With technology becoming ever more prevalent in today’s world and Apps being designed to meet specific needs, it is becoming increasingly important to identify these technologies and recognise how they may be of benefit to you now and when you graduate. Complete this short quiz to reveal a personalised profile spanning six different genres, which suggests ways you can improve how you use technology within your studies. Don’t forget these could have further reaching applications for when you graduate and apply for jobs, and just because your modules don’t require the use of technology, it doesn’t mean you can’t.

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<tr>
<td>I make use of digital technology that few other students are using</td>
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<td>I use technology to ensure that my presentations look good</td>
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<td>I take any digital/technology training on offer</td>
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<td>I enjoy spending my time using online resources</td>
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<td>I do not like the impact technology has on my independent study</td>
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<td>I enjoy partaking in online forums or blogs for discussion</td>
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<td>I’m aware that future employers may research my online profile</td>
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<td>Other students look to me for advice about digital technology</td>
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<tr>
<td>I subscribe to podcasts or similar which are relevant to my field of study</td>
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<td>I use different types of media to create maximum impact when presenting my work</td>
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<td>I always choose to meet somebody face to face rather than email or meet online</td>
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<td>I choose technologies that would be relevant to me in a work place environment</td>
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With technology becoming ever more prevalent in today’s world and Apps being designed to meet specific needs, it is becoming increasingly important to identify these technologies and recognise how they may be of benefit to you now and when you graduate. Complete this short quiz to reveal a personalised profile spanning six different genres, which suggests ways you can improve how you use technology within your studies. Don’t forget these could have further reaching applications for when you graduate and apply for jobs, and just because your modules don’t require the use of technology, it doesn’t mean you can’t.
I use technology to share thoughts and ideas on academic work with my peers

My field of study is heavily influenced by the technologies and/or media we use

I tend to avoid digital technology as I do not trust it to work as it should

I seek out digital video and/or audio in my study

I use an online citation tool to manage online references

I worry about the risks of being dependent on digital technology

I specifically list my technology related skills on my CV so that it stands out from the crowd

I use a variety of Apps to support my study

When working in groups I like to use technology that supports collaboration

My studies would be impossible without digital technologies

I use various search engines in complex ways

Most aspects of my study can be done without digital technology

I frequently check my online groups for new comments and discussion threads

I enjoy creating videos that support my points of view

I maintain a LinkedIn profile that serves as an electronic version of my CV

I like to have access to a PC or laptop/be online during lectures to support my study

I can apply technology in novel ways to meet specific needs

I use social networks e.g. Facebook, to work with other students on my modules
How to build your profile:

Add your scores for each colour using the following values:

Not true of me  (-)  1
Sometimes true of me  (~)  2
Definitely true of me  (+)  3

Record your score in the space provided, relevant to whether you scored in the High, Medium or Low range.

Plot your scores on the radar chart below. Then read more about your profile and ways to build on your current technology practices on the following pages.

*Please remember to record your scores on the separate sheet which your tutor will collect from you.
What is a?

Digital Dodger
A student who is reluctant to integrate technology into their academic life. Reasons for this may include; they do not believe digital resources can improve the way they already go about their research, study and group work. Or they do not trust the technology and struggle to adapt from tried and tested methods to new ways of working.

Career Builder
A student who sees the link between their studies, the use of technology and the relevancy to their future career or prospects after graduation, even if they do not have a specific career path. They strive to be proficient in ICT and other emerging technologies, and maintain a professional profile online, including CVs, blogs and portfolios.

Digital Guru
A student who is a confident user of technologies and seeks out emerging ones too. They can see the benefits of technology to their academic life. They enjoy being seen as knowledgeable about digital technologies and are happy to help others integrate them into their study if they are not already an integral part of their degree.

Media Mogul
A student who uses various forms of media to support their study and use them in their assessments. Making what they produce look good and ensuring that it adds value is important to them. Being creative is a key part of being media savvy.

Information Junkie
A student who is either subscribed to numerous information feeds or regularly searches for online data of various forms, even during lectures. They will be able to manage the receipt of this data effectively and may share relevant information with others (see online networker). They can use library resources effectively and be able to search for scholarly articles online.

