Competency	Essex Graduate	Skill	Skill Level	Evidence
Professional	Literacy, Communication, Language Skills	Express information effectively to technical and non-technical audiences	Expert	In my profesional role, I often have to present technical topics to my peers and other people, to a varied selection of people. The level of detail must be flexible enough to ensure the correct understanding of the topic for everyone involved.
		Create documents to aid your communication (reports, diagrams, legal descriptions, plans, manuals and charts)	Expert	I work as a Senior Network Architect, and frequently create highly techinical and detailed, network diagrams for projects that I am working on. The recipients of these, are varied from technical people, through to less technically aware people. The communication needs to be clear, and my skills have been refined over a long time.
	Commercial Awareness	Keep current with tools of the industry, as well as emerging technology	Expert	The IT field changes all the time, so it is important to stay aware of this and what new things are planned for the future. This is something that I have had to refine through years of experience.
		Seek opportunites to improve and share knowledge of tools and technology that may improve productivity	Expert	I work in a highly technical network architecture team, and I collaborate freely with my peers. This again, took time to achieve competence, as it can sometimes feel slightly intimidating when dealing with peers.
		Participate in scientific and professional organisations	Expert	Not totally sure I understand this point. I have worked in the IT field for nearly 30 years, so I am adept at working in a professional environment.
		Emphasise quality, customer satisfaction and fair application of policies.	Proficient	I have a proven track record of delivering high quality solutions, on-time. This has also taken a long time to develop the right level of competence, as the balance between speed and quality can often be missed. I am guilty of prioritising speed in the past, but I have learnt to focus more on the details.
		Demonstrate familiriaty with codes of conduct for the Computing field.	Proficient	I am aware of the relevant data protection laws, and will always act discreetly in the information that I share.
	Subject understanding, research, critical thinking, time management	Critically analyse complex ideas in concepts in the field of Computer Science		Computer Science, for me, is programming, and I am not a programmer. I have no experience of this.
		Recognise inconsistencies and gaps in information, and search for additional information when needed...	Proficient	Through mny years of professional experience, I have learned how to critically examine a scenario, and fill the gaps where necessary. I have tried to replicate this in my studies, and whilst for the most part I am successful, there are times when it could be improved.
		Explore complex real-world problems in a Computing context	Expert	Professionally, I get involved all the time in high complexity projects.
Legal and Ethical	Ethical Awareness	Comply with the letter and spirit of applicable laws	Proficient	I am aware of the relevant data protection laws, and will always act discreetly in the information that I share.
		Maintain privacy and confidentiality of company, co-worker and customer information	Proficient	I am aware of the relevant data protection laws, and will always act discreetly in the information that I share.
Social (inc. Teamwork)	Cultural Awareness	Act in the best interest of the community at large - Social (Community) Responsibility	Proficient	I try to always act professionally, and will try to consider all views.
	Teamwork, Leadership and Resilience, Time Management	Collaborate effectively in diverse teams to achieve team goals	Proficient	The best example here is probably on some of the previous modules, where there was a requirement for teamwork.
		Meeting team objectives using teamwork skills	Expert	I would say that my teamworking skills are quite established over many years of professional work. Working with different people, and learning how they function, is a vital part of the skillset to working in groups, and we needed to demonstrate that on the teamwork for some of the other modules.
		Demonstrate skills in leadership and team building	Expert	Professionally, I lead Projects and in the past, have led a technical team of 8 people. Through years of experience, I am able to work collaboratively as a peer, or where necessary, take the lead and push a project through. I do this routinely at work, but have also demonstrated it in the MSc teamwork on some modules.
		Give and receive constructive feedback	Proficient	This is not something that I like doing, as often what I want to say, and what I say are different. I have no problem in giving praise where it is appropriate, but I dislike telling people that they need to improve or work harder if they are not contributing fairly. I have experience of this on the teamwork for different modules, but also sometimes in my professional life. This is definately an area that could use some improvement.
	Creativity, Entrepreneurial, Problem solving, Initiative, Decision Making	Create, discuss and deliver strategies for sustainability for all stakeholders (company, community and environment)	Proficient	I understand the concept of this question, but in my professional life, I only have to consider my company as the main stakeholder, with the community being the employees or partners that will use any solution that my project/s deploy.
