FAQs

Why did I choose Cloud Engineering?

- It was literally a random choice. I had no idea what the cloud actually was when I decided or what a Cloud Engineer did. I just liked the sound of the name and I chose it and it stuck. I would not recommend doing that though. Choose something you're interested in or a sector in which you have skills that are transferable.

Why did I choose Azure over AWS / GCP?
- Again, I'm sorry, no deep profound answer, it was literally just random.
- I would say you should research this before you choose. There are many reasons to choose one cloud provider over another.
- I would say there are way more jobs in AWS (the most of the three) then Azure, and lastly GCP. GCP, however, usually pays a lot because a lot less people have GCP certifications so it's a bit more niche. My company is a joint Azure and GCP.

Where did I start? / How can I start?

- I started with a 12 weeks Azure Data Engineering bootcamp (Jan - April) - Firebrand Training
- 8 Weeks Python & Apps (March - April) - Code First Girls
- 8 Weeks Data & SQL (March - May) - Code First Girls
- My advice is to look for the roles that interest you the most and see if there is a free bootcamp available. There are many free resources and you don't have to spend money to do the transition at all (only thing I paid for was LinkedIn premium for two months £37, Cloud Resume Challenge guide book £18, guided projects on Coursera £8 each)

How did I do it?

- Personal projects (use ChatGPT to generate projects for you so you can display skills in certain software, frameworks or languages)
- GitHub repository - to host and display your projects
- LinkedIn Premium - for LinkedIn Certifications and to use LinkedIn metrics to be more successful at being a top applicant for jobs
- Used ChatGPT to prepare for my interviews

Why did I switch?

- I wasn't satisfied with the money I was making and wanted a lucrative career with quick progression. As someone who is quite technical (STEM) I thought tech would be the perfect pivot for me.
- I also wanted to work in the Corporate World because there is a lot of money in it
- I also wanted a job that wasn't menial and I would keep learning

What is the salary range for a Cloud Engineer

- Average in the UK is around £55-57k
- Entry level usually starts at £45k (don't quote me though, Google). I was lucky enough to get an offer that is way above the entry / junior level because my job is in London.

What does a Cloud Engineer do?

- This question is very, very broad because it depends entirely on the role. Even within my company, we have over 700 people working in Azure Cloud and everyone has different roles. There are SEVERAL different teams doing completely different things.
- Personally, I work a lot with Azure DevOps running and creating pipelines.

Does Cloud Engineering require heavy coding?

- Not really but it would be useful to learn a shell script like Bash or PowerShell because you will be using them daily. Learning to interpret YAML / JSON is also very necessary for my job personally.
- If you're looking to go into Software Engineering instead you will need to learn to code

Was I working whilst doing the bootcamps?

- Yes I was working 2 jobs but I found a way to balance it all. The bootcamps are intense and if you are working 9-5 you might need to find a course that accommodates your schedule better. When you apply, ask the person who you're communicating with if there are cohorts for full time workers (you might then have to sacrifice your weekends)
- I can't say how I balanced it because I literally just did😭 I don't even know how myself.
- It might be easier for those who work from home or have hybrid jobs already

Were the bootcamps free?

- Yes. The only thing I paid for the entire 4-5 months was LinkedIn Premium

Did I have tech experience?

- None whatsoever. I didn't work in Tech either.
- I do have a strong education background however
- I do come from a STEM Background. I did a BSc at a Russell Group University
- I didn't do A-Levels either. I did the IB Diploma (Chemistry, Biology and Psychology at Higher Level).
- I also only have all As and (4)Bs in my GCSE grades.

What experience did I have?

- BSc Degree from the University of Nottingham
- Financial Administration (1 year)
- Analyst (4 months)
- Retail (1 year)

Was it hard?

- Yes; the bootcamps were intense and I had to do a lot of learning in a VERY short time to pass my Microsoft exams. Exams are done at home but are invigilated by Microsoft via Webcam.
- Not only that but I was also working two jobs AND still going out to party. It was a lot but it was all very worth it

How am I finding my current role?

- The role was advertised as a Junior role, and I made sure to ask in the interviews how much knowledge they expected me to have for the position. My interviewer (who is now one of the colleagues on my team) let me know that they were open to recruiting people from Bootcamps, as she herself took a similar path as me, as well as CompSci graduates etc. She made quite clear that I didn't have to have the most knowledge but I would be taught on the job as well. When I joined I wasn't expected to know how to complete my work myself, I had (still have tbf) a

mentor who was guiding me through the tasks. He would get on teams, explain to me what the task is, how I can go about completing it and then let me try the best I can.
- My line manager is also amazing, he is the sweetest man ever! He has made sure that I have access to all the learning materials I need. I am still pretty much learning because what I learnt on the bootcamp is very different to what I'm doing now.

What are my work hours like?

- Contracted 35 hours per week - you can choose if you wanna do say 8-4, 9-5, 10-6. I do 9-5.
- Hybrid 1-2 days a week. Although my company changes the working policies quite frequently. E.g. We did not have to go into the office if we did not want to for the entire summer.

What was the timescale for everything ?

- Started the bootcamps last week of January and completed them all by April - early May
- I was applying for jobs the ENTIRE time I was learning, I would just add my new certifications to my CV and keep on applying.
- I applied to my current role at the end of April. They invited me for an interview in Early May and after two interview stages (30 minute technical interview and 1 hour behavioural-based interview) I was offered the job.
- Since the job is in a bank, I had to be vetted for it, so credit checks, criminal checks, previous employer references etc. All this took about 3-4 weeks to complete before they could give me an unconditional offer. This was all completed at the end of June.

I have done everything you have done but I keep getting rejections, what advice can you give me?

- Keep persevering! If you have done everything it means you are in a very good position.
- GITHUB REPO. You just need to keep diversifying your portfolio by adding more projects. I would suggest starting a GitHub repository to keep all your projects in. Add a link to this on your CV. A good diverse GitHub repo shows passion to recruiters
- KEEP APPLYING. Rejections are discouraging but remember it's nothing personal so don't take them personally. Take a rejection as that opportunity wasn't for you but your opportunity is coming. The more applications you do the better chances you have at finding your role.
- KEEP YOUR CV UP TO DATE. Keep editing your CV!! I made sure I made edits to my CV for almost all the applications I did. Not all the job descriptions are the same so what might be a good CV for one Cloud role might not be relevant to another. Also a lot of application tracking systems check how old the file you're uploading is. If your CV hasn't been recently edited it might look old to the ATS
- KEEP LEARNING. Start looking to gain other skills. Maybe learn to use a new framework, start learning a new language. The learning won't stop once you get your job so keep on learning and applying yourself throughout your application process
- NETWORK. Your LinkedIn is VERY important. Make sure you're updating it with everything you're doing. It should be professional, interesting, keyword rich. Add a link to it on your CV. Network with other junior cloud engineers. Reach out to them and ask them about their journey. You might learn something new that might help you !

Resources

If you live in the UK, you might be able to get on a Skills Bootcamp (COMPLETELY FREE - DEPENDING IF YOU MEET THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA): https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-a-skills-bootcamp
https://www.freecodecamp.org
https://www.coursera.org
https://learn.microsoft.com/en-gb/ - The bootcamps essentially teach us the information from here and then they pay for our exams for us. If you are not eligible to get on a bootcamp because you live abroad or don't meet the criteria, you can still gain certifications, you just might have to pay for them unfortunately.
For women only:
https://codefirstgirls.com
For BLACK women only:

https://codingblackfemales.com
https://www.niya.ai
I don't know about any other bootcamps for other countries sorry.
If you live abroad you're going to have to research what's available for you in your country