

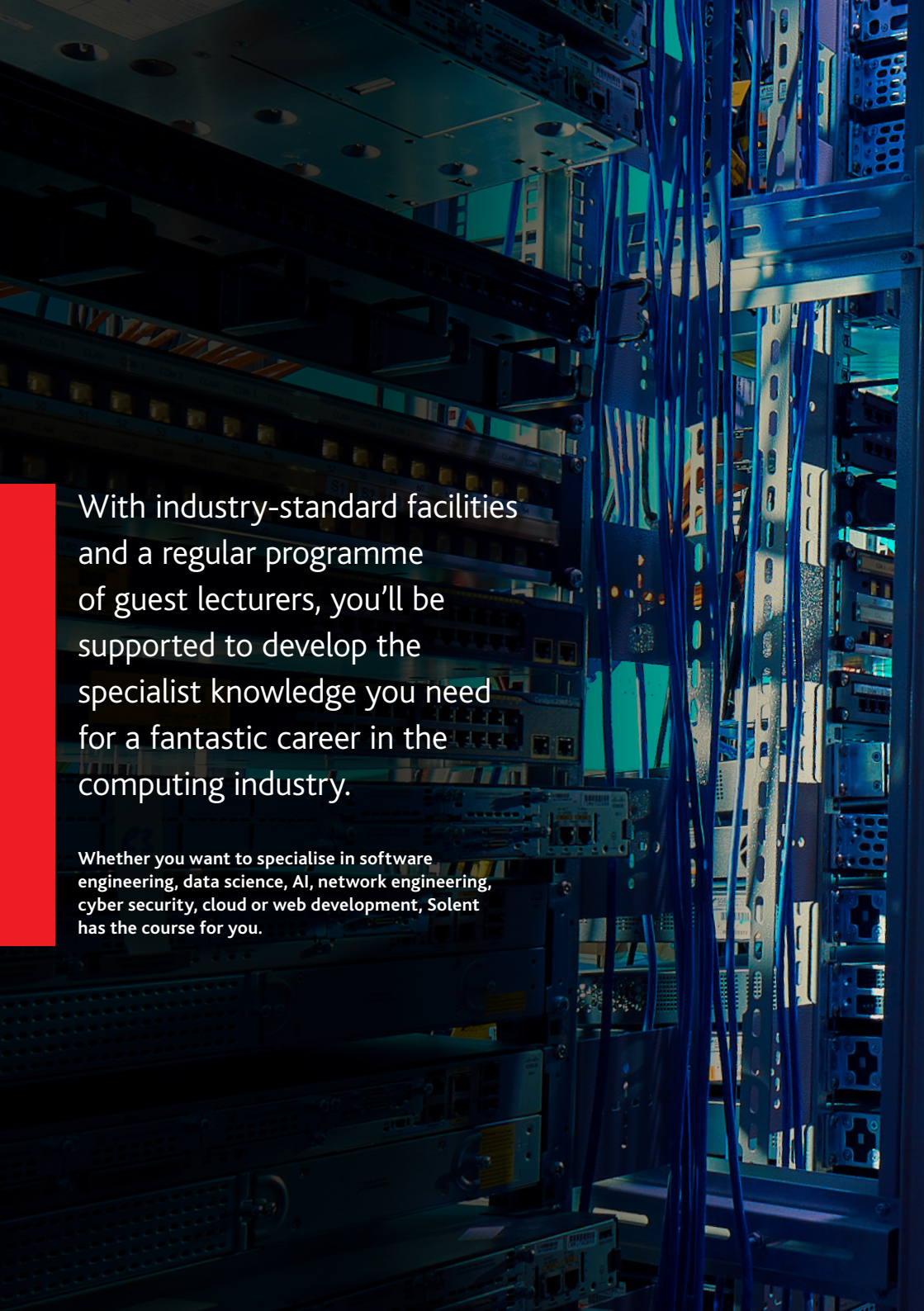
SOLENT
UNIVERSITY

SOUTHAMPTON



COMPUTING

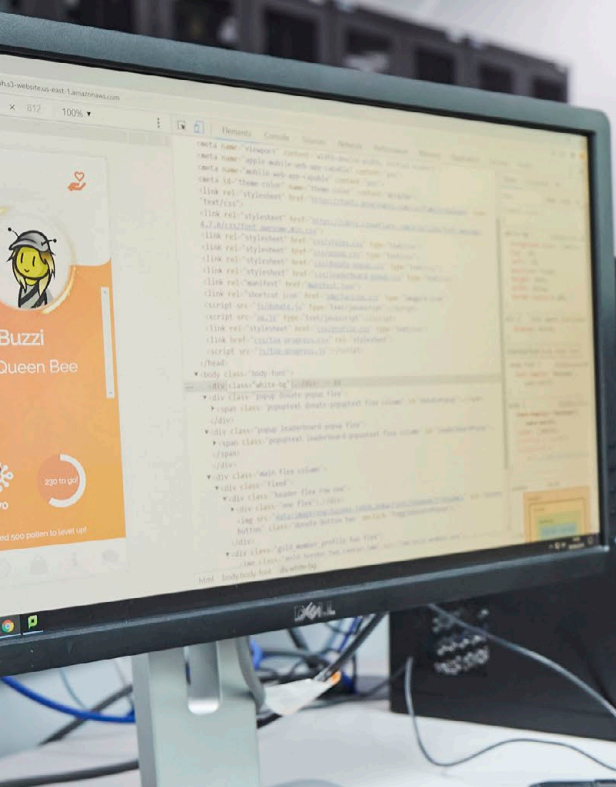
2022



With industry-standard facilities and a regular programme of guest lecturers, you'll be supported to develop the specialist knowledge you need for a fantastic career in the computing industry.

Whether you want to specialise in software engineering, data science, AI, network engineering, cyber security, cloud or web development, Solent has the course for you.





WHY SOLENT?

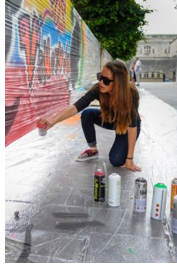
- BCS lectures – which explore new developments within the industry – are regularly held on our campus.
- The many IT career opportunities are reflected by our involvement with premium companies such as Cisco, IBM and Fujitsu.
- You'll get the chance to work on live development projects, with freelancing opportunities available through our in-house agency, Solent Creatives.
- On top of that, you'll be within easy reach of London – the UK's development capital – without the living costs.



Our state-of-the-art computing facilities include:

- a usability lab featuring eye-tracking software, allowing you to test the functionality of digital platforms and the user experience
- computing labs with a motion capture studio, extensive hardware and the latest industry-standard software
- a devices lab, giving students the chance to 'field test' their websites and apps on real mobile and tablet devices, as well as through online emulators.





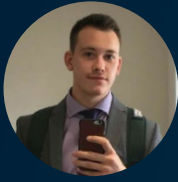
OUR GREAT CITY

Southampton is a city with something for everyone. Beautiful city-centre parks, an electric night-time economy and a thriving arts and music scene all meet to offer residents something truly unique.