Online Networker
A student who sees the benefits of social network groups, on either popular network sites such as facebook, or discussion forums in University specific habitats. They use these spaces to share and discuss academic thoughts and ideas relating to their studies/modules. These may have originated from face to face discussions. For a UG student it is likely that this networking will relate more to specific modules they are studying.
Digital Dodger

Low

A low score here indicates that you are a confident user of digital technologies and have integrated them into your studies. However, you may want to reflect more deeply on why you use the tools and services you do, and what the benefits, risks and alternatives might be.

Ways for you to develop your digital perceptions: Share your views on technology with someone who is more sceptical, and discuss where you find technology a benefit in your studies. Discover how other students tackle the same issues without technology.

Medium

You are a confident user of digital technologies and have probably integrated them into your studies. You prefer to keep a balance between technology and traditional methods of studying and research. You only use technologies where significant benefits can be identified.

Important to your experience as a student: Having the use of technology as an option within a module, not as a requirement. You are happy using tried and tested traditional methods of studying but are willing to use technology where you can clearly see its benefit to you.

Ways for you to develop your digital perceptions further: Speak to specialists in the library or to other students to find out how they are using technology to help them in their studies. Investigate how you can introduce different media into the work you present. Think about past assessments and how you could have used technology in them.

High

A high score suggests you are sceptical of technology within your studies, which leads you to more face to face meetings with study groups. Technology requirements can influence your module choices. You have your own reasons for not engaging with technology in your studies and it does not necessarily impact negatively on your academic work.

Important to your experience as a student: Knowing that the skills you are developing in your face to face meetings with your study groups, and other none digital methods used for research and referencing, for example, are valued. Having the use of technology as an option within a module, not as a requirement.

Ways for you to develop your digital perceptions further: Be open to the use of technologies within your learning and study, some may save you time by sifting and filtering information. Work alongside students who enjoy using technology and share your different skills. Ask for help when you need it - friends and online videos/tutorials are the best place to start but the university provides ICT support and training to everyone.
Low

You are not sure how digital skills will be of value in your studies or to your future employers. You may not believe that your programme requires a high level of ICT proficiency.

Ways for you to develop your digital employability:
1. Make use of the University’s ICT training or use YouTube videos to develop skills.
2. Create a professional, online profile on LinkedIn. Speak to others on your course and see how they link their use of technology in their studies, to future employment.

Medium

You already have an online professional profile. Digital skills such as ICT, online networking and collaboration and the use of varied media are an increasingly important aspect of your study. You recognise their benefits to your future employability.

Important to your experience as a student: Having the option to use technology as a part of your studies, even if it is not a requirement. Access to training and being able to record your digital capabilities for future employers to see.

Ways for you to develop your digital employability further:
1. Make sure you keep a current profile on LinkedIn or similar. Record your achievements and marked assignments where you have used technology. Make use of the University’s training facilities for ICT. Some courses might be listed with the Employability and Graduate Development team.

High

You already have at least one professional online profile and you pride yourself on your digital resume. You recognise digital skills are an important aspect of your degree, enhancing your future employability.

Important to your experience as a student: Being able to showcase digital skills in your studies and gaining recognition for them. Access to training for relevant and professional standard technologies.

Ways for you to develop your digital employability further:
1. In study groups, share your use of technology with other students who may not be using them. Ensure you keep your online digital profiles current and keep a portfolio of your work which highlights the specific use of technology.
Your selected modules do not require specialist use of technology but you can still be a good all-rounder and use technology to support your study.

**Ways for you to develop your digital specialism:** Make sure you use technology in some aspect of your studies. Think about how technology could help you and how it might be used in other contexts. Speak to your peers who openly use different technologies and find out how they use them to support their studies. Make use of the university ICT training courses and speak to the library specialists.

**Important to your experience as a student:** Appropriate support and training in the specialist technology you are using and also for the more general technologies to ensure you are using them effectively.

**Ways for you to develop your digital specialism further:** Speak to other students to make sure you are using your specialist technologies as effectively as possible. The internet is also a useful place to learn more about technologies and how to use more complex functions.

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Your degree programme requires the use of specialist technology in one of your modules, where you receive support and training. You ensure that you use general technologies in other modules as they are helpful to your study.

**Important to your experience as a student:** Access to cutting edge technology, relevant to your study and career path. Support and training to ensure you are using them to their full potential.

