

Career Counsellor's Newsletter

Here are 5 jobs that didn't exist 10 years ago.



NGL (Not gonna lie, try to keep up), the early 2010s were quite a crazy time to be alive. Believe it or not, iPhones didn't come with four cameras. Memes used the font "impact". And for a while there some of us believed that the world was going to end in 2012. (Ashton Kutcher, we are looking at you) Spoiler alert: It did not.

Of course, the jobs people worked in then? They were very different. Because of how fast technologies such as big data, cloud computing and even social media have sprouted, we enjoy career opportunities today that the early-2010s Singaporean could only dream of. Let's have a look at some of them.

When I was growing up, there were no jobs such as drone pilots!

Drone Pilot

Okay, we are kinda cheating with the first one.

If you wanna be pedantic about it, the air force was already hiring for UAV pilots in 2011.

However, we would argue that drone operators – particularly those who would use drones for non-military purposes – were definitely not mainstream.

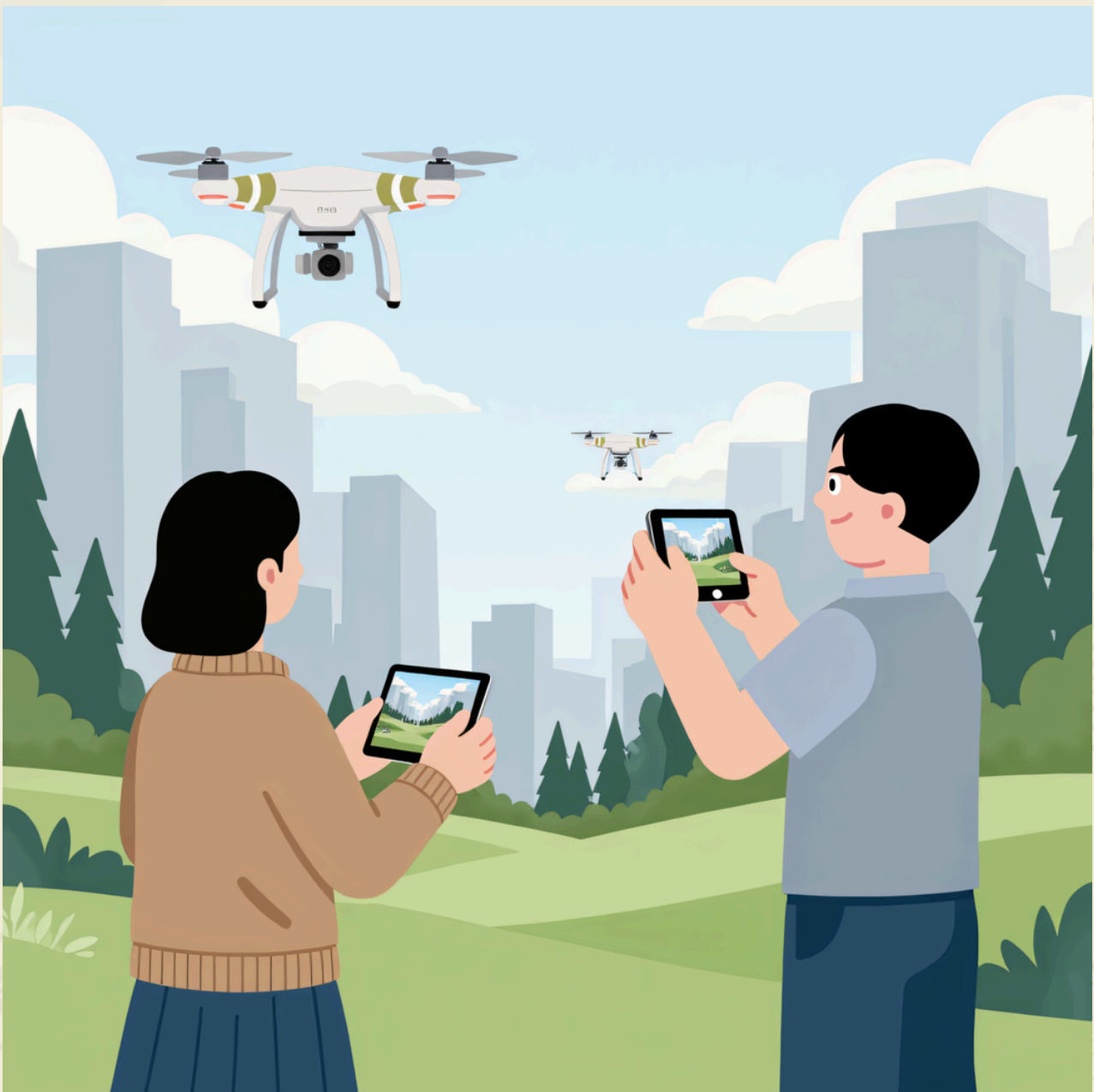
By now, you might have seen this meme – in just 10 years, both the cameraman and the helicopter pilot (assuming they only fly for filming purposes) were both made redundant.



