

Young Strathclyde: Accelerate

Computer Science Challenge

22nd to 26th June 2026

Accelerate is a one-week programme, held at the University of Strathclyde, for pupils who have just gone into S5 and S6. It aims to provide a targeted focus on the pupils' chosen area of academic interest, giving them a head start on the road to their chosen career.

There are ten areas that you can choose from in 2026, depending on your career aspirations:

- **Business**
- **Chemistry**
- **Chemical Engineering**
- **Computer Science**
- **Education**
- **Electronic & Electrical Engineering**
- **Languages & International Communication**
- **Law**
- **Politics**
- **Product Design**

Teams of academic experts have put together week-long Challenges in each of these areas that will allow pupils to find out all about their area of interest and the career opportunities open to them. Led by undergraduate and postgraduate student mentors from the relevant fields, pupils will undertake a variety of group challenges, as well as attending career workshops and getting a chance to see what student life is like.

The Computer Science Challenge: Outline

The Department of Computer and Information Science (CIS) at the University of Strathclyde will be hosting a challenge for up to 30 pupils.



What will you be doing?

In teams, you will be asked to choose an area of health or lifestyle that you want to develop an interactive application for. This could be tracking your sleep, helping people exercise, helping people monitor their heart rate, a yoga app... Anything that would improve a person's life through technology. Your challenge will be to:

- *Come up with an original design idea to solve this problem.*
- *Identify who your target users are.*
- *Identify technical and user experience requirements for your product.*
- *Develop a prototype of your application/device/system.*
- *Build and test some of the functionality of your prototype.*

You will have to take the idea from design concept through to a real prototype which showcases the innovative features of your device or application. We will

support you in this by showing you how to create apps and helping you to program small devices that can automatically detect activity and send the data wirelessly back to the app on the user's computer, phone or tablet.

You will then pitch your idea to a panel of experts and the most innovative application or device that is most likely to change the way we live will be selected to win a prize.



University staff and professionals working in Computer Science will be on hand throughout the week as a source of advice and information and to support you through your group tasks.

Our Computer Science careers & industry event, on the Wednesday of the programme, will also allow you to see the future opportunities available to you and the whole week will offer you a taste of what it is really like to study at University. We are sure that this challenge will showcase how varied a degree and career in computer and information science is.

Visit the CIS department website:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/science/computerinformationsciences>

The Computer Science challenge has official accreditation on the SCQF Framework. This means that there will be some assessment on this challenge and, should you pass this, you will gain 10 credits at level 7. Level 7 is the same as Advanced Higher or first year University work.

Comments from previous Computer Science challenge participants:

“It was a great experience and a great journey to learning new things I have never even heard of.”

“It was a fun experience to learn what a computer science qualification at Strathclyde is. It was fun to meet new people and interesting to learn from the professors.”



“I found it enjoyable due to the fact we got to choose a product to attempt to benefit those with disabilities, helping make their lives easier.”

For further information, visit:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusionsservice/wideningaccess/gettingready/accelerate/>

or contact us at accelerate-programme@strath.ac.uk