Digital Graduate Stream

Frequently Asked Questions

What work does a digital graduate undertake and get exposure to?

Our digital graduates contribute to designing, building and improving the digital systems and services that support our Ministers, the public, and a wide range of stakeholders. Their work helps ensure that government services remain modern, accessible and secure.

Digital graduates may work across areas such as:

- **User experience (UX) and service design** to improve how citizens and staff interact with government digital services.
- **Software and application development**, including building new features, improving existing systems, and supporting digital platforms.
- **Data and systems integration**, ensuring different systems communicate effectively to support policy, programs and service delivery.
- **Cyber security analysis**, helping monitor risks, strengthen protections and support secure technology practices.
- **Cloud technologies and digital infrastructure**, maintaining reliable, scalable digital environments.

Digital graduates may also contribute to digital policy and strategy, providing insights that help shape the department's future technology direction.

How many placements does a digital graduate undertake?

Digital graduates will complete up to three work placements during the program. Placement opportunities are across our two Digital divisions, with roles available in-service design, business analyst, ICT delivery, cyber security, risk and assurance of digital systems, and generalist ICT areas.

How are digital graduates supported within their placement?

Digital graduates are placed in supportive and inclusive teams where they are guided, and encouraged to contribute to project delivery from the outset.

Supervisors and team members are committed to bridging the gap between academic learning and on-the-job practice. Graduates will receive regular feedback, mentoring and development opportunities, overseen by the department's senior digital leadership team.

What is the career progression after the graduate program?

Upon successful completion of the program, digital graduates transition to a permanent APS5 position. Former graduates are now in, senior digital, ICT, service design, and cyber roles across DEWR or have joined other APS agencies.

What learning and development do digital graduates undertake?

Digital graduates receive ongoing technical and professional training tailored to their work area. This may include:

- digital capability workshops
- technical upskilling (e.g., coding, cloud tools, cyber security practices)
- agile delivery training
- user centred design and accessibility principles

Graduates also complete a structured learning and development program designed to provide the foundational skills and knowledge needed to thrive in the department and the broader Australian Public Service (APS).

What does a typical day in the life of a digital graduate look like?

- participating in agile standups and planning meetings
- building or testing digital products
- conducting user research or designing prototypes
- developing dashboards, automations or system enhancements
- collaborating with multidisciplinary teams including developers, analysts, policy officers and designers supporting project managers. They do this by coordinating day-to-day activities, maintaining documentation and tracking actions to help deliver project outcomes.

What does the department look for in a digital graduate?

We seek graduates who are enthusiastic, innovative and passionate about digital technology and modern service delivery. Candidates should demonstrate:

- a strong work ethic and willingness to learn
- clear written and verbal communication skills
- strong problem solving and analytical capability
- the ability to work well in multidisciplinary teams

In addition to meeting the general graduate eligibility criteria, ideal digital graduates will have:

- Tertiary qualifications in ICT, computer science, software engineering, information systems, cyber security, data science, UX design, or related fields.
- Communication skills to explain technical ideas to non-technical audiences.
- Interpersonal skills to contribute effectively within teams and with stakeholders.
- A curious and open mindset, with enthusiasm for innovation, technology and continuous improvement.

Scan the QR code for more information.