**Ways for you to develop your digital specialism further:** For more general digital advancement find out what other students are using and don’t be afraid to attend basic training sessions just because you are an expert in one area of technology use.
Media Mogul

Low

You may download digital music, video, apps etc but you are less likely to share digital media of your own or use it in your study. Perhaps you find it difficult to see how digital media are relevant to your studies when publications and study materials are still predominantly text-based.

Ways for you to develop your digital media skills: Think about the look of your next presentation and try including images or videos. You could build up a file or database of images or videos relevant to your module. Ask other students or your tutor to recommend a technology that could help you. See if there is an App that could support you in a specific area where you would be happy to use technology.

Medium

You enjoy digital media and you use audio, images, video and apps in various ways for your studies. You can capture your own audio and video and know how to manage these files. Presenting media effectively is important to you.

Important to your experience as a student: Access to recording devices, editing software and online media resources. The opportunity to present your work in different formats using different media.

Ways for you to develop your digital media skills further: Think about how different media could be used to present your data for maximum impact. Create a database to support your collection of images, videos and other media relevant to your studies.

High

You love digital media, and you are constantly looking for new ways to capture and use audio, video and apps in your academic life. You know how to manage and edit your audio and video files. How your media is presented and making sure it effective, is something you have become skilled in.

Important to your experience as a student: Access to recording devices, editing software and online media resources. The opportunity to explore new media resources and be able to present your work in different formats using different media, to a variety of audiences.

Ways for you to develop your digital media skills further: speak to the specialist library staff about the technologies available. Speak to your peers about how they are using media in their studies.
Information Junkie

Low

You might know how to find information but you can feel overwhelmed with the sheer volume of what is available online. You’re not confident you are identifying the most valuable sources for your research or study and feel that physical resources in the library are more reliable and easy to manage.

Ways for you to develop your information management:
Investigate advanced search options in google to obtain more specific search results. Try using online reference management tools and speak to other students to find out what tools they find useful when gathering information online. Subscribe to podcasts related to your field of study. You might be surprised by what you find.

Medium

You know how to find and reference information from various sources but you may not know how to manage this data as effectively as you would like. Physical resources in the library are just as important your study.

Important to your experience as a student: Access to the University’s digital resources and the quality of them. Support on how to manage digital data you acquire.

Ways for you to develop your information management skills further:
Speak to library specialists who may be able to help you with digital resources in your area of study. Ask other students what digital tools they find helpful for managing the information they gather and how they gather it.

High

You know how to gather, sift, sort and reference information from various sources effectively and you have a preferred method of managing the information you gather.

Important to your experience as a student: Access to the University’s digital resources and that these resources are ever increasing. Being online whilst in lectures to support your learning.

Ways for you to develop your information management skills further:
Consult with specialist library staff about the best ways to manage your data. Investigate the advanced functions of your reference management software to ensure you are using it effectively and as a thinking tool.
Online Networker

Low

You may not be comfortable collaborating and sharing academic thinking online - perhaps you prefer to do this face to face or you like your social networks to be kept separate from your study. You may not feel confident that what you know is worth sharing yet.

Ways for you to develop your networking skills: Join or create an online community or facebook group for students who are on your module. If your module requires the use of online discussion forums, makes sure you participate frequently rather than just before the deadline.

Medium

Happy for your modules to have assessed discussion forums and wikis, you probably check your online groups on a daily basis. You are comfortable collaborating with other students online and sharing ideas.

Important to your experience as a student: Easy wifi/ internet access allowing you to connect to the social networks and online study groups you belong to. Being able to work collaboratively online with other students on your module or study groups and the freedom to air academic thinking with like minded people who respect the netiquette of online spaces.

Ways for you to develop your networking skills further: Set up a profile on a media sharing site (e.g. Slideshare, Scribd or scoop it) and start interacting with people who are interested in you study areas from outside your study group.

High

Happy for your modules to have assessed discussion forums and wikis, you probably check your online groups on a daily basis. You are comfortable collaborating with other students online and sharing ideas.

Important to your experience as a student: Easy wifi/ internet access allowing you to connect to the social networks and online study groups you belong to. Being able to interact and communicate in a controlled environment, about module topics and being able to work collaboratively online with other students.

Ways for you to develop your networking skills further: Join an online community where you can share study tips and tricks with other students - or set one up. You could explore advanced functions in your online networks. Investigate social referencing sites (e.g. Zotero, Mendeley, Delicious) to find other students studying similar topics to your own.
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