Game, Forbidden Planet, CEX and Apple are all represented on the high street. The annual Southampton Game Fest – sponsored by Arcade Europe – attracts big names, including Playstation VR, HTC Vive and Testology. It's a growing event, exhibiting custom-made arcade machines and running gaming tournaments.

It's also a city of Premier League football, world-class sailing and international cricket. Its many pubs and clubs host breakthrough bands and big names. Stadium acts come to the Ageas Bowl, while the O2 Guildhall hosts mainstream pop, and festivals are a regular part of our city park life.





BEN PECKHAM

Associate systems engineer, Juniper Networks
BSc (Hons) Cyber Security Management, 2020

Tell us a bit about your role with Juniper Networks.

I'm a systems engineer, which means I spend my day learning and working with the latest networking and security technologies. My technical role in a sales team means I design, demonstrate and work with network architectures on Juniper-driven solutions. I help sell our technologies to empower and enable networking teams all over the country and ultimately connect people together.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

As a systems engineer I get the best of both worlds. On one side this means working on technical solutions – for example, data centre fabric deployments. On the other, I'm in sales, which offers the opportunity to visit customers on-site and connect.

What are the biggest challenges?


As a systems engineer in such a fast-paced industry, the learning curve is always steep – there is always something new to learn, whether this be on the technical or sales side.

