

## **Focus on the Future!**

### **Career Path**

#### **Games Designer**



To start, watch this short film about a designer working at EA and Criterion Games. His background includes 'Need For Speed' and 'Burnout'

<https://youtu.be/aOboIUnCID4>

The video game industry is one of the few markets that continue to grow, even during recent recessions. The cause may be the fact that as technology advances, new and exciting ways to deliver entertainment keep users coming back for more. According to google trends, the video game industry has been experiencing growth for a few years now.

However, this still remains a competitive career choice so research and planning is important to help you stand out from the crowd!



### **What does a Games Designer Do?**

Games Designers:

- Plan what a game will look like and how it can be played
- Think of original ideas or may sometimes work from a given brief
- Create the game's visual characters, objects and scenery
- Use story boards to plan

- Bring the characters, objects and scenery to life with computer modelling and animation software
- Create the code to make the game work

Your job role might be specialising in one of those areas.



### **What Qualifications do they have?**

Although it could be possible to enter this career through experience this is increasingly more difficult. Most people entering this career have studied at college and sixth form and have then gone on to university. To get into university you would need either A levels or an equivalent level 3 qualification such as BTEC level 3.

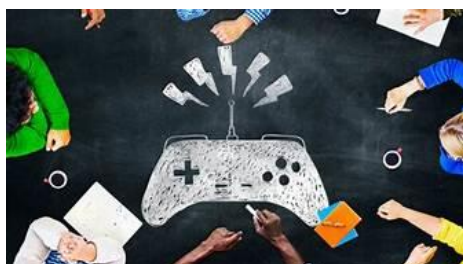
### **University courses that are relevant include:**

- computer games technology
- computer games development
- computer science
- interactive media
- mathematics

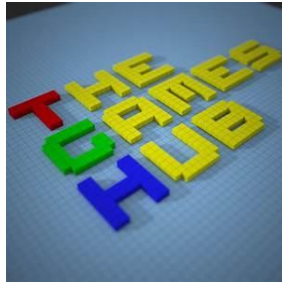
**You may have an advantage when you look for work if you do a degree that has a work placement. This is known as a sandwich degree as you will have a work placement ‘sandwiched’ in the middle of your degree course!**

### **How much do they earn?**

On average starting salaries can be around £19,500 per year. With experience you could earn up to £60,000 per year.



## **Where to find out more**



Did you know at The University of Essex in Colchester there is a 'Games Hub' which encourages the ideas and innovation to create tomorrow's successful computer games companies. Each year they run a 40-week development programme for aspiring game and app developers.

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/business/knowledge-gateway/the-games-hub>

Jagex, Microsoft Research and Guerrilla are all companies which make games you have probably played yourself. They all have bases just a few miles away in Cambridge, being a hub for technology based companies.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/computer-games-developer>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/game-designer>

<https://www.gamedesigning.org/become-a-game-designer/>

## **If you want to find out about similar job roles, check out these below:**

Software engineer

Animator

Sound designer

Game artist

Multimedia Programmer

