

Training works for former MG Rover staff

When MG Rover went into administration in 2005, The Learning and Skills Council went into action and established the MG Rover Task Force who secured ESF (European Social Fund) funding to finance a programme of support which included opportunities for training.

Solihull College's Microsoft IT Academy, Sol Training Systems played a major role. Liz Gibbins, Business Development Advisor said: "We have had the pleasure of welcoming ex-MG Rover delegates onto a range of certification courses at our Microsoft IT Academy, enabling them to train for roles including Systems Engineers, Network Administrators, Software and Database Developers. However, PRINCE2 Project Management has been one of the most popular courses with 25 ex-MG Rover delegates training with us so far.

"I received a phone call from an agency the same week that I added PRINCE2 to my CV. That led directly to me being offered a really great job with more responsibility, more prospects and a significantly better package."

Bryn Morris

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure to work with staff previously employed by MG Rover in what must be very difficult circumstances. In the case of PRINCE2 alone, delegates have had the dual focus of finding a new job as well as understanding how the methodology can be used. It has been crucial that they felt they could achieve their goal of attaining PRINCE2 certification, particularly at practitioner level which is so much in demand. Success rates and feedback have been superb and we are constantly pleased to hear from individuals how training at Sol has made a difference. I'm delighted that this has been such a success."

"My new role at National Grid Wireless is a Business Solutions Manager for Asset Management and Site Operations, which allows me

to specify the requirements for a variety of projects and processes to improve efficiency and productivity. My new found knowledge, confidence and professionalism have helped me significantly in my new role."

David Owen

Contact Liz Gibbins on 0121 678 7355 or liz.gibbins@solihull.ac.uk

Make sure you receive one click every quarter
Send your details – and those colleagues who should be on our mailing list – to NTI today



Microsoft listens to TIC

Leading technologists from UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre (TIC) were invited by Microsoft to brief the IT giant's 10th annual Convergence event.

Manager of TIC's E-business Centre, George Squires (pictured right), and enterprise resource planning expert Phil Arch (left), addressed the Dallas conference in March. They outlined their teaching and training approaches using Microsoft business solutions in higher education and professional development.

TIC is rated among Microsoft's top five university academies. This year the computer giant introduces a new approach to professional training - the Microsoft Official Academic Course (MOAC) - and Squire's team has made a significant contribution to the development of these new educational materials.

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Leading learning and skills



West Midlands becoming a hub of media creativity



The West Midlands is on the brink of becoming a hub of media creativity that should help sustain prosperity for the region for years to come, Apple boss Mark Rogers told guests at the official launch of NTI's new building.

Praising the pool of talent already operating in and around Birmingham, Apple's MD for the UK and Nordic Regions, said: "If you pool some resources you can create something unique. There's

a lot of talent here. I can see this as a hub of media content for the next 10 to 15 years."

Rogers stressed the important role of the NTI and its state-of-the-art facilities in offering training to media professionals and business people: "New technology must, by its very nature, be new and the latest hardware is out of date inside a year. Those who use it need to learn continuously to keep up to date with the newest software

developments and hone their skills.

"There is an opportunity for the type of facility you have here that can react extremely quickly, offering a training facility to small and medium sized businesses as well as education institutions so they can use the latest technology. It's not just about the technology but being able to use it in creative ways. Apple is very excited about being involved, looking forward with the NTI team to making that happen."



FREE TRAINING COURSES

Experts say Open Source software is changing the face of IT - and now small and medium sized businesses wanting to gain an edge can take advantage of eight free training courses this May and June.

The Open Advantage seminars, to be run in Birmingham city centre at the headquarters of either NTI or Open Advantage in Broad Street, are designed to help delegates benefit swiftly from these 'best of breed' IT solutions.

Sessions run over one or two days are funded by Advantage West Midlands.

COURSES

- 3 May Cutting the cost of communication: VoIP
- 11-12 May Mambo & Joomla! customising websites
- 18-19 May PHP & MySQL
- 22-26 May Python for Programmers
- 30 May Build full-featured, content managed websites
- 1 June Building dynamic websites with PHP & My SQL
- 5-6 June Building dynamic websites with Mambo & Joomla!
- 7 June Ruby on Rails

GREAT DISCOUNT OFFERS
Book any course in May and get your next course half price
OR book any course in May and get your 1st day free
(Not to be used in conjunction with any NTI package)

