

ADVANCE YOUR TECH CAREER IN SCOTLAND



BY ISABELLE LANOYE
Talent Manager

Did you know, relocating to one of Scotland's major cities may be the perfect strategy to kickstart or advance your career in the Tech industry? According to recent statistics, Scotland's technology sector is fast becoming one of the strongest in the UK with **11,200 Tech companies** contributing **£6.5 billion** to the Scottish economy. A huge spike in start ups and rapid hiring plans have been major contributing factors to this surge in Technology growth in Scotland along with generous investment in many areas of digital technology.



With **100,000 people** currently employed in the Digital & Technology industry across Scotland in 2021 and no sign of this growth decelerating, Scotland is quickly becoming one of the **top tech hubs in the world**. Digital technology is Scotland's fastest growing sector for inward investment with centres of excellence for collaboration across cyber security, data, fintech, games, global business services, software, IT, space, waste technology, and wastewater technology. This consistent growth is drawing in Technology talent from all over the UK, offering a wide range of opportunities for individuals to grow and develop their career in the industry. In addition to this, professionals in the Technology sector earn on average more money than any other UK city apart from London. The higher salaries, paired with a much lower cost of living, with **Edinburgh on average 32% cheaper** than London and **Glasgow 39% cheaper**, constitutes to a **much higher level of disposable income** for those living and working in Scotland's major cities, **leaving you more to spend on yourself and on your family**.

Edinburgh's cost of living is on average

32% cheaper
than London

Glasgow's cost of living is on average

39% cheaper
than London



Post Pandemic Growth

"In early 2020, Scotland saw 44% of its employed population switch to remote/home working"

starting the year strong with several notable acquisitions, expansions and investment deals coming forward from the previous year. Statistics published by [Dealroom](#) at the end of 2021 revealed that Edinburgh alone saw **47 successful venture capital rounds** in the year, and a **record high number of promising start-ups** emerging from multiple Scottish cities.

Not only has the pandemic failed to affect the growth of the Tech industry in Scotland, but it has also provided a vast range of new opportunities. With the 'Work from Home' rule introduced in early 2020, Scotland saw **44% of its employed population switch to remote/home working** ([Office for National Statistics](#)). As the world of office work became almost entirely remote, this led to a huge increase in demand for all things technology, including laptops, video call and chat applications, onboarding and training programs and virtual meeting rooms just to name a few!

Despite the challenging conditions faced by most of the world in 2020-2021 with the rise of the pandemic, Scotland's Technology industry has continued to excel, and it is not showing any signs of slowing down! Tech companies across Scotland's major cities are optimistic for 2022,



Although life 'post pandemic' is somewhat back to normal, many believe that office jobs will never be the same again, with many companies adopting a hybrid working model, the need for technology to support virtual meetings, team chats and interviews has not diminished. One example of a Scottish Technology company taking full advantage of these work-life changes is Edinburgh based, PropTech start-up [Desana](#). Desana hopes to capitalise on the '**post-Covid hybrid working boom**' ([Digit](#)) with their flexible workspace platform, facilitating how companies manage their office spaces, by enabling employees to choose to work from company buildings or from its growing network of flexible workspace operators. They have recently successfully secured **£2.9million in investment** to accelerate their growth and continue to expand in post-pandemic life, and the reinvented version of office working, all over the world.

SCOTLAND'S MAJOR 'TECH HUBS'

Glasgow & Edinburgh

Edinburgh and Glasgow are not only renowned for their Tech industry success, but they are also rated great places to live and work in Scotland, by both locals and people who have relocated there in the interest of their career. In this section we will explore why Scotland's 'Major Tech Hubs' are growing in popularity so quickly and drawing top Technology talent to move their homes from other leading UK cities.

EDINBURGH

The thriving capital city of Edinburgh is home to approximately **548,000 people** in 2022, or **1.3million** including the surrounding areas. Ranked as one of the best cities to live and work in the UK, you'll find all the benefits of living in a cosmopolitan city with a welcoming small-town feel. Brimming with history and full of entertainment, Edinburgh is popular for its cobbled streets, rich cultural heritage and castle overlooking its famous Georgian architecture. In the **Edinburgh People's Survey**, the city got a **97% satisfaction rating** from its residents, based on several lifestyle and career factors. With one of the highest satisfaction rates in the world, this makes Edinburgh a popular destination amongst the locals and those looking to relocate.



