



NORTHERN
Regional College
Higher Level
Apprenticeship
in Computing





**The Higher Level
Apprenticeship in
Computing provides an
alternative route to a
career in the IT sector.**





What is a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

A Higher Level Apprenticeship is a nationally accredited work-based programme similar to traditional apprenticeships but at a higher level (Level 5). It is designed to meet the needs of employers for higher skill levels and leads to qualifications equivalent to university.

How Can Your Career Benefit from a Higher Level Apprenticeship?

Employability

You will be employed for 3 years working with an IT company or in an organisation where your role incorporates IT duties. One day per week will be spent at Northern Regional College studying for your academic qualification. The College will have a close relationship with your employer in mentoring you throughout your employment period.

You will gain valuable knowledge, practical skills and work experience as well as an internationally recognised qualification – just the combination that can help increase your future employability, boost your CV, and help you progress into new career opportunities.

Recognised Qualification

You will gain an internationally recognised qualification – Foundation Degree in Computing (validated by Ulster University) which is a Level 5 qualification.

A Stepping Stone to University

Upon successful completion of your Higher Level Apprenticeship, you may be able to continue your studies by working towards a BSc Degree in Computer Science and Software Engineering.

Earn While You Learn

You will gain valuable IT work experience from your employer as well as gaining a recognised professional qualification and earning a regular salary (at least the national minimum wage).





Higher Level Apprenticeship Framework

Duration

3 years - 1 day per week at College.

For the Foundation Degree in Computing you are required to gain experiential learning through three year's full-time employment (or the equivalent part-time). Subject areas include:

- ▷ Introduction to Programming
- ▷ Mobile Application Development
- ▷ Introduction to Databases
- ▷ Event-Driven Programming
- ▷ Web Development and Technologies

As well as developing your technical skills, other specialist modules underpin your professional development, giving you the personal skills that you need to succeed in the IT industries.

How To Become a Higher Level Apprentice

You must be at least 18 years on or before 1 July in the year you start your course and have obtained GCSE Maths grade C or above, plus English grade C or above (or Essential Skills Communication Level 2), plus Level 3 qualifications that are equivalent to 72 UCAS points or above.

Getting an Employer

Employers advertise and recruit directly for these positions. It will be competitive and there are likely to be a number of people applying for each Higher Level Apprenticeship vacancy, so you will need to sell yourself and convince the employer that you are the right person for the role.



Benefits for Employers

As an employer within the IT sector, your business can reap the benefits of providing a three year work placement for computing apprentices while they complete a recognised qualification at Northern Regional College. This opportunity is also open to your existing employees. Benefits include:

- ▷ **Skilled employees** – access to skilled employees as well as means of upskilling existing staff members.
- ▷ **Stronger business** – transfer knowledge and build relationships with the College.
- ▷ **Value for money** – fully-funded qualifications – Foundation Degree in Computing (supported by the Department for the Economy).

For further information contact:

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www.economy-ni.gov.uk



APPRENTICESHIPS



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