Starting a Forms project

Visual Studio provides a **Windows Forms Application** template that allows you to easily create a C# program which provides a Graphical User Interface (GUI) to interact with the user:

1. On the Menu Bar, click **File, New, Project**, or press the **Ctrl + Shift + N** keys, to open the New Project dialog box.

2. In the New Project dialog expand **Installed, Visual C#**, then select the **Windows Forms Application**.

3. Enter a project name of your choice in the **Name** field, then click on the **OK** button to create the new project – in this case the project name will be “FirstGUI”.

4. Wait while Visual Studio creates your new project and loads it into the IDE, then see a **Form Designer** window appear displaying a default empty Form.

5. Select the **View, Solution Explorer** menu to open a Solution Explorer window and see all files in your project.
Now, select the **View, Properties** menu to open a **Properties** window to reveal all properties of your Form.

The **Form Designer** is where you create visual interfaces for your applications, and the **Properties** window contains details of the item that is currently selected in the Form Designer window.

The Visual Studio IDE has now gathered all the resources needed to build a default Windows application – click the **Start** button on the toolbar to launch this application.

The application simply creates a basic window – you can move it, minimize it, maximize it, resize it, and quit the application by closing it. It may not do much, but you have already created a real Windows GUI app!

Alternatively, you can run applications using the **Debug, Start Debugging** menu options or press **F5**.