

# CESG and TECHNOLOGISTS – Should I apply?

This article *isn't* an exercise in reverse psychology – “Only superhuman people work for CESG, are you tough enough?”

We want people who join CESG to enjoy their first (typically three year) posting. Posting, you say, I thought I was applying for a particular job? That's probably the first surprise – we deploy technologists in a wide range of roles, therefore it's hard for us to forecast what you're going to be doing.

GCHQ recruitment emphasises skills and knowledge, but your personal qualities are also important. So, we'll assume you're smart, a quick learner and well qualified in a domain that CESG cares about.

## Apply

- You're *really* interested in computer and network technology and how systems work. (We'd use the word *passionate*, but the marketeers have spoilt that through overuse). You get bonus points if you *really* like security, hacking, electronics, cryptography, network protocols and the like.
- You're able to focus on one *tiny* system feature until you're intimately familiar with it, but can *also* see the big picture. (That's a tough one).
- You are *really* persistent and have a 'show me' attitude.
- You wouldn't be *too* intimidated if you had to reverse engineer a strange piece of equipment.
- You can't work without other people. (We love teams, but sometimes, you fly solo).
- You're a persuasive and clear communicator (written and spoken), irrespective of audience – could you tell a senior person their favoured solution was broken, and defend your assertion?

## Don't apply

- You think that non-technical people are an inferior species worthy only of contempt.
- You think you already know everything about computer technology.
- You prefer absolutes and to be able to give definitive answers.
- You prefer to work alone.
- You don't like computer programming.
- You only want to do research.
- You think “Jack of all trades” is an epithet. (We value experts. But we value versatility too).
- It's very clear to you that technology 'X' is the only answer and that anyone considering technology 'Y' is a blithering idiot. Substitute your own values for 'X' and 'Y'.
- You routinely spell Microsoft with a '\$' – or Linux as *Linsux*.