6 Reasons to Study Electronics

We live in a world where technology is having more of an impact on our lives than ever before. Smart phones, electric vehicles, robots, high-speed wireless communications, space tech – these are just a few examples of recent innovations that are changing our lives. They all have one important thing in common: they depend on Electronics. Our devices and tech products wouldn't be able to work without the electronic components, computer processors and electronic circuits and software that lie under the surface of their often shiny exteriors. And it's down to Electronic Engineers to develop these processors, design the circuits and write the embedded software code.

Did you know that the UK Electronics industry is one of the largest in the world? It is also growing quickly. But what's in it for you? There are plenty of reasons to think about a career in Electronics… here are six of them:

90%
of smartphones contain Electronics designed in the UK

1) You're moulding the future with your hands...

Exciting developments in Electronics means that we are constantly developing innovative products and helping to transform the way humanity lives; from evolutions in healthcare to entertainment. In the near future, we will see 'smart' cities with transportation, energy consumption, security and water use all improved thanks to Electronics.

2) Let's be honest, technology is very cool...

We live in an increasingly high-tech world. Electronic engineers are working at the cutting-edge, creating amazing solutions to tackle global problems. From the AI that so many of us now have in our homes and on our smartphones to augmented reality games to driverless cars, the tech that was once only in movies is now a real part of our lives. Advances in Electronic technology have been rapid over the last few decades, but there is so much more to come.

66%
of employers in Electronics sector currently recruiting engineering and technology staff

3) Electronics isn't all Maths and Science...

Of course, mathematics and scientific principles are a big part of working in Electronics, but without creative flair and an ingenious touch, a product or solution will not be attractive to its users. Electronics is all about using creativity to bring ideas together and design fabulous products.

4) Electronics has fantastic job prospects all over the UK...

The UK has the 6th largest Electronics industry in the world, with around 10,000 companies in every region of the UK. For example, because of a growth in Electronics businesses, South Wales is rapidly developing into the UK's own version of Silicon Valley! All around the country, it is a vibrant and growing sector with a massive economic impact. In fact, Electronics has £98bn annual turnover and contributes 6% of the nation's GDP.

£46,567
Is the mean full-time salary for Electronic Engineers in the UK

5) High salary and job security? Don't mind if I do...

As Electronic designers and engineers are in demand, employers pay high salaries. Unemployment in the sector is very low and grads can expect to start with a salary of at least £27K – graduate-jobs.com estimates that the average graduate starting salary is £19–22K. Then, the mean full-time salary in Electronics grows to over £46K, with Chartered Engineers earning, on average, over £68K!

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of the world's leading 20 semiconductor companies have a design and/or manufacturing site in the UK

6) You'll get the opportunity to travel the world...

Electronics is a truly global profession; there are many opportunities around the world. Electronics plays such a big role across a whole range of technologies and products – collaborations between different teams of designers and manufacturers in different countries are commonplace.

Find out more by visiting the #TurnOnToElectronics website: turnontoelectronics.org

Still need convincing? Check out some testimonials from some of our UKESF Scholars below:

Eve

Company sponsor: Leonardo (Edinburgh)
University: University of Glasgow
Course: MEng Electronics & Electrical Engineering

"In my early school years, engineering was marketed just like Yorkie bars: not for girls. I ate a lot of Yorkie bars growing up!"

Patryk

Company sponsor: Renesas
University: University of Nottingham
Course: MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering

"It's actually incredible to discover how data is stored, processed and then relayed to a human in a form that is readable, in barely a blink of an eye!"

Mekhola

Company sponsor: Rolls-Royce
University: University of Sheffield
Course: MEng Electronics & Electrical Engineering

"I am so happy with my placement as I get to be part of an interdisciplinary team that works on something that affects the future lives of many."

Sources: Engineering UK 2018 Report, The ESCO Report, IET Skills Survey 2017 and Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends for 2019.