their mentor about their working life.

For more information on tech roles:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/browse-sector/information-technology>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/student/career-planning/careers-in-tech-top-10-tech-industry-careers-9865807.html>

<https://medium.com/23codestreet/tech-career-guide-non-technical-roles-in-tech-c036475ec147>

<https://skillcrush.com/blog/working-in-tech/>

Session Plan:

Review the information below and then complete the tasks together.

Discovering cleaner forms of energy, finding new ways to beat hackers, designing the next generation of video games: a career in tech is full of possibilities. Technology is fast-moving, endlessly innovative, financially rewarding – and you don't even necessarily have to be "technical" to make your mark.

Unsurprisingly, there are lots of tech roles that involve using technical skills and knowledge, such as programming, computer networking or fixing your colleagues' PCs. However, there are also plenty of jobs that have different focusses and in which you will use skills such as building good relationships with clients, managing projects so they stay on time and in budget, or assessing how new technology could make a company more efficient.

For all roles it will likely be important that you like technology and are prepared to learn some basics about the area you are working in, but there is no need to become a technical expert unless you want to.

Tech is a flexible industry, with a diverse workforce. It can offer amazing work-life balance, higher-than-average paychecks, and other great perks. There are tons of career options and you will now have the opportunity to gain valuable in depth insight into one of these!

Task 1: Together, discuss the mentee's research and fill in any knowledge gaps.

Task 2: Together, discuss a day in the working life of the mentor and answer mentee's questions. After this, the mentee should complete the following profile:

Mentor's job title and department:

What was your mentor's route/career path into their role?

What responsibilities are involved in this role?

What key skills are necessary for this role?

What is a challenging aspect of your mentor's work?

What is an interesting aspect of your mentor's working life?