



Foundation Apprenticeships – IT: Software Development (2022-2024)

Who is it for?

The Foundation Apprenticeship in IT: Software Development is a two year course open to you in S5-6. You can take a Foundation Apprenticeship as one of your senior subject choices. You'll get the chance to learn in a real workplace and develop the new skills your future employers need, giving you a competitive edge while you're still at school.

You will need to be ready for working and studying at SCQF Level 6 (Higher equivalent) but in a vocational setting. The requirements of the course are set out below. Attainment will be measured by ongoing assessment and throughout an employer work placement.

How does it work?

1. You'll get time out of the classroom and complete an extended work placement with a top local employer interested in hiring young people.
2. Your Foundation Apprenticeship course will combine hands-on learning with essential knowledge, which you'll get the chance to apply on your work placement.
3. It fits alongside your other subjects in your senior timetable.

What are the benefits?

1. It's the same level of learning as a Higher (SCQF6). The difference is that you are assessed as you go along, so there's no final exam.
2. The time you spend on your placement will give you technical workplace knowledge, plus confidence, communication and teamwork skills.

3. You can use your Foundation Apprenticeship to get into a Modern Apprenticeship, Graduate Apprenticeship, or straight to work. It also counts as one of your entry qualifications into all colleges and universities across Scotland.

What's the qualification?

You'll gain a Foundation Apprenticeship in IT Software Development, which is the same level of learning as an SQA Higher (SCQF level 6).

This includes:

- A National Progression Award (NPA) in Software Development at SCQF level 6
- Core units of a Diploma for IT & Telecommunications Professionals at SCQF level 6
- A work placement

What will I learn?

Your NPA in IT Software Development will cover the following topics:

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

Your Foundation Apprenticeship will also help you to develop core skills valued by employers, particularly:

- Communication,
- Problem Solving,
- Time management, and
- Working with Others

These transferable skills are necessary and highly desirable for working in a range of other related jobs.

Where could it take me?

Your 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 for most of their courses. 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.

Entry Requirement

- Achieved or working towards National 5 Mathematics (we will also consider Application of Mathematics on a case by case basis) and National 5 English
- Pupils should be working towards achieving one or two Highers over S5 and S6, one of these must be Computing
- Consideration will be given to all those not meeting these exact qualifications by way of completing a screening activity at Edinburgh College to establish eligibility.

Where will the qualification be delivered?

The IT: Software Development Foundation Apprenticeship will be delivered in Midlothian at a suitable Training venue and is available to all Midlothian S5 pupils. Midlothian Council (CLLE) will cover the cost of all travel to and from the delivery venues and your work placement.

Who will deliver the course?

The course will be delivered by Edinburgh College on behalf of CLLE. The college Assessors who have many years' experience of delivering qualifications in this subject area. Edinburgh College are an SQA Accredited Centre.

How will the course be delivered?

The first year of the course will be classroom based in order to develop knowledge needed for the world of work and in doing so, working towards the National Progression Award. The second year will be delivered in Edinburgh College (Midlothian Campus) and the workplace and will enable workplace competence to be developed. The course will be delivered on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

How long is the course?

The course delivered over two Academic Years – so you will be committing to studying through S5 and S6

How many places are available?

10

How can I apply?

Speak to your Guidance teacher, SDS Careers Adviser in school for more information

Further Information

You can find out more about Foundation Apprenticeships at www.apprenticeships.scot or on @apprenticeship_scot You can hear from Foundation Apprentices and employers on YouTube by searching for 'apprenticeships.scot':

Please note: This information sheet is for guidance only and may be subject to change. Midlothian Council (Communities, Lifelong Learning and Employability) will be responsible for the delivery of this Foundation Apprenticeship for 2022-2024.