What advice would you give to those wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Be enthusiastic in what you do every day, knowing that it can help someone else. Work relentlessly for what you want. A strong can-do attitude can carry you a long way!

How do you feel your studies at Solent helped prepare you for your career?

From a technical perspective, everything I needed for a post-grad position was provided through my course. I remember, during my first interview with Juniper, sitting in front of a whiteboard and being asked how I would design a campus network, and we had recently covered this in a lecture. Plus, presentations to the rest of my class really helped as I now present in front of customers.

The background features a complex digital aesthetic. On the left, a red wireframe mesh forms a series of peaks and valleys, resembling a topographical map or a data surface. To the right, a network of red lines connects various nodes, some of which are represented by red and cyan spheres of different sizes. In the top right corner, a grid of small cyan plus signs is visible. A large, semi-transparent cyan arc frames the bottom left and bottom center of the page, enclosing the testimonial text.

“From a technical perspective, everything I needed for a post-grad position was provided through my course.”



ABI CLEVERLY

Network engineer, HB Technologies

Level 6 Digital and Technology Solutions
Professional Degree Apprentice

Digital and Technology Solutions Professional Degree Apprentice Abi Cleverly works for HB Technologies as a network engineer and is part way through her BSc (Hons) Digital and Technology Solutions degree at Solent. We caught up with Abi to find out more about why she decided to do an apprenticeship, and how her work and studies are going so far.


Hi Abi, why did you decide to start an apprenticeship?

I've always been a very practical person as opposed to academic, so I didn't feel university was the right option for me. I wanted to earn and learn, and when I saw this opportunity for an apprenticeship with HB Technologies, I went for it. I joined the company straight from sixth

form on a level 3 IT apprenticeship, and they've now progressed me onto the level 6 at Solent University. I spend one day a week studying at Solent, and the other four days in the office. It's quite different to a normal degree as we don't do as many units each term, and instead continue studying over the summer period.

How are you finding your apprenticeship so far?

I would never have thought I would go to university – and it is hard work – but I enjoy the flexibility of being able to cover all the other specialist areas of IT other than my network pathway, and put the new learning into my job. It was a challenge to enter a male-dominated sector such as IT, but this apprenticeship has given me the support I need to progress in this field. I've gained a lot of confidence and am now



“I’ve gained a lot of confidence and am now the go-to person for our security products.”

the go-to person for our security products. We work in the networking labs equipped with the latest Cisco routers and switches. I’m enjoying learning while working as it allows me to put the theory I learn at uni into practice on live systems. It also improves my wider knowledge, helping me to troubleshoot problems quicker and help our clients.

What are your hopes/career plans for the future?

To carry on developing myself and my career with HB Tech. They are recruiting a new apprentice, so I will be able to buddy up with them and show them the ropes to support them. I will be learning some new mentoring skills and passing on the skills and experience I have gained – and it is great to support the team development.

How are you finding the work/life/study balance?

It is hard work, but you do have to be disciplined, and it is just once a week to attend. Staff are on hand at the University if I have any issues, and if I wanted to get more involved with the social side of the University, there are plenty of opportunities and activities to do so.

Would you recommend an apprenticeship to others? If so, why?

Yes, because I never thought I would get a degree at university while doing a job I enjoy and being paid to develop my career. My school teachers never advised me of the progression that local apprenticeships could support, as they saw success and progression as a full-time higher education degree only.

LIAM CHARMER

Director of Technology and Innovation,
Remiam Ltd

BSc (Hons) Computing, 2017

How did Solent help prepare you for your career?

Solent prepared me to be an innovative and creative thinker and helped me gain the core skills of working within a professional environment. The entrepreneurial focus at Solent really geared me up and pushed me towards starting and running my own business.

Favourite Solent memory?

That's quite a hard one as there were so many – from the technology champions recruitment and events, to the Hackathon that one of my lecturers ran, the British Conference for Undergraduate Research (BCUR) event I presented work at, working with my classmates ... I had so many! I also graduated with a first-class honours degree and had the highest grade in computing for that graduation year.

Tell us about your career story so far.

After graduating I continued with my freelance work in areas including web development, app development, ux/ui design and training. I also became director of the umbrella innovation company, Remiam Ltd, using a variety of technologies and working with web, mobile and smart home devices to follow the new exciting trend of the Internet of Things. A recent product we developed is an app called 'Instarama' which creates panoramic images for Instagram.