97% satisfaction rating
- The Edinburgh People's Survey

GLASGOW

Scotland's largest city is also one of the highest-ranking cities in the UK for quality of life and was **voted the world's friendliest city in 2021**. With its rich history, stunning architecture, and more green space per square mile than any other city in the UK, Glasgow offers the best of both worlds, with the breath-taking countryside within just an hour's drive of the city centre. Home to nearly **600,000 people**, Glasgow is full of both exciting career opportunities in the tech industry and plenty of leisure activities to fill you spare time such as farmers markets, year-round festivals, attractions and galleries. Housing in Glasgow is well priced, whether you are renting or buying, with plenty of options from traditional, spacious Victorian family homes in leafy suburbs perfectly near to highly rated schools. The best of city-living, magnificent countryside, and an opportunity to work in some of Scotland's most exciting industries means Glasgow is a hugely popular place to live and work.



"Voted the **World's Friendliest City** in 2021"

Overall, the flourishing Technology industry in Edinburgh and Glasgow, paired with the stunning scenery and perfect mix of countryside and city living, are major contributing factors drawing people to relocate to Scotland's primary 'Tech Hubs'.

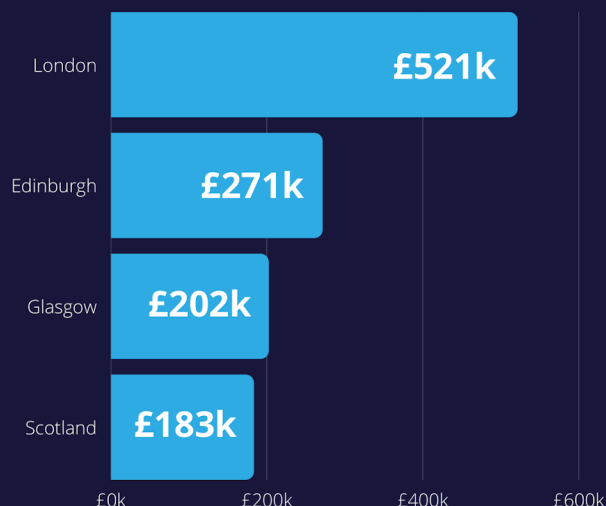
Companies Who Have Technology Centres in Scotland

Life in Scotland

It is not only the career opportunities that are drawing people to relocate to Scotland, but also the appeal of enhancing their quality of life. Commuting is much easier; house prices can be cheaper, and the countryside offers a wide range of activities along with some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. From the remote countryside of the Highlands to the vibrant streets of Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland is regularly rated one of the best places to live and work in the UK. This is shown in a 2020 report from [Active Capital](#) that ranked **288 major cities** globally and **named Edinburgh one of the most innovative cities in the world** – this was based on a range of variables, including the

strength of research outputs, economic prosperity, and quality of life. [Glasgow and Aberdeen](#) also **made the top 60 of the Influential List** compiled by consulting firm [Mercer](#), which scores cities on factors including the local economy, housing, education and public services, pipping destinations such as Los Angeles, Hong-Kong, and Dubai!

Average House Prices



A few examples of the lifestyle factors that make Scotland stand out from other areas in the UK include:

1) Work/Life Balance

One of the main influences drawing people to relocate to Scotland is the work/life balance. With many countryside towns and villages **within an hour's commute** of some of Scotland's major cities, you can enjoy the peace and quiet and **spectacular scenery** of the countryside whilst working in the vibrant and dynamic cities of Edinburgh or Glasgow. Alternatively, if you prefer to live in the city, Scotland have great **public transport links**, including train lines and bus routes, making it easier to travel around at any time of the day and giving you more free time before and after work. Summertime in Scotland also brings much **brighter and longer days** than anywhere else in the UK, with some days staying light as late as 10pm! This gives you plenty of time after work to explore the city, meet up with friends or enjoy some of the many activities the countryside has to offer.

2) Transport

Many people who have relocated to Scotland say that the **ease of travel and commuting** was a major reason for wanting to stay. Glasgow and Edinburgh airports offer cheap and easy air travel to many of Europe's best cities, ski resorts and beaches and the many **train lines and bus routes** make commuting much less stressful than other cities – giving individuals more free time to pursue other interests and spend more time with friends and family outside of work hours.

3) Leisure

Scotland has a wide range of leisure activities to suit any age and any interests. Including **vibrant nightlife, theatres, sports, a range of children's activities**, and many **universities and colleges** offering you opportunity to develop your knowledge and skills, there is something for everyone wherever you decide to be.

If living and working in Scotland sounds like something you would like to pursue, take a look at our Scotland based opportunities listed on our **job board** or **get in touch** today for a confidential conversation with one of our Edinburgh based consultants.

<https://www.hendersonscott.co.uk/job-search/>





HENDERSON SCOTT

80 George Street
Edinburgh
EH2 3BU
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 131 378 1660

 info@hendersonscott.com

 www.hendersonscott.co.uk

