

*“Experience is key!”*

## Introduction

I am an 18-year-old girl who became disillusioned in my final year of education after struggling with the limitations of the traditional route in contrast with the enormity of the world and everything I wanted to do in it. Mayden is a software company working in the healthcare sector with a warm, conscientious, informal approach to its employees.



Image: Lucia Velasco, Trainee Software Developer

## How did you get started in your career?

I was offered a summer internship in Bath by a software development company. My former employer kept in touch and when he found out that I was looking for a long-term placement instead of completing my A-levels he put me in touch with several companies in Bath and alerted me when he heard about the Mayden Academy scheme. I was fortunate enough to be accepted.

## Can you outline a typical work day?

Currently our days at the Mayden Academy involve learning for a week and implementing what we learn along the way, then working on projects for a week. These two week “sprints” are part of the scrum team methodology that the whole company uses, in teams of about six. A typical learning day would involve learning through mixed media from top professionals from within the company and tackling a challenge together in which we implement what we’ve been taught that day.

## What do you enjoy most about your job?

All the learning is interactive, there is no “here, take this textbook and learn it”. Mayden is full of interesting people, all of whom are qualified, friendly and available for questions if we come across a roadblock during one of our projects.

## What skills are important for anyone wishing to start in your profession?

Think Google - it’s not about the qualifications you have, it’s about the skills and the creative approach you have. At the interview for the Mayden Academy you take an online problem solving test to test your aptitude for IT, which can be quite fun.

## What main personal attributes do you think is important for your type of job?

People who can work well in teams, people who are friendly, open and always ready to learn new things - this is vital in a sector that is constantly changing and evolving.

## Do you have any tips or suggestions on how young people and adults can enter your industry?

To get into IT, I'd recommend working on pet projects at home and getting experience in the field wherever you can - if you ask for some work experience many companies will say yes and they might take you on or recommend routes to you in the future. Complete online courses and tutorials, figure out the workings behind that game you love, build a little form... anything and everything is a step in the right direction.

## Why is it important for the construction sector to attract and train young people and new entrants?

The national shortage of developers means that companies end up poaching each other's employees, which no one wants. To avoid this and to keep the industry moving forward we need fresh blood, innovative people with creativity and scope.

## What trends do you predict for your industry within the next 10 years? E.g. is it a growing market requiring more young entrants.

Young people and anyone willing to keep learning will be at the fore of developing. The industry can only grow, both in terms of the number of jobs and the variety. I predict that as technology advances there will be whole new areas to work in within the next decade.

## General words of wisdom

Experience is key. A degree in computing is all very well, but a year in industry is worth several in university. If you want to get ahead, create a portfolio of anything and everything - from Minecraft mod-packs to pages you've designed at school. And remember that you can switch to IT at any point in your life.

## Further contact/information

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