I'm now working with a variety of clients around the world and going to a variety of networking events across the UK, providing products and services to clients.

A typical working day for me is managing two businesses, liaising with my clients, searching for new clients and creating innovative products – oh, and the occasional Starbucks!

Any tips for others wanting to follow in your footsteps?

My number one tip is to be passionate about the technology industry and you will reap the benefits later.



“This course is for you if you want to explore all disciplines involving technology.”



DAVID JONES

Business intelligence developer,
Greencore Group Plc

BSc (Hons) Business Information
Technology, 2008



“University has opened doors for me in my career and provided industry opportunities that I know I wouldn’t have been given without going.”

What was the best bit of your course?

The best part of the course for me would have been the web development modules in the first year, which helped lead into my very first role post-university and gave me a strong understanding of open source web languages and how to apply them.

Tell us about your current role.

Today, I work for Greencore, a leading international convenience food manufacturer. Greencore is the world’s largest manufacturer of pre-packed sandwiches, producing 1.5 billion each year and supplying some of the world’s biggest food and retail brands.

I work in data analytics as a data analyst/engineer. The main focus of the role is to help teams work more efficiently by providing capabilities to analyse and better understand their data. It sits across multiple business areas, ranging from helping to improve the efficiencies of the manufacturing process to working with finance teams with price projection and planning or employing data trending to track and spot opportunities with our clients.

My studies at Solent helped me develop the ability to pick up skills and knowledge fast and apply them in a professional environment. I enjoy the fact that every day I get to apply what I learnt at university to help the business make choices through intelligent data-led decisions.

Some of the other companies and industries I have worked in since leaving university include BAE Systems (defence), TNT (global logistics) and Suzuki (large-scale car manufacture).

What has been your biggest achievement in your career?

My biggest achievement would be working for two industry-recognised businesses. First would be Greencore, as they put trust in you to deliver multiple solutions over a range of technologies.

Working here has allowed me to expand my knowledge of industry-recognised toolsets in the data analytics space and benefited the business and those around me. Further, I work with a group of talented professionals from a range of backgrounds and experiences who teach you something new every day.

My time at Greencore wouldn’t have happened, though, without the experience and time spent at BAE Systems. It helped me to develop personally and professionally, and to learn what can be done when you adapt the knowledge and skills you have gained.

What are the three most important things you learnt during your time at Solent?

1. Understand your technology and your point of view, and put over a strong case, but be willing to take on board others’ views and opinions, incorporating them to achieve an overall goal.
2. Take time to think about the best solution to a problem and research it before creating it.
3. New languages and skills take time to learn – do not rush it and you will succeed.

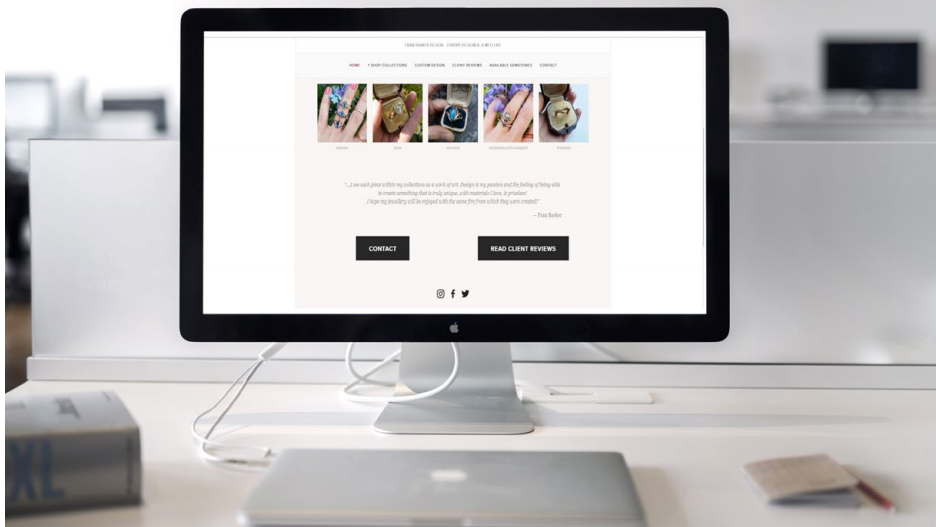


KATIE HAMLING

Website developer, Katie Hamling
Website Design and Development

BSc (Hons) Computing, 2017

“Being able to work for myself as a tiny company, but still do work for big companies in America, is a big achievement for me.”



