University of the Highlands and Islands
Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean

University of the Highlands and Islands | Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
West Highland College | Colaiste na Gàidhealtachd an Iar

# Foundation Apprenticeship: IT Software Development

## What is a Foundation Apprenticeship?

**Foundation Apprenticeships are work-based qualifications for senior phase pupils. They combine the best of academic and vocational learning in one single qualification.**

## Why IT Software Development?



Gaming, virtual reality, cyber security – the digital world is changing fast. You could help decide where it goes next.

In Scotland, over 90,000 people work in digital technology roles, and salaries are growing almost twice as fast as the average. The current average full-time salary for digital technology roles is £37,500, which is over 30% higher than the Scottish average of £28,000.

With this Foundation Apprenticeship, you'll be setting yourself up for roles that are in demand not just now, but in the future too. As a software or web developer, you can use your skills to create programs, robotic systems, apps and websites. As a database administrator or network manager you'd design and build computer systems to store and manipulate vital information.

The FA is designed to give you a good insight into potential careers. We will explore robotics, web development, software development across several computer applications and learn key skills required to work in this fast-paced environment.

## What's involved?

Our Foundation Apprenticeships can be completed over one or two years depending on your qualifications when you begin the course.

The following SCQF Level 6 units will be studied in college during the first year of the course. Together, they make up the National Progression Award in Software Development:

- Computing: Application Development
- Computing: Authoring a Website
- Software Design and Development

In the second year, you will work regularly with a relevant business as well as continuing study in college. This work placement and experience will give you the opportunity to put in to practise the skills you learn as part of the NPA.
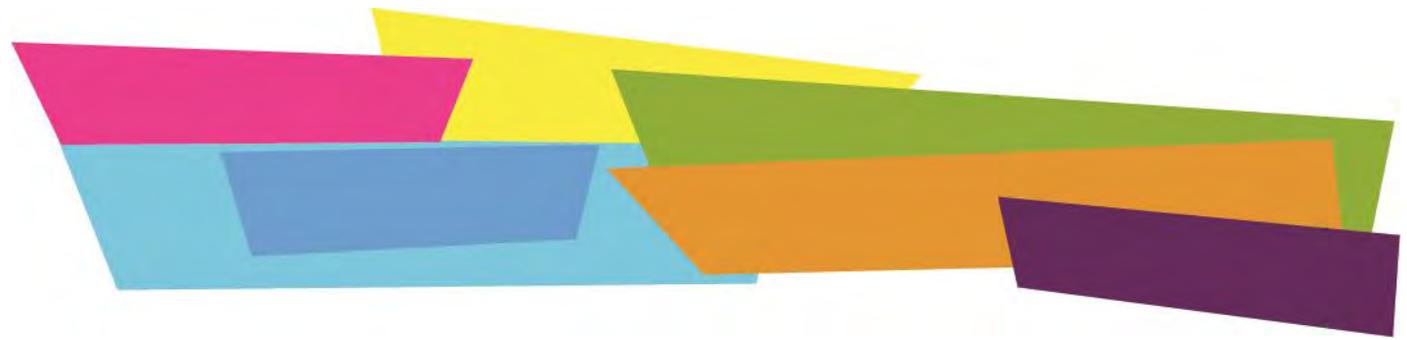
## How are they delivered?

All of our Foundation Apprenticeships are delivered as Virtual Classes use online technologies, such as Google Hangouts. They are studied in timetabled sessions alongside your other subject choices and will have a college lecturer in virtual attendance during the class. You will also make contact with a relevant local business who will provide you with regular work experience in year 2 where you will be given the opportunity to put in to practise what you have learned in year 1.

## What are the entry requirements?

You will be expected to achieve three passes at National 5 level with A, B or C band passes ideally including English, and Maths.

You should enjoy working in a fast-paced environment, be able to work in teams and on your own, customer focussed and able to solve problems. You will need to work methodically and logically, and have a good eye for detail.

## What do I get at the end of it?

- NPA (National Progression Award) in Software Development at SCQF Level 6 (delivered in school)
- Diploma for IT & Telecommunications at SCQF Level 6 (delivered within industry or with an industry context)
- You will also have had the chance to network and pick up work place relevant skills during your second year when you work closely with a relevant local business.

## Course progression – what's next?

The Foundation Apprenticeship gives you lots of options: it's up to you where you go next:

- **A Modern Apprenticeship**: On completing your Foundation Apprenticeship, you'll have already achieved core units of the Modern Apprenticeship in IT and Telecoms, giving you a head start.
- **A Graduate Apprenticeship**: You'll have the right skills and experience to progress to a Graduate Apprenticeship in IT: Software Development.
- **Further Education**: Continue your studies at college, with an HNC or HND in an ICT and digital subject. Your workplace experience will support your college application.
- **University**: Foundation Apprenticeships are recognised as equivalent to SQA Highers by all Scottish universities. You'll already have quality experience in the industry – this will make your UCAS stand out from the crowd.
- **Straight to a job**: Use your qualification and work experience to find a job in the ICT and digital technologies industry.

## How do I apply

- From November, senior phase pupils choose as part of option choices
- You can apply online at www.whc/uhi.ac.uk/schools and select your chosen subject
- You will need to provide a reference from your guidance teacher.
- Applications need to be with us at the latest by 11th March
- Acceptances will be confirmed to schools and pupils via their guidance teachers by 26th April 2019.

## Who do I contact?

Application is online. Speak to your guidance teacher or go to

# www.whc.uhi.ac.uk/schools.

You can also email us directly at

schools.whc@uhi.ac.uk

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