

AI in the World of Work

Student guide: AI roles



As the 'AI in the World of Work' module covers, AI is becoming a part of almost every career (e.g. teaching, marketing, medical, and finance sectors).

This guide in particular, highlights AI roles in tech. As technology changes, jobs do too, so we can expect new roles to be defined in the future but these are just some that exist now.

Roles that build AI

Data Scientist

What the role involves

Analysing large datasets to identify patterns and support decisions.

How AI is used

Developing and applying AI models to explore trends or predict outcomes.

Key human skills

- Problem solving
- Communication
- Critical thinking

Who might enjoy this role?

People who like working with data, asking questions, and explaining findings clearly.

AI / Machine Learning Engineer

What the role involves

Building, testing, and improving AI models and systems.

How AI is used

AI is both the tool being built, and a tool in doing that work.

Key human skills

- Logical thinking
- Collaboration
- Attention to detail

Who might enjoy this role?

People who enjoy developing systems and solving technical challenges.

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Supporting roles around AI

AI Trainer / Evaluator

What the role involves

Reviewing AI outputs and providing feedback to improve quality.

How AI is used

Systems learn from human feedback and correction.

Key human skills

- Attention to detail
- Judgement
- Clear communication

Who might enjoy this role?

People who enjoy spotting mistakes, giving helpful feedback, and improving the quality of AI systems.

Digital Project Manager

What the role involves

Managing timelines, teams, and risks in AI-related projects.

How AI is used

Supporting planning and tracking progress.

Key human skills

- Organisation
- Leadership
- Problem solving

Who might enjoy this role?

People who enjoy organising projects, working with others, and helping teams achieve shared goals.

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Roles that use, shape or oversee AI

AI Product Manager

What the role involves

Deciding how AI features should work for users.

How AI is used

Coordinating teams to ensure AI tools meet real needs.

Key human skills

- Leadership
- Communication
- Decision-making

Who might enjoy this role?

People who enjoy planning, organising, and balancing different viewpoints.

UX / Service Designer (AI systems)

What the role involves

Designing how people interact with AI tools and systems.

How AI is used

Testing whether AI-powered services are clear, accessible, and useful.

Key human skills

- Creativity
- Empathy
- Problem solving

Who might enjoy this role?

People who care about user experience and improving how systems work for real people.

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Roles that use, shape or oversee AI (cont.)

AI Ethicist or Policy Advisor

What the role involves

Assessing risks, fairness, and impact of AI systems.

How AI is used

Reviewing how automated decisions affect individuals and society.

Key human skills

- Ethical judgement
- Critical thinking
- Communication

Who might enjoy this role?

People interested in fairness, responsibility, law, or public policy.

AI Cybersecurity / AI Security Specialist

What the role involves

Protecting AI systems, data, and networks from cyber attacks and security risks.

How AI is used

Using AI to detect threats, identify unusual activity, and strengthen digital security.

Key human skills

- Critical thinking
- Attention to detail
- Problem solving

Who might enjoy this role?

People who enjoy solving puzzles, protecting systems, and staying one step ahead of new challenges.

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Different routes, different journeys

There is no single path into these roles

Careers develop step by step, often through unexpected opportunities.

People move into AI-related roles in many ways, including:

- apprenticeships
- university degrees
- vocational or technical courses
- learning on the job
- moving into AI work later in a career

What matters most is not:

- starting early
- knowing everything now

But:

- building skills over time
- being open to learning
- adapting as tools change