		Able to make a decision on a complex matter/scenario using multiple sources of information	Expert	As part of my professional role, I routinely have to examine lots of different information and sources, to make a decision how to move forward. I have no issue with this now, but in the past, I would procrastinate a little, to avoid making a mistake.
Technical (Data Science)	IT and Digital, Numeracy	Technical skills relevant to your degree programme:	Proficient	Overall, I would say that I have a decent level of skills for this program. There were clearly areas where I was stronger, and others where there were weaknesses that needed to be strengthened. I did not shy away from this, and spent the additional time necessary to learn, for example, Python or basic SQL, HTML etc. Whilst quite daunting at first, the sense of achievement at the end is worth the effort.
		SQL for database querying	Trained	As part of some modules for this degree, it was necessary to educate myself on this topic. I would say I can do the basics well, and know where to look for help, but real-world experience is limited.
		Python Programming	Trained	As part of some modules for this degree, it was necessary to educate myself on this topic. I would say I can do the basics well, and know where to look for help, but real-world experience is limited. I can see value in taking this subject further, as Python is becoming common in many networking areas.
		Java		No experience
		Python	Trained	As part of some modules for this degree, it was necessary to educate myself on this topic. I would say I can do the basics well, and know where to look for help, but real-world experience is limited. I can see value in taking this subject further, as Python is becoming common in many networking areas.
		noSQL		No experience
		Scripting Language (Python)	Trained	As part of some modules for this degree, it was necessary to educate myself on this topic. I would say I can do the basics well, and know where to look for help, but real-world experience is limited. I can see value in taking this subject further, as scripting is becoming common in many networking areas.
		Statistical Language (R)		No experience
		Gits - repository development and maintenance	Trained	As part of some of the modules, there were requirements to create and/or share code for different programming projects. I was previously unexperienced working with GIT, as I was aware of its existence. During some of the teamwork, I gained more experience off of other more knowleadgeable peers.
		Use of conferenceing technologies and Moodle (VLE)	Expert	Use of conferencing tech is part of my daily professional life.
		Use of Word Processing tools and Spreadsheets	Proficient	Use of WP and spreadsheets is part of my daily professional life, but there is room for improvement in my skillset here, to become more efficient.
		Effective use of e-library resources	Trained	I am comfortable with the e-library, but I am sure that my skills and knowledge could be improved on. Given the choice, I would often use other resources for information. This may be limiting access to information, but I struggle sometimes with the library to find decent resources.
Subject Application	Global Citizen, Teamwork, Leadership, Emotional Intelligence	Take into account other people's perspectives	Proficient	I often have to collaborate with many different types of people, both professionally and through teamwork in different modules. I like to think I am fair and understanding, and would listen to other peoples opinions, but this could probablz also be improved on.
		Work constructively with differences in viewpoints	Proficient	In my professional life, I often have competing viewpoints to my peers or some of the internal customers. Typically, a common agreement can be found through dialogue reenforcing my position, or listening to those of others. I am able to accept that I do not know everything, even in my field of expertise. Sometimes another option may be better than mine, and I am normally able to accept this viewpoint.
		Actively participate in a range of community activities as an informed citizen	Proficient	I accept that I do not know everything, and as long as it is kept civil and respectful, every persons' opinion is as valid as the next one.
	Decision Making, Initiative, Emotional Intelligence, Ethical Awareness	Develop, articulate and clarify your personal values and ethics	Proficient	I regularly need to make decisions in my professional life, that need to be demonstrated, that they were studied and thought through. I try to not have emotion in my decisions, but I would say that I have strong moral principles, and I am quite inflexible if I believe a decision would be unethical for whatever reason.

This is by no means a comprehensive list of Professional skills required for your programme. It is meant to be used as a guide for your SWOT analysis/action plan as part of your Professional Development Plan (PDP).
As you progress through the course, you will discover other skills you need to develop or currently have. These can be described in further detail in your SWOT analysis/action plan.
As this is required in various modules, you may end up with different versions of this Matrix. You can collate them in your Learning Loop as part of your final PDP at the end of your programme.

Adapted from BCS guidelines and Essex graduate