

Strathclyde Digital Academy

A new partnership delivering
work-ready graduates for
the Digital Economy



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The Strathclyde Digital Academy has been established to respond to the significantly increased demand for graduates with digital technology skills.

The Scottish and UK governments have identified an urgent need for more graduates with appropriate digital skills, and various reports have called on universities to start building stronger industry links, enabling delivery of work-ready graduates. There is also an identified need for continuing education facilitating the re-skilling of employees in digital technologies.

The University of Strathclyde is in a prime position to respond to these demands, with a long established history of 'useful learning', along with considerable experience working with industry and business partners.

One example of the Strathclyde University approach to support the economy through partnerships is the Technology and Innovation Centre – designed to transform the way academics, business industry and the public sector collaborate.

Building on the success of our Engineering Academy, and linking to the Institute for Future Cities, the Strathclyde Digital Academy is a partnership between the University, Government, Further Education colleges and employers from industry, commerce and the public sector.

The new Digital Academy will provide undergraduate, postgraduate and continuing professional development programmes to equip graduates with the skills needed for employment in this key sector of the Scottish and UK economies.

Our intention is to deliver work-ready graduates who have the necessary skills to meet the changing demands of this fast-paced sector.

Partners

- Scottish Government
- Further Education Colleges
- Leading employers
- University of Strathclyde

The Scottish Government

The Scottish Government has identified Digital Scotland as an economic priority. The Skills Investment Plan for Scotland's ICT and Digital Technologies sector, facilitated by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) on behalf of the Scottish Government, identifies the issues facing the sector. The University is working closely with key players to ensure that the Strathclyde Digital Academy plays a substantial role within the overall strategy and complements the initiatives led by others.

Further Education Colleges

The University is further developing already strong links with local Further Education colleges to provide a clear route from FE to undergraduate programmes in the Digital Academy. This identified pathway will give a number of benefits to students while attending college and make for a smoother transition from college to university. FE colleges provide an important supply of entrants to Higher Education from diverse backgrounds, often identified as widening access.

Employers

Graduate employers will play a key role in the Digital Academy. Leading employers have expressed frustration with the limited supply of work-ready ICT graduates and are willing to be part of the solution. Employers will identify skills gaps, and help to develop and deliver the curriculum through a range of mechanisms including guest lectures, short visits, internships, and industrial placements.

The University of Strathclyde

The University will deliver this high-capacity initiative, significantly increasing the number of graduates initially in the areas of Computing Science, Information Science, Mathematics and Statistics.

Students will enjoy an enhanced student experience during their course and will emerge with improved employability prospects – ready to meet the demands of the fast-moving workplace.

The provision of a new undergraduate Data Analytics course in 2015 and a new postgraduate course in Applied Mathematical Skills are examples of the University's response to changing industry needs.

The Digital Academy will be responsive and flexible, responding with agility to changing needs in the provision of education, and supplying graduates who meet the requirements of employers both now and in the future.

Key areas

Key areas of the Digital Academy include:

- ICT and digital technologies
- 'Big data'
- Software development
- Financial services
- Life sciences and health
- Creative and cultural industries

Next Steps

The first student intake to the Digital Academy will be in September 2015.

Consultation with partners is ongoing and will be significant in shaping the Digital Academy portfolio.

If you would like to be involved in the Strathclyde Digital Academy, or have any questions, please contact us using the details found on the back page.

the ENGINEERING ACADEMY

Strathclyde Engineering Academy

Launched in 2013, this successful collaboration between the University of Strathclyde, FE colleges and industry partners provides a pathway to BEng Honours or MEng programmes in an engineering discipline.

The first year of the Engineering Academy programme is taken as an enhanced HNC programme within one of the partner colleges. Those students who achieve the required standard are guaranteed transfer to an undergraduate degree within one of the partner Faculty of Engineering departments.

Key Benefits

- Financial support during the course of studies (from Year 2 onwards)
- An enhanced educational experience including specific mentoring and professional development with the sponsoring company
- Paid summer placements
- Increased employment opportunities as a result of an enhanced CV and industrial experience
- Associate Student Status at the University of Strathclyde whilst completing the first year in college – giving a number of benefits



enhanced HNC ICT BENEFITS FINANCIAL SERVICES
'BIG DATA' ADDITIONAL PATHWAYS
CONSULTATION SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CPD MATHEMATICS
develop curriculum PARTNERSHIP undergraduate
responsive University of Strathclyde
STATISTICS FE Colleges enhanced student experience
industrial placements collaborative widening access
CREATIVE & CULTURAL INDUSTRIES easier transition HEALTH
Employers COMPUTING SCIENCE short visits
gender balance improved employability prospects graduate employment
INFORMATION SCIENCE guest lectures LIFE SCIENCES

agile
WORK-READY GRADUATES
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
Strathclyde Digital Academy
Scottish Government
flexible postgraduate
DATA ANALYTICS internships

Contact Us

Strathclyde Digital Academy

For further information, please see

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the place of useful learning

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University of Strathclyde Glasgow

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