Why did you choose to study at Solent?

I originally started my studies at another university but didn't enjoy the course and wanted to be closer to home. I chose Solent because the course had more seminars as opposed to lectures, which meant that we got more one-on-one time to really help us progress with work.

What was the best part of your course?

The lecturers were all really helpful – if you didn't understand something they were all available via email at any time, and they made sure that the effort you put into your studies was reflected in your grade.

What has been your greatest achievement?

Graduating with a first-class honours degree after trying so hard was a massive achievement. My dissertation was also a highlight for me – having a tutor that was so involved and passionate about the study made it so much easier.

What have you been up to since you graduated?

Since leaving university in 2017, I have set up my own business that offers website design and development alongside social media management and photography.

I enjoy finding new clients and portraying their business online in a way that is unique to them. I have worked with clients all around the world and my first global client made me realise that you don't need a job in a massive company to reach people anywhere in the world. Being able to work for myself as a tiny company, but still do work for big companies in America, is a big achievement for me.

How did Solent help prepare you for your career?

Learning computing was obviously a massive help with my job choice now, but Solent wasn't just about the degree. For me, Solent taught me how to prioritise my time effectively, how to work well in tough situations and how to get the most out of my studies. I became more aware that the effort I put into my studies was reflected in my grade, which seems obvious now. Before Solent I would complete work and hand it in, knowing that it was completed ... but during my time at Solent I learnt to work hard, hand work in and feel pleased, not because it was completed, but because I was proud of it.

What advice would you give to someone wanting to follow in your footsteps?

Make the most of your time at university – the three years goes so quickly. Speak to your lecturers – they're going to be an invaluable part of your studies.

SOLENT STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE AT ROYAL HACKAWAY


In February 2021, three students from Solent University won first place in the Royal Hackaway Hackathon 2021.

The Royal Hackaway is an initiative of the Computing Society at Royal Holloway, University of London, which aims to provide inclusive events to help students learn and grow. This year's hackathon asked participants to create something interesting that hadn't been seen before.

Matthew Dear (BSc (Hons) Software Engineering), Bradley Marshall (BSc (Hons) Software Engineering) and John Hawkins (BSc (Hons) Audio Engineering) won first place for their design of a NoSQL database that stores data and removes empty cells, allowing it to produce tiny files that are faster to traverse, while maintaining data integrity.

We caught up with the team to find out more about the experience, and how it felt to win.





Congratulations on your win! Why did you decide to enter this hackathon?

We decided to participate in the Royal Hackaway as we had heard good things about it from members of the Solent Computing Society who had competed the year before. For this hackathon, Matt, John and I teamed together to work on a project, additionally competing with other members of the Solent Computing Society who were also attending the event.


Tell us about the idea you worked on during the competition.

Our team knew what we wanted to work on during the event, which was an idea that had come to me a few weeks prior. We were making a brand-new databasing technology – FlitDB, as we later decided to call it. Flit means to move swiftly and lightly, which is something that we felt reflected the design of our new database technology, as we had designed it around a dynamic varying amount to skip, as all data that results in a nullified value would be nixed from the database and not stored at all.

Making a new database and structured format, as well as the technology to read and write to it, was no easy feat, but our team prevailed, and we worked throughout the night to get a working prototype. Towards the submission deadline for the event, we had our basic prototype reading and writing values to the database. We were all impressed with how small the database was – and could be – with our new technology, and with only a few minutes to spare we submitted our project for judging ... then the hours passed. Eventually judging concluded. Likewise, just as our team was impressed with how small the overall size of the database was, so were the judges. Our team was left in a state of astonishment and happy triumph when we were announced as the overall winners of the event.

What have you learnt as a result of this competition?

Aside from winning the competition, we have all learnt lots of new things, such as lossless text compression, C++ and system API level requests for input and output operations on physical hardware. Overall, the event was very beneficial, both in terms of what we learnt, and also what we received – recognition for our hard work (and an assortment of prizes).



