BSC (HONS) DIGITAL AND TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP

Employer Guide

UCW | UNIVERSITY CENTRE **WESTON**

Join the Degree Apprenticeship revolution!

Degree Apprenticeships are a fantastic new way for employers to upskill existing members of staff with degree-level skills and knowledge in the key areas needed to grow their businesses.

They combine full-time paid work with part-time academic study and, when successfully completed, result in the apprentice being awarded a full Honours Degree at Level 6.

As well as providing employers with a great way to train and retain valued members of staff, Degree Apprenticeships can also help organisations fill skills gaps and convince employees that they have a real stake in helping the businesses they work for be successful.

This trailblazing Degree Apprenticeship in Digital and Technology Solutions has been designed with input from employers in the software sector to provide apprentices with the core, technical and specialist IT skills they'll need to become confident and capable digital and technology professionals.

It includes work-based projects that can be tailored to be relevant to employers in a host of business areas, and the apprentice's newly-learned skills will be beneficial to their employer as they move through the programme.

We'll help you every step of the way through the process, from recruitment, applications and interviews if you are looking to take on a new member of staff, to implementation of the programme, assessment and both organisational and apprentice support on an ongoing basis.

A First Class institution

Any members of your staff enrolled on this Degree Apprenticeship will be in very safe hands.

University Centre Weston – the new name for the Weston College Group's longstanding higher education provision - has been awarded Gold in the Teaching Excellence Framework.

This means that we've been judged to deliver consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for our students, which is of the highest quality found it Britain.

Indeed, UCW was one of just a few places in the South West to get Gold, placing us among the top 20% of higher education providers in the UK.

We also pride ourselves on having nurtured a supportive and inclusive learning environment, which led to our students awarding us an above average overall satisfaction score in the most recent National Student Survey.

UCW delivers this Degree Apprenticeship in partnership with UWE Bristol, so apprentices get the best of all worlds: access to all of the facilities and resources at two institutions and a degree validated by a top UK university.

Your business and employee will also benefit from Weston College's outstanding track record in organising apprenticeship schemes for a whole host of businesses across numerous sectors.

The College has its very own dedicated Apprenticeship Team, based at the Business Enterprise Centre in Weston-super-Mare, and even hosts a gala event every year to celebrate the many successes of our apprentices and their employers.

Fees and funding

Tuition fees for the BSc (Hons) Digital and Technology Solutions are £6,750 per year.

But with Degree Apprenticeships having been identified as a crucial part of the UK's long-term education and economic growth strategies, there is plenty of financial support available.

Recent funding reforms mean that if your business has an annual payroll in excess of £3 million, you will be able to fund this apprenticeship in its entirety through your organisation's Apprenticeship Levy contributions.

Even If your organisation does not pay into the Levy, you could still receive government contributions to cover the cost of up to 90% of the tuition fees for this course, providing your apprentice is under 19-years-old.

Additionally, all businesses that employ an apprentice aged between 19 and 24 who has been in care or who has an Education and Health Care Plan will receive a government grant of £1,000.

For more information please go to **www.weston.ac.uk/apprenticeships**. Alternatively, our Apprenticeship Team would love to hear from you and can answer any questions you have about this Degree Apprenticeship. Please contact them on **01934 411 594** or **apprenticeships@weston.ac.uk**.

Course **overview**

The four-year BSc (Hons) Digital and Technology Solutions Degree Apprenticeship combines studies of IT and other digital technologies with practical business principles.

The software industry is fast-moving and ever-evolving, so apprentices on this course receive a grounding in new and emerging technologies and also cover core topics such as cybersecurity, systems development and project management, so they can respond to threats and opportunities that affect your business in a considered and competent manner.

This course is delivered by our highly qualified lecturing team on a one-day-per-week basis at UCW's Knightstone Campus. Apprentices are taught via lectures and seminars in the classroom, e-learning and real-world, on-the-job training.

Your apprentice can utilise all of the support and guidance UCW's offers at no additional cost, and they will also be among the first students to take advantage of the state-of-the-art technology, higher education library and extended opening hours at the Weston College Group's brand new Winter Gardens facility on Weston seafront.

Course content

- Business information systems
- Data modelling and databases
- Digital technologies
- Information security
- IT law and ethics
- IT project management
- Organisations and management
- Systems development

Specialist pathways

- Business analyst
- Cyber security analyst
- Data analyst
- Software engineer

Apprentices who pass this course will receive a Bachelor of Science Degree validated by UWE Bristol.

They'll be able to operate effectively in a range of digital roles and qualified to support your organisation in developing new products and services, while also increasing productivity using digital technologies.

Graduates will also be eligible to apply for postgraduate study, such as a Master's Degree.

Entry **requirements**

Apprentices will ideally already have three A Levels at grade C or above, preferably in related subjects such as mathematics, science and IT, or a BTEC Extended Diploma at MMM, or other qualifications equivalent to 96 UCAS tariff points, in addition to Level 2 mathematics.

Applications from those who do not meet these requirements but who have demonstrable and relevant work experience will be considered on an individual basis, subject to completing a programming assessment set by UCW.

