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APPRENTICESHIP

Software Developer

Level 4

4

1 Apprenticeship Framework

The Level 4 Software Developer Apprenticeship has been designed with employers in Wales to equip employees with the primary software development skills that they need to be able to engage with stakeholders, specify and design software solutions, develop and improve software, test and document software and support users. This apprenticeship programme is designed to provide a robust vocational route to obtaining the skills and knowledge required to succeed as a software developer.

The programme prepares learners for roles such as:

- Web Developer
- Software Developer
- App Developer
- Dev Ops Professional

Who is this apprenticeship for?

This programme is for candidates who develop software solutions and have a good level of experience and/or knowledge of the sector or those progressing from a relevant prior qualification. E.g. IT related A-level or a Level 3 apprenticeship in a related IT discipline.

On completion of this apprenticeship you will achieve the following:

- Agored Cymru Level 4 Diploma in Software Development
- Level 2 Essential Skill in Application of Number
- Level 2 Essential Skill in Communication

Benefits of the apprenticeship programme:

- **Accelerate Your Career Growth:** With the Level 4 Software Developer Apprenticeship, you will fast-track your career by gaining invaluable hands-on experience alongside theoretical knowledge. You will be equipped with the tools to excel as a front-end or back-end developer and make a difference in your organisation.
- **Industry-Recognised Certification:** Upon successful completion of this programme, you will earn a prestigious industry-recognised certification, providing you with a competitive edge in the job market. Employers value the skills and expertise gained through this apprenticeship, opening doors to exciting opportunities.
- **Practical and Real-World Learning:** Our programme emphasises practical, real-world learning. You will practice skills in a classroom environment and be able to apply within your workplace, collaborating with experienced colleagues who will guide you through every step of the process.
- **Tailored Curriculum:** Our comprehensive curriculum is designed to meet the demands of the software development sector. You'll cover essential topics such as system security by design, software design, software development coding, software testing and documentation, continual development, and professionalism.
- **Experienced and Knowledgeable Advisors:** Throughout your apprenticeship, you'll have access to a network of experienced advisors who will provide guidance, support, and feedback. Learn from industry experts with a wealth of knowledge and experience across the digital sector.

Course Delivery

- Typical duration of 24 months.
- Induction session for apprentices and for their line managers.
- 10x full day technical skills and knowledge workshops.
- Supported by self-study online resources.
- One to One tutor coaching and assessment support sessions
- 4 Essential skills assessment days. (2 Preparation days and 2 Live Task days) **
- 2 hour long essential skills confirmatory tests. **

**Essential Skills activities are not applicable to apprentices with exemptions.

Level 4 Diploma in Software Developer

Course Delivery

This element of the programme will be delivered through blended learning with learners attending full day knowledge and technical skills workshops delivered either face to face or virtually using Microsoft Teams across the 24-month duration of the programme .

Additional development and assessment support will be provided through regular 1-to-1 sessions with a member of the ALS delivery team. An ALS assessor will meet with the learner, either in the workplace or through digital means. (for example, Microsoft Teams) to provide coaching, advice and assessment support.

Learners will also be set tasks to complete between each visit which are tailored to the different needs of each learner and the workplace activities they are involved with.

Qualification Structure Summary

The Level 4 Diploma in Software Developer consists of 7 mandatory units, with a total of 84 credits plus optional units with a minimum of 27 optional credits.

Unit rules of combination.

- Mandatory Units (Learners must achieve all 7 units) – 84 credits.
- Optional units – minimum 27 credits.
- The same unit may not be selected at more than one level (e.g. User Centred Development (UX) Level 3 and User Centred Development (UX) Level 4)

What you will learn

This programme is made up of a mixture of mandatory units (these have to be completed by all learners as part of the qualification) and optional units (we will work with you to decide what units are relevant to your role, and your business).

Mandatory Units	
Unit Title	**Level**
Professional Practice in an IT Context	4
Software Design	4
Principles of Secure System Development	4
Health and Safety in an IT Context	4
Improving Existing Software	4
Software Testing	4
Software Development	4

Optional Units (minimum 27 credits required)		
Unit Title	**Level**	**Credits**
Investigating & Defining Customer Requirements for ICT Systems	4	15
Testing IT & Telecoms Systems	4	15
Testing the Security of Information Systems	4	15
Database Software	3	6
Create Data-Driven Applications	4	15
IT & Telecom System Security 2	3	8
IT System Operation 2	4	14
Manage an IT Application Project	3	8
Database Applications	3	8
Testing the Security of Information Systems	3	12
IT System Operation	3	12
Remote Support for IT Products and Services	3	9
IT System Management	3	12
Investigating and Defining Customer Requirements for IT Systems	3	12
IT Fault Diagnosis	3	10
IT System Security	4	12
Remote Support for IT Products and Services	4	12
Integrated Development and Operations (DevOps)	3	11
User Centred Development (UX)	4	12
User Centred Development (UX)	3	7
Integrated Development and Operations (DevOps)	4	15

Have any questions about our Level 4 Software Development Apprenticeship?

We are here to help. If you have any further questions or enquiries about the main qualification element of the programme, please contact **info@alstraining.org.uk**

3 Essential Skills Qualifications

When you agree to undertake an apprenticeship, you may be required to complete Essential Skills as part of your apprenticeship framework.

Essential Skills Wales

The Essential Skills Wales (ESW) will be initially assessed via an online Wales Essential Skills Toolkit (WEST) Assessment. Where a Learner already holds an ESW certificate or equivalent qualification this can provide an exemption and learners will not need to complete that ESW element of the programme. Where a Learner is not exempt an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) will be generated from the initial assessment. The modules delivery will include independent learning via WEST, prior to guided learning sessions preparing the Learner for their assessment. ESWs are assessed via controlled tasks and confirmatory tests for Communication and Number, Digital Literacy is assessed via a controlled task and structured discussion.

Exemptions

If you already hold qualifications, these may be used as 'exemptions' towards your apprenticeship framework. As a result, you will be exempt from achieving that Essential Skill, if you wish. This will be discussed with you before you sign up with us and will also be followed up by your assessor before and during your first visit from us.

Have any questions about Essential Skills?

We are here to help. If you have any further questions or enquiries about Essential Skills element of the programme, please contact **info@alstraining.org.uk**