



# Apprenticeships

**Apprenticeships enable employers to 'grow their own' IT professionals and provide new recruits with a high quality development programme.**

**e-skills UK works closely with employers to design and implement flexible Apprenticeship programmes that meet the current and future needs of both employers and individuals.**

## › The need for change

Making the most of technology is the single most important step the UK can take to increase its productivity across all sectors. This requires increasing numbers of talented and capable IT professionals.

## › Facts to consider

- The IT and Telecoms workforce needs more than 140,000 new entrants every year to fill increasingly highly skilled IT professional job roles. Around one in five (20%) of these are expected to come direct from education.
- However, there has been a dramatic decline in the number of young people studying technology; UK applicants to computing degrees have fallen by 50% in the last five years.
- Apprenticeships offer a respected, complementary route into IT for young people.

## › e-skills UK action

Apprenticeships provide a work-based, structured development programme that has proved highly attractive to both employers and learners.

e-skills UK works closely with employers of all sizes – from small firms to large companies such as: BT, Cable & Wireless, O2, Fujitsu, EDS and telent – to design and support the implementation of IT & Telecoms Apprenticeships. Together we make sure the Apprenticeship programmes meet the changing needs of both employers and individuals. Many employers' Apprenticeship programmes are heavily oversubscribed.

Apprenticeship programmes enable Apprentices to complete a range of industry-recognised qualifications, such as Microsoft, Cisco and CompTIA certifications, while at the same time acquiring two to three years' work experience.

Through the Higher Apprenticeship programme, developed by e-skills UK, Apprentices can also undertake a Foundation degree as part of their Apprenticeship.

e-skills UK is proud to support awards which recognise outstanding achievement of Apprentices. Our sector is well represented among the winners. For example, in 2006 an IT Apprentice at Orange was named Advanced Apprentice of the Year; in 2007 BT was recognised as Large Employer of the Year; and in 2009 BT was named the first ever Macro Employer of the Year.



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*“The IT Apprenticeship programme allows us to secure our supply of professional talent by developing a highly enthusiastic group of young people. Demand for our apprentices’ time is so high we have had to set up a waiting list.”*

Kerry Willumsen, RWE IT UK Ltd

➤ For more information [www.e-skills.com/apprenticeships](http://www.e-skills.com/apprenticeships)

You may also be interested in...

➤ **e-skills Professional Programme**

Fast track the skills of graduate recruits in IT  
[www.e-skills.com/professionalprogramme](http://www.e-skills.com/professionalprogramme)

➤ **The National Skills Academy for IT**

A direct route to high quality training for IT professionals  
[www.e-skills.com/nsa](http://www.e-skills.com/nsa)

➤ **The Information Technology Management for Business (ITMB) degree**

A unique employer-supported course for tomorrow’s technology business leaders  
[www.e-skills.com/itmb](http://www.e-skills.com/itmb)

e-skills UK is the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology, rated ‘outstanding’ in the relicensing of Sector Skills Councils in 2009. We work on behalf of employers to ensure the UK has the technology skills it needs to succeed in a global digital economy.

➤ **Rated Outstanding**

Sector Skills Council Relicensing 2009