Information Technology (IT) is in every aspect of airport life from the lights on the runway to the Air Traffic Control systems, to how East Midlands Airport's website looks.

The airport's relationship with Information Technology is constantly developing. There are jobs at the airport now that did not exist five years ago. And in five years' time, there will be jobs we can't even imagine now. As with all of the other areas of work, there are lots of opportunities in IT. Here's how IT supports six key areas.

IT everywhere
Starting in the obvious place, over 21 million people use IT in offices every day. It's the same at the airport. Staff use laptops, accounting systems, office-based software packages, design packages. Retail and catering outlets use EPOS (electronic point of sale) systems such as cash registers and card payment devices. IT is used in just about every aspect of airport life.

IT Systems Support
Over 250 people use the IT network at East Midlands Airport. If things go wrong they need technical support. This is a busy role. IT Systems Support Staff need a logical mind and a creative approach to problem solving. Great communication skills are an asset in this role.

As well as problem solving IT Systems Support Staff install, configure and upgrade equipment and software packages. They work on lots of different things at the same time so must be able to multi-task.

Terminal Systems Engineer
A Terminal Systems Engineer makes different technologies work together. East Midlands Airport has around 40 terminal systems so this is a complex and skilled job. IT systems run the public address systems that give out information to passengers, the X-ray machines in security, metal detectors, explosive detectors and so much more.

As a Terminal Systems Engineer, you will become familiar with all of the systems in the terminal building and understand how these systems connect. Engineers must also be able to diagnose and fix faults. This is a skilled, demanding and ever-changing role.

Air Traffic Engineers
Air Traffic Engineers are highly specialised. They install, check and carry out routine maintenance on radio equipment, radar and navigational aids on the ground. This is a technical and demanding role.

Air Traffic Engineers must have an in-depth understanding of electronic engineering. They work to Civil Aviation Authority safety standards. In this area you will work as part of a team, enjoy a challenge and have normal colour vision. Like so many other roles, an eye for detail is essential.

Airfield Ground Lighting Technician
This is a job that until someone mentions it, you wouldn't really know existed. If you look at an airfield, particularly the taxi ways, the runway, the apron, you will now notice all sorts of lights. Airport lighting is governed by the Civil Aviation Authority's standards and Airfield Ground Lighting Technicians are fully qualified commercial electricians. It is their job to check, maintain and repair lighting. These Technicians may also be involved in project work for example designing new equipment or improving systems. To work in this area, you'll need normal colour vision, a logical mind to solve problems, the ability to diagnose and repair faults, and you'll be physically fit.

Multimedia Designer
How we communicate has changed dramatically over the last ten years and this is an area that will continue to change. Multi-media designers use software packages and graphics to design a wide range of products, from this website through to presentations used by Senior Managers.

These roles can be based at the airport but also freelance.

TO WORK IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

You'll be
For all of these roles, you'll need an eye for detail, the ability to identify problems and find solutions. If you are working as a Technician, you will need normal colour vision and professional qualifications.

Often in these roles you will be working with people who have different specialist skills so you need good communication skills and appreciation of how systems work for colleagues.

You'll need
There are lots of different routes into IT. Some come to work at East Midlands Airport straight from school, others work and study part-time towards work-based qualifications. Other options include apprenticeships or graduate programmes. There are lots of qualifications in this area, including T levels. Apprentice degree schemes are another option.

You'll earn
You can earn anything from an apprenceship salary (£12,000 to £14,000) through to over £50,000. Typically a qualified Engineer will earn between £28,000 and £40,000.