In addition, we are also looking for these attributes in applicants:

Essential skills and experiences

- Familiarity with the Windows, OSX and Linux Operating Systems, major web browsers and browser development tools, and mobile devices and applications.

- Awareness of software development tools and web technologies including HTML.

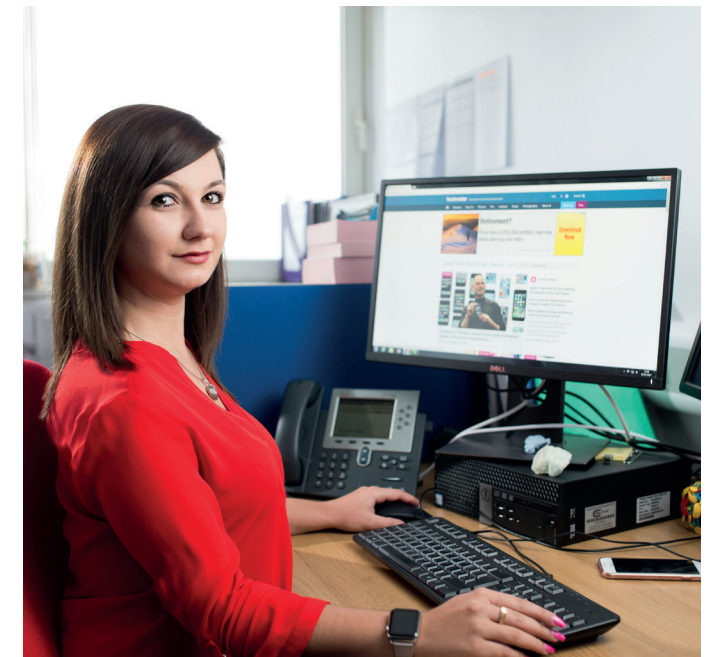- Experience of using word processors, spreadsheets, databases and graphics software.

Other core competencies

- Communication – gets audience-specific messages across in ways others can understand.

- Analytical and creative thinking – simplifies complex problems and comes up with creative solutions.

- Teamwork – builds and maintains relationships through effective networking, and shares ideas and best practice.

- Results driven – delivers on time, on budget, on spec, and takes ownership of initiatives.

- Resilience and flexibility – proactively promotes change and embraces improvement strategies.

- Planning and organisation – plans ahead and manages workload to optimum capacity.

Personal qualities

- A determination to succeed in an IT role.

- A commitment to self-improvement.

- Confidence with numbers, computers and other digital technologies.

- A strong eye for detail.

- An ability to thrive while collaborating with others.

Role **specification**

Information systems

We'll show your apprentice how to critically analyse a business domain so they can evaluate the role of information systems, highlight any prescient issues and also identify any opportunities for improvements in relation to the systems' effectiveness and intended purposes.

You'll provide your apprentice with access to management information systems across your business, and also give your apprentice the opportunity to present to colleagues and receive formal feedback on potential systems improvements.

Systems development

We'll teach your apprentice how to design, implement, test and debug software to meet your organisation's requirements using contemporary methods including Agile development. They'll also learn the skills to be able to manage software artefacts to ensure system resilience, and configure solutions with end users in mind.

You'll identify relevant projects within your organisation to facilitate your apprentice becoming actively involved in the design, development, testing and implementation of software applications, ideally as part of a team.

Data

We'll help your apprentice to utilise conceptual data modelling techniques. They'll also learn how to implement database solutions using an industry standard database management system, perform database administration tasks, and become conversant with the key concepts in data management and security.

You'll provide your apprentice with data that is part of your infrastructure system and suitable for further analysis. This can be a standalone dataset but must be of quantifiable value to your organisation.

Cybersecurity

We'll demonstrate how to undertake a substantial risk assessment for an IT system and propose resolution advice; identifying, analysing and evaluating security threats and hazards to planned and installed information systems or services.

You'll allow your apprentice to work with colleagues to undertake security risk assessments based upon your organisation's current policies and practices. You'll also provide opportunities within the workplace for your apprentice to plan and install appropriate security processes.

Business organisation

We'll teach your apprentice applied organisational theory and strategic planning, the basics of marketing and HR, and the relevance of IT service management to the development of technology solutions. They'll also learn how to produce reasoned business proposals and gleam useful business insights.

You'll support the apprentice in devising a series of investment proposals relevant to your organisation by making available suitable management information.

IT project management

We'll teach your apprentice how to follow a systematic methodology for initiating, planning, controlling and executing technology solutions projects. They'll learn how to apply industry standard project management processes, methods and techniques, and manage their own project, which would typically be less than six months in length.

You'll share your organisation's preferred methodologies and approaches to project management and provide the apprentice with real experience of project management, ideally in a team leader or supervisory capacity.

Computer and network infrastructure

We'll illustrate to apprentices how they can plan, design and manage computer networks, with an overall focus on services and capabilities in an organisational context. They'll also develop the skills and knowledge needed to identify network security risks and resolve such issues.

You'll ideally give your apprentice the chance to work within your organisation's infrastructure team, so they can understand your current and proposed network structures and access your relevant network infrastructure policies and procedures.

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Weston College **Group**

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