ALEX PATE

Web engineer, Monzo Bank

BSc (Hons) Web Design
and Development, 2015

“Solent played such a big role in setting me up for work. Learning to get comfortable with both sharing my work with my peers and giving and receiving feedback is a skill that I use every day in my job.”

Hi Alex, tell us a bit about your role with Monzo.

I'm currently a web engineer. In the past few years I've bounced between development and product design, but for now I've settled on web engineering.

At Monzo, we work in a 'squads' model – small teams consisting of a designer, a user researcher and engineers who are focused around solving a single problem. At the moment, I'm working on the first version of a web portal for our business account customers.

A typical day starts with a quick sync with the rest of the squad, then it's heads down on development work. Collaboration is a big part of the Monzo culture, so there are lots of moments during the day where we come together as a team to work together on problems, or share our work to give and receive feedback.

What do you enjoy most about it and what are the biggest challenges?

I really enjoy working on a product that's so impactful. Money plays a big role in people's lives, and being able to work on projects that are solving real problems, but also helping to change people's relationship with money in a positive way, is really rewarding.

Being a modern-day developer can be really challenging. Whether it's a new framework or a new language, the range of things that developers need to know is constantly expanding. However, I feel really fortunate to work in an environment that allows me to learn and level up.

How do you feel your studies at Solent helped you prepare for your role?

Solent played such a big role in setting me up for work. Presenting was a huge part of the Solent culture. Learning to get comfortable with both sharing my work with my peers and giving and receiving feedback is a skill that I use every day in my job.

The range of topics covered is also something that I'm only recently beginning to appreciate. There are often times in my job where I'm required to stretch out of my own domain, and I often find myself recalling some of the modules from the course.

What advice would you give to those wanting to get into your industry?

Make stuff. Show your passion. It could just be a silly side project that you make, or a rough design of something – these kinds of projects are really a chance to play around with a new technique or try a new language. And when you do make something, show it off! Share it on Twitter, write a blog post about it!

Also, go out of your way to find opportunities, whether it's reaching out to agencies or companies and asking for a week or two of work experience, or getting involved in projects at Solent Creatives. All of these things are going to expose you to real-world problems and develop you as an individual.

What's coming up next for you?

There's a lot of really exciting projects that I would love to be a part of in the near future. I've also got one or two side projects that I've been working on that I'm hoping to find time to finish soon!

COURSE LIST

COURSE	UCAS TARIFF POINTS	WORK PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITY	FOUNDATION YEAR AVAILABLE
BSc (Hons) Computer Systems and Networks Engineering	96–112	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Computing	104–120	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Cyber Security Management	104–120	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Digital Design and Web Development	96–112	Y	Y
BSc (Hons) Software Engineering	104–120	Y	Y
Computing Foundation Year	48		

HOW TO APPLY

Solent University code name: **SOLNT**
Solent University UCAS code: **S30**
www.ucas.com



RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES
March – September

WORK ON YOUR UCAS APPLICATION
September – January

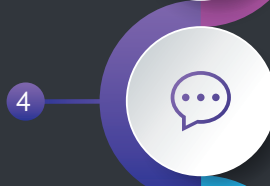


CHECK UCAS TRACK

This is where you'll see if you have an unconditional offer (the place is yours) or a conditional offer (based on exam results or other evidence), or if your application has been unsuccessful.



APPLY ONLINE VIA UCAS
By 26 January



REPLY TO YOUR OFFERS

Select your firm choice.
Select your insurance choice – this is a back-up choice in case you don't meet the conditions for your firm choice.
Decline your other offers.



FIND OUT IF YOU'VE GOT YOUR PLACE

You'll see in UCAS TRACK if your place is confirmed. BTEC results are published from July onwards and A-level results will be published in mid-August.



52 THINGS TO DO

Prepare for university in less than an hour each week with our tips, guides and quizzes.
www.solent.ac.uk/52-things

SOLENT UNIVERSITY

SOUTHAMPTON

Solent University,
East Park Terrace,
Southampton SO14 0YN

Course enquiries: **+44 (0)23 8201 3039**

Main switchboard: **+44 (0)23 8201 3000**

Email: **ask@solent.ac.uk**

www.solent.ac.uk