While you might have gotten used to the bird's eye view that drones provide, it's easy to forget that they are only a recent invention. It was only in 2014 that drones were legalised in the United States for filming purposes. Singapore passed its very own Unmanned Aircraft Bill back in 2015.

Today in Singapore, drones are used from anything ranging from aerial photography to police surveillance, island maintenance and building inspections. Delivery folks are generally still safe from drones, but trials are ongoing.

Fun fact: The first iteration of DJI's now ubiquitous and wildly popular Phantom drone appeared in 2013.



DevOps Engineer



<https://sl1nk.com/p9n4pcr>

'DevSecOps' might sound like an intimidating phrase, but if you break it down, it actually means Development, Security and Operations engineer. Less scary now, ain't it? Put simply, the folk in DevOps (and DevSecOps) are tech generalists who do everything from software development, operations, and cybersecurity. Which if you think about it, is an extremely wide range of roles.

While DevOps seems like the natural thing to do, it wasn't always this way. Not too long ago, the tech world practiced a 'waterfall philosophy', which also applied in the manufacturing and construction industries. The term 'waterfall' was used because the workflow was like this: Conception → Initiation → Analysis → Design → Construction → Testing → Deployment and maintenance

This is often known as a linear workflow model – which flows downwards, step by step. Hence the name ‘Waterfall’. However, as people would soon realise, just because something works well in some industries, doesn’t mean it would work well in others.

The waterfall approach simply wasn’t flexible enough for the fast-moving tech industry, where everything needed to be fluid. As a result, Agile philosophy was created, and DevOps Engineers were the people who could make this happen.

To put it simply, DevOps brings operations teams into development, so that continuous integration and delivery is possible – which is at the core of the Agile philosophy!



Full Stack Developer



Not too long ago, developers were split into two broad camps. Front end vs back end.

You can think of front end development as the client side of the two, heavily involved with presentations. Indeed, front end web development involves converting data to a graphical interface, through the use of languages HTML, CSS, and JavaScript and/or other apps.

Back end developers, on the other hand, deal with the behind-the-scenes, every back end of a website involves a server, an application, and a database. Of course, at some point over the last 10 years, the demands of the job started to increase, and the two camps started converging their skill sets to get what you call a 'full stack developer.'

As you probably guessed, if developers were a meal, full stack developers are kinda like a five-star buffet – expecting to offer variety and versatility in their skill sets in both disciplines.

It's little wonder why they have become one of the most sought after talents in recent history.

UI/UX Designer



Do you remember website design from 10 years ago? Here, let me jog your memory.

