INTRODUCTION

Acquiring new knowledge is undoubtedly one of the best pathways to consistent self-improvement. Knowledge can well be obtained in a variety of ways, often through academic studies, practical professional experience, or social exercises. Since the 11th century, universities have been one of the learning institutions that offer higher education, particularly at the postgraduate level. Typically, any degree beyond an undergraduate degree is referred to as a postgraduate (or simply graduate) degree, One of the best ways to gain significant knowledge in the field of computer science is through a postgraduate degree. This essay begins by discussing the history of a higher learning institute called the University. It then describes a postgraduate degree focusing more on a specific discipline. Subsequently, it explores the importance of postgraduate degrees in the field of computer science.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREE

Postgraduate degrees in the United Kingdom and Wales are categorised as Level 7, which includes qualifications such as a master’s degree (MSc), postgraduate diploma (PGDip), and postgraduate certificate (PGCert) (UK Government Digital Service, N.D.). These qualifications are at the same level, however, PGDip and PGCert require 120 and 60 credit scores, respectively, while a complete master’s degree requires 180 credit scores to be completed before the degree can be awarded.

A postgraduate program provides both academic and practical learning opportunities for a specific area of study. To put this in context, using a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Computer Science as a case study, this undergraduate degree will offer courses such as database management, cyber security, information technology management, or data science, but the course content often will not go too deep in any of these fields. However, a postgraduate degree, using PGCert in Data Science as a case study, will attempt to go deep in terms of academic learning and hand-on research in this particular field. At the time of writing this essay, I am currently studying for a postgraduate degree (PGCert) in Data Science at the University of Essex Online (UoEO). The field of Data Science requires the understanding and interpretation of large amounts of data to extract meaningful insights ([Foote](https://www.dataversity.net/author/keith-foote/), [2021](https://www.dataversity.net/brief-history-data-science/)).

THE VALUE OF GRADUATE EDUCATION IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

To become an expert in the subject of computer science, one needs to regularly and frequently absorb a significant amount of knowledge. Does getting a postgraduate degree make it necessary for an individual to acquire this knowledge? ".

Employers do not always seek candidates with postgraduate research degrees, according to studies designed to shed light on their attitudes toward, and experiences with postgraduate degree candidates. Instead, they looked for advanced knowledge workers with the skills, abilities, and traits necessary to excel in roles where they would utilize their training and expertise to solve problems and make decisions that would have an impact on an organization's capacity to survive (K. Adams, A. Zander, and G. Mullins, 2007). In my previous position as a solution delivery manager, I had the chance to manage a team of 10 software engineers, some of whom already had master's degrees. However, the employer prioritized my years of practical experience and technical expertise over my educational credentials. I also need to say that I have also had several disappointments due to the fact that I lacked the necessary academic credentials to advance past the first stage of the interview process.

Knowledge can be learned anywhere, but a postgraduate program aids in organizing and disseminating it. As a result, individuals pursuing postgraduate studies should place a greater emphasis on the experience and the degree of new, advanced knowledge that will be impacted than on certificate recognition. A postgraduate degree in computer science has some personal advantages, including the opportunity to acquire specialized knowledge, possess a certificate proving mastery, become more competitive in the marketplace, and connect with academic peers.

Other advantages exist that are less subjective, and are beneficial to the field of computer science. For example, a number of life-improving discoveries were made thanks to the research and thesis of graduate students studying computer science. The most important advancements in computer science have come from academic research, intensive coursework, extensive reading, and structured learning methods required for postgraduate degrees. These factors have helped the field of computer science by fostering discipline and concentration.

CONCLUSION

As an undergraduate, the field of computer science gave me a lot of opportunities, and a postgraduate degree will open up many more. Furthermore, to solve problems facing humanity, professionals must strive to research more in their respective disciplines. Computer science is one of the most innovative disciplines, and the best innovation lab can be found in a higher education learning institution.

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