APPLE CERTIFIED COURSES – May & June

6 May	(NTILOGIC) Logic Music Production Masterclass with Sony BMG Producer John Cotton	£85.00
17-19 May	(Logic 101) Overview of Logic	£750.00
22-24 May	(FCP 101) Introduction to Final Cut Pro	£750.00
25- 26 May	(Motion 101) An Introduction to Motion	£500.00
5-7 June	(FCP 300) Advanced Editing Techniques in Final Cut Pro	£750.00
19-20 June	(FCP250) Final Cut Pro for Avid Editors	£500.00
21-23 June	(DVDSPP 101) An Overview of DVD Studio Pro	£750.00
24 June	(NTI Logic) Logic Music Production Masterclass	£99.00
29 June	(OSX0) OSX User Overview	£99.00
30 June	(FCP 100) An Overview of Final Cut Pro 5	£99.00

To book a place or for more information on these or any courses at The NTI in Birmingham please contact Neil Emery Apple Business Development Manager on 0121 202 4800 or email neil@ntibirmingham.co.uk

open advantage
WEST MIDLANDS OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS CENTRE
For full details and booking places visit www.openadvantage.org

State-of-the-art facilities become a reality



Delegates at the launch took a close interest in the new technology available at The NTI in Birmingham



Mary Martin, Pro Vice-Chancellor UCE Birmingham



Discussion never stopped

Apple boss Mark Rogers' encouraging comments about the West Midlands' huge potential added to the buzz of enthusiasm at the opening of the NTI's new Birmingham headquarters on March 28. As many visitors saw the brand new building on Bartholomew Row for the first time, the promise of its state-of-the-art facilities became a reality.

The city's NTI has become one of the few Apple certified training centres outside London in partnership with near-neighbour UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre (TIC). Together they will meet the needs of the

region's media and IT professionals.

VIP guests at the event included speakers Frank Mills, BT's Regional Director for the West Midlands and Chairman of The NTI in Birmingham, Mary Martin, Pro Vice-Chancellor at UCE Birmingham, and Paul Sabapathy, Pro Chancellor and Chair of Governors at UCE.

NTI's doors are open to anyone in business and education in Birmingham and the region who is interested in taking training courses or hiring training or meeting facilities in a high-tech businesslike environment.



Frank Mills, Chairman of The NTI in Birmingham



Old and new acquaintances



NTI is looking forward to welcoming back many of the evening's VIPs

Another bite at 5 Days of Apple

A second run of free Apple software taster training courses - refined and refocused after the huge success of the first 5 Days of Apple in January - will be staged at The NTI in Birmingham in May.



Apple trainer Byron Wijayawardena delivering a hands-on session during the first 5 days of Apple.

More than 300 delegates signed up for the first series and the new run from May 8-12 will include input from blockbuster film creatives, the world's largest computer games publisher and sessions for teachers and IT support staff in education.

The bite-size sessions, at the NTI in Bartholomew Row, are open to Midlands media, IT and education professionals. They will be led by such luminaries as visual effects specialist Ian Murphy from London's Shake school, Framstore - the creative force behind movies including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Harry Potter, plus EA Games, whose presentations will be based on the Xbox 360 with reference to the not-yet-launched Playstation 3. Educational programmes will focus on the role of Apple OSX servers and teachers making the most out of Apple's iLife programmes.

For information and bookings call 0121 202 4800 or email neil@ntibirmingham.co.uk



A clearer picture of NTI emerges



Harpist Camilla Pay added to the atmosphere



Paul Sabapathy, Pro Chancellor and Chair of Governors at UCE, unveiled a plaque marking the opening...



Watched by an audience of guests from business and education.



Paying close attention



A real celebration

100% pass rate for first delegates

A 100% pass rate for Final Cut Pro students taking part in the first 5 Days of Apple at The NTI in Birmingham seals its successful debut as an Apple training centre.

The first person to be accredited at the NTI was Jordan Cadby from digital media agency Gas Street Works in Birmingham's Vittoria Street, who took part with his colleague Maebh Kely in the very first Final Cut Pro sessions in January. Their boss, Director Neil Ramsorum, was delighted with more than their passes and said: "Jordan and Maebh came into work after the course bubbling with enthusiasm and spouting shortcuts left, right and centre. Thanks for a job well done."

All five candidates who took the level one Pro-User exam passed after completing the three day official Apple certified training course - delivered by Chris Roberts from UCE Birmingham's Technology Innovation Centre using Final Cut Pro 5 which includes new features such as multi-cam editing.



All candidates achieved Apple Certification: (from left) Maebh Kely, Jordan Cadby, trainer Chris Roberts, Nic Brogan and Hardeep Singh Mal

Oscar-winning film effects course at NTI

One of the Europe's most experienced tutors in motion picture visual effects will run the first Apple-accredited Shake-4 course at The NTI in Birmingham in July.

Ron Ganbar will introduce a programme that has helped major film makers produce Oscar-winning

effects for seven consecutive years. The five-day hands-on course expected to start on July 3 will cost



£1250 per delegate. Each will have the opportunity to take the Apple Certified Level One exam for Shake.

Ganbar, who is renowned for 'closing the gap' between creative and technical users of the Shake programme, has taught at the highