



UK Electronics  
Skills Foundation

# 4 Reasons to Study Electronics

In the UK, the Electronics sector is big, valuable and growing; however, the demand for capable, employable graduates is currently outstripping supply. There are plenty of reasons to study Electronics at university – here are 4 of them:

## 1) Help create the future

The world that we live in is constantly evolving and technology is at the heart of this change. Only a generation ago you were lucky if your family had a dial phone in their home. Now, everyone has a smartphone capable of incredible things, containing highly complex processors, advanced communications and packed with Electronics. Exciting developments in Electronics mean we can develop innovative products and help transform the way we live; from healthcare to entertainment. In the future, we will see ‘smart’ cities with transportation, energy consumption, security and water use all improved through Electronics. Electronics enables engineers and inventors to create solutions that tackle the world’s problems and to improve lives.

**90%**

of smartphones  
contain Electronics  
designed in the UK

## 2) Great prospects

**61%**

employers in  
Electronics sector  
currently recruiting  
graduates

The UK has the 6<sup>th</sup> largest Electronics industry in the world. The industry has a £98bn annual turnover and contributes 6% of the nation’s GDP. This means that Electronic Engineering is one of the most in-demand professions in the country. Therefore, students graduating from Electronics courses are highly sought after by UK employers. These graduates enjoy a full-time employment rate of 78.5% (with a further 11% of graduate engineers going on to postgraduate study), which is much higher than the national average of 57.8%.

## 3) High starting salary

As Electronic Engineering graduates are in demand, employers pay high starting high salaries. Within 6 months of graduating, those with a degree in Electronics enjoy an average salary of £26,644, which is far above the average starting salary for UK-domiciled graduates in all subjects (£22,205) and almost equal to the UK national average salary (£27,271). Those who continue their careers in Engineering can expect an average salary of £68,539 once they have achieved Chartered status.

**£26,644**

average salary  
within 6 months of  
graduating

## 4) Opportunity to travel

Electronics is a truly global profession; there are many worldwide opportunities. As Electronics plays such a big role across a whole range of technologies and products, collaborations between different designers, manufacturers and producers are often needed. This is one of the main reasons why many universities offer the chance to study abroad, so that you can see how technology is advancing in different areas across the globe whilst immersing yourself in the culture and gaining new experiences.

Sources: Engineering UK 2016 Report, The ESCO Report, IET Skills Survey 2015 and Top 10 Strategic Technology Trends 2016.