



The National Skills Academy for IT

Information Technology is a sector of constant change and the people who work in IT and Telecoms never stop learning. We believe that IT professionals should have access to high quality, relevant training, delivering what they need, when and where they need it.

This is where the new National Skills Academy for IT comes in.

Created with employers for employers, the Skills Academy will address the skills and training challenges facing organisations across the IT and Telecoms industry, using a common language that everyone – employer, training provider and individual – can understand.

It will provide a gateway to quality-assured learning that meets employers' exact needs and which will enhance staff development, recruitment and retention.

› The need for change

The UK's IT and Telecoms workforce is growing as more organisations turn to technology to boost productivity and performance. However, beneath this growth lies a complex pattern of restructuring and skills shift.

The global sourcing of skills means that many traditional and entry level professional IT jobs are no longer performed in the UK. At the same time, UK employers increasingly need highly skilled, multi-disciplinary technology professionals who understand how business works and can confidently manage projects, systems and people.

Coupled with the ever increasing pace of technological change, these trends demand a constantly evolving, broad and advanced range of skills from IT professionals.

› Facts to consider

- To build the professional competence their business needs, employers need to understand what capability their IT professionals have, what skills, knowledge and experience they need and where to find the right training to address any gaps.
- Employers say they find it difficult to understand what training and qualifications are available and whether they meet the needs of their company and employees in terms of quality, relevance and flexibility.
- Every year, more than 140,000 people enter the IT professional workforce. Around half of these new recruits are career changers moving into IT from other occupations or sectors.
- Around 60% of new entrants to IT are required to move straight into managerial or highly skilled professional roles.



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> e-skills UK action

Through e-skills UK, employers across the IT and Telecoms sector have joined education and training providers to create the National Skills Academy for IT.

The Skills Academy will provide employers of all sizes with access to nationally-recognised, industry-valued courses and qualifications that cover the technical, business and interpersonal skills required by today's IT professionals.

The Skills Academy will use a common language for skills that makes it easy for employers to find what they are looking for and understand what each course or qualification covers.

IT professionals will be able to work towards vendor qualifications and internationally recognised certificates, as well as new qualifications and courses developed with employers. Training will range from bite-sized courses to large development programmes such as Apprenticeships and the e-skills Professional Programme for graduate recruits in IT. IT professionals will achieve recognition for their skills in a way that is understood by employers across the sector.

In addition, employers will be able to submit their own internal training for external accreditation.

The Skills Academy will bring together high quality providers of education and training, including public, private, Higher and Further Education, building on the unique strengths of each partner. This will allow training to be delivered in the way that works best for each employer, including e-learning, face-to-face methods and on-the-job learning.

The National Skills Academy for IT is expected to open for business in the autumn of 2010.

> For more information www.e-skills.com/nsa

You may also be interested in...

> e-skills Professional Programme

Fast track the skills of graduate recruits in IT
www.e-skills.com/professionalprogramme

> Apprenticeships

Work-based development programmes backed by employers
www.e-skills.com/apprenticeships

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.