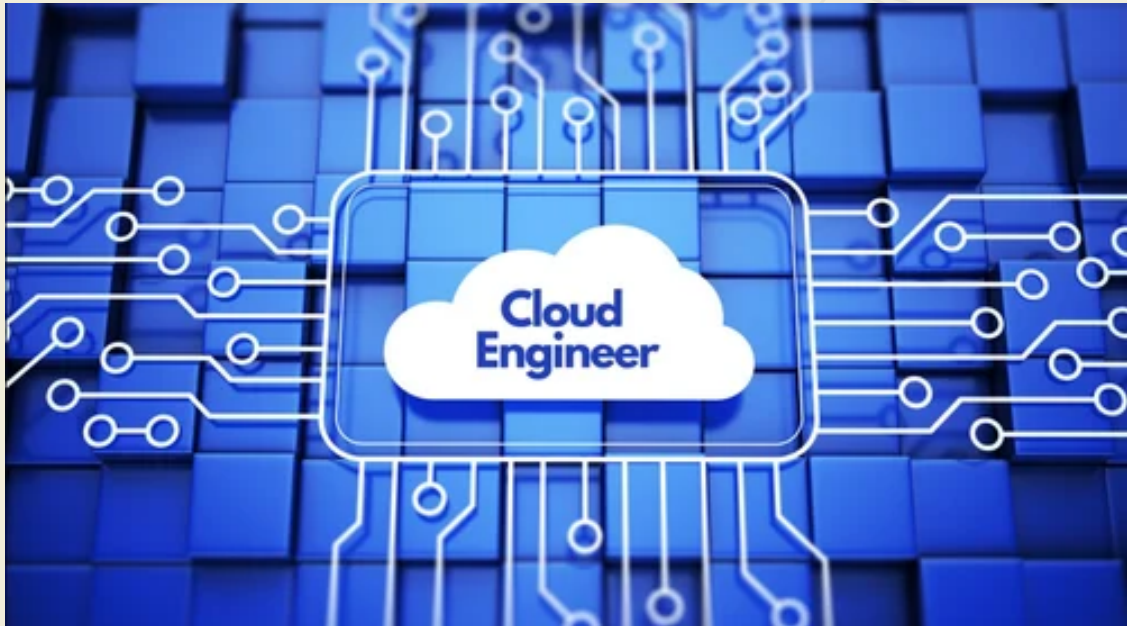
See how terrible it looks? In the past websites were created with little or no UI/UX principles in mind. All that changed when smartphones hit the scene in the 2010s. You could argue that the need for mobile websites and apps gave rise to the need for intuitive, easy-to-use interfaces.

If you go back even further, the UI/UX term was first coined in 1993 by the cognitive psychologist and designer Don Norman when he worked at Apple. These days, UI and UX is an entire discipline on its own, and an integral part of any tech company. In the highly competitive tech sector, ease of use and convenience, UI/UX plays a huge role in producing a finished product that allows customers to interact with businesses easily.

With that said, UI and UX roles are often confused, though there are slight differences.

- User interface (UI) refers to how a website, app or any digital media looks.
- User experience (UX) is about how easily a user can interact with the programme. For example, making websites easy to navigate and interact with other platforms like social media.

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer



<https://surl.li/mvipvk>

Eons ago in the 2000s, long before Google Drive and Amazon Web Services, companies stored their data on physical computers called datacenters. These servers took up plenty of room, were expensive, crashed regularly, and became obsolete very quickly.

These days, cloud computing has changed all that. Companies can effectively rent their data centres from cloud companies who maintain those computers – and in the process lower costs via achieving economies of scale.

Look, cloud computing might sound like a great idea today, but when it first came out, there was massive resistance to it. Think about it: companies spending millions and billions of dollars on their own data centres, only to find out there's a cheaper and more convenient solution out there? That's the perfect case of the sunk cost fallacy.

Either way, we know how history played out – in the 2010s, cloud computing eventually overcame the naysayers. Cloud computing professionals are now amongst the hottest talents in Singapore, and just about everyone is hiring them.

Today, Cloud Infrastructure Engineers lead, architect and develop cloud and infrastructure solutions that have integration to various on-premise or SaaS (Software as a service) solutions.

We don't know what we don't know

Before you laugh at the sceptics that didn't quite see the paradigm shifts in job roles, it's important to realise that we one day might be in their shoes. In the same way they couldn't predict the jobs of today in the 2010s... we can't help but wonder what will be the hot jobs of the 2030s – given how technology continues to develop at an exponential rate.

The best thing we can do? Keep our skills updated, stay abreast of the latest developments, and do a career check-up often.

ArticleTitle : 7 life skills you'll learn at university

Article Link: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/applying-for-university/university-life/7-life-skills-youll-learn-at-university/>

University isn't just about academics. It teaches you so much about the world and how to live your life to the fullest. It gives you confidence and teaches you how to become an individual. Your stint as a student will undoubtedly sharpen your academic and professional skills, but don't overlook the invaluable life lessons that university will teach you along the way.

People skills

It's impossible to graduate from university without plenty of people skills under your belt. These everyday abilities – like communication, problem solving, and conflict resolution – help you navigate the world with ease.

While studying you will come into contact with a range of people, make new friends and learn to get along and work with those from different backgrounds.

You will encounter:

- Academics
- Fellow students
- Programme administrators
- Support staff.
- This means that you get to practice your people skills with all sorts of different cultural norms and preferred ways of communicating.

- Making the most of freshers' week and joining a club or society are easy ways to quickly acquire skills in this area. If you have a part-time job you'll pick up people skills there too.
- When it comes to flatmates or housemates you are thrown in at the deep end – more often than not (especially in your first year) you are live with people you have never met before. Navigating this – bonding with certain flatmates, while learning to tolerate and compromise with others – provides a wealth of people and social skills.

Responsibility and self-motivation

Being at university is totally different to being at school and college. One of the main differences is the amount of freedom you have over what you do and how you do it.

'Responsibility is a huge aspect of university,' explains Isabella. 'You have to take responsibility for yourself, university work, money and your flat or house. Which is a lot after your mum has been doing your washing and cooking for the last 18 years.'

With no one there to wake you up in the morning and insist you get out of bed, getting to lectures and seminars on time is down to you. Assuming that responsibility is another life lesson that university teaches you.

As is self-motivation. A lot of university study is self-directed – it's up to you to plan and organise your workload, juggle multiple projects and manage deadlines. You will need self-motivation to:

- Attend social engagements
- Complete your dissertation
- Fulfil work commitments
- Revise for exams
- Write essays to a deadline.

By the time you graduate, your student experience should have given you enough 'get up and go' to see you through your working life.

Self-sufficiency

The biggest life skill university teaches you is undoubtedly how to look after yourself in a practical sense. As a student living away from home, you will learn how to cook, clean and do your own washing. As well as domestic chores, you will figure out how to get around on your own (in the absence of mum's taxi) and how to fund your lifestyle now the bank of dad is closed.

The level of independence afforded by student life is one of its main draws – and while some students take to it well, others need more time to adjust. Find out what to do if you feel homesick.

Budgeting

This is another essential life skill and by the time you finish university, you will be a pro at it. Throughout your studies you'll have to deal with a number of financial concerns such as:

- Bills
- Living costs
- Rent
- Social outgoings
- Student loans
- Travel expenses
- Tuition fees

As a result, you'll often operate on a tight budget. Knowing how to manage your money and balance your incomings against your outgoings is a skill you will pick up along the way.

'Budgeting is a difficult obstacle when coming to university,' says Isabella. 'You get your loan and think you have all the money in the world until two weeks later, when you've partied every night and now have £4.27 left in your bank for the next three months.'

'The best financial advice is to try and get a part time job, whether it be in your university or in a nearby cafe or bar, the extra money provides some breathing room so you can live your best life.'

Working part time will also teach you to be responsible with your money – when you've worked hard to earn it, you're a bit more careful about spending it.

Resilience

Whether academic, work related or personal, you will face your fair share of hurdles as a student.

'Resilience is probably the biggest life lesson university will teach you' says Isabella. 'People are coming from all over the world, there are different cultures, backgrounds, likes, dislikes and you are lucky to be in an environment that encourages differences, but some things may not align with you, and you may not align with others.'

Maybe you get a lower than expected mark for an important assignment, have to deal with an unsympathetic boss in your part-time job, experience a relationship breakdown, or struggle to make friends. Perhaps you have to battle against mental health or money struggles.

Without the safety net of your family and friends from home close by, you will have to stand on your own two feet and be resourceful and resilient enough to solve these issues yourself. You'll graduate from university with a level of maturity you didn't have before when it comes to overcoming obstacles.

Organisation and time management

If you were a bit unorganised before you went to university, you won't be by the time you leave. To successfully navigate student life, you'll need to handle a variety of study, work, social and personal commitments and the only way to do this is with organisation and time management.

'Organisation and time management work hand in hand,' adds Isabella. 'Create a routine for yourself.'

Alongside your course you'll learn how to manage deadlines, balance work and study, schedule time for extra-curricular activities and fit in time for yourself. No mean feat.

Confidence

Confidence comes from trying something, seeing how it goes, learning from it and then trying it again. Your university years are full of these opportunities to step outside of your comfort zone, and importantly to fail, but be willing to give it another go.

As a student, you will get the chance to build your confidence in a range of ways. Academically speaking you will

- Work in groups and host presentations
- Complete work placements and internships
- Attend careers fairs
- Maybe even stand for student election

The social side of university life offers up many more. Parties, pub outings, student nights, summer BBQs and joining a club or society all help to bring you out of your shell. Even the most introverted of students will leave university more confident than when they started.



Article: Why Ireland is emerging as a preferred study-abroad destination for Indian students.

Article Link: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/study/why-ireland-is-emerging-as-a-preferred-study-abroad-destination-for-indian-students/articleshow/128807434.cms?from=mdr>



For decades, Indian students pursuing international education have primarily chosen destinations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia. Today, however, study-abroad decisions are becoming more nuanced, shaped by factors such as cost structures, policy clarity, housing availability, and long-term career outcomes.

In this changing landscape, Ireland is steadily becoming a serious study-abroad destination. Its appeal lies not in one standout factor, but in a practical combination of academic quality, employability outcomes, policy clarity, and relative affordability when weighed against long-term prospects. Ireland's rise is deliberate, not accidental, and increasingly aligned with how Indian families evaluate international education today.

Globally recognised education with industry relevance

Ireland's higher education system includes globally respected institutions such as Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University College Cork, and a growing network of technological universities. These institutions are particularly strong in computer science, data analytics, business, life sciences, engineering, and emerging technologies.

A key differentiator is how closely many programmes are designed alongside industry requirements. Course structures often include applied projects, internships, and research collaboration, ensuring graduates develop skills that translate directly into the job market.

International enrolments in Ireland have shown a clear upward trajectory over the past several years. Student numbers grew from approximately 26,500 in 2017/18 to over 40,000 by 2023/24, with recent estimates placing total international enrolments closer to the mid-40,000 range. Growth has been visible across both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, with postgraduate demand rising particularly.

Ireland's economic profile plays a central role in its student appeal. The country hosts European headquarters and major operations for global companies including Google, Apple, Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, and LinkedIn. Alongside this sits a strong startup ecosystem across fintech, health tech, medtech, and green technologies.

For students, this concentration of employers creates tangible advantages. Access to internships, part-time roles, graduate programmes, and applied research opportunities is significantly higher than in many comparable European markets. The compact size of Ireland also means students are not navigating fragmented job ecosystems across multiple cities.

For those studying STEM, analytics, management, and technology-linked disciplines, Ireland offers exposure to global employers within a manageable and accessible job market.

Post-study work opportunities and policy certainty

One of Ireland's strongest structural advantages is its post-study work framework. International graduates from eligible programmes can remain in Ireland for up to two years under the Stamp 1G permission to seek employment. At a time when post-study work rights in several traditional destinations have become more restrictive or unpredictable, Ireland's relatively stable and transparent policy environment stands out. For families making long-term financial commitments, predictability matters.

This clarity, combined with a straightforward visa process and defined education-to-employment pathways, makes Ireland a practical option for students focused on outcomes rather than short-term credentials.

Realistic cost of living and affordability

Cost remains a decisive factor in study-abroad planning, and Ireland occupies a middle ground. It is not a low-cost destination, particularly when it comes to housing, but expenses are often more predictable and outcome-aligned compared to several larger markets. According to the University Living Research Desk, student accommodation costs vary significantly by city and housing type. In Dublin, premium purpose-built student accommodation typically ranges between €1,200 and €1,800 per month. Other cities such as Cork, Galway, and Limerick offer quality options in the €800 to €1,200 range.

Safe, inclusive, and English-friendly environment

Ireland consistently ranks well on safety and quality-of-life indicators. For Indian students, the use of English as the primary medium of instruction significantly reduces academic and social adjustment barriers. Universities place growing emphasis on student well-being, offering mental health support, academic counselling, and structured campus engagement. The presence of diverse international communities also helps first-time global learners build peer networks quickly. For many families, these softer factors play an equally important role in destination choice.

Rising demand and awareness in India

Awareness of Ireland as a study destination has grown steadily in India over recent years. Indian students now form one of the largest international cohorts in the country, with enrolments rising sharply across technology, business, healthcare, and sustainability-linked programmes. Ireland is no longer viewed as a fallback option. Increasingly, it is a first-choice destination driven by professional outcomes, European exposure, and clearer return on investment. Student success stories, institutional outreach, and stronger digital engagement have reinforced this shift.

Looking ahead

As global student mobility becomes more outcome-driven, destinations that combine academic quality, employment pathways, cost realism, and policy certainty will continue to gain ground. Ireland sits at the intersection of these priorities. For Indian students planning their international education journey in 2026 and beyond, it represents a balanced and increasingly compelling choice.

Video Suggestion: [Forget the Corporate Ladder – Winners Take Risks | Molly Graham | TED](#)



Bibliography

Here are 5 jobs that didn't exist 10 years ago.

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/hub/p/here-are-5-jobs-didnt-exist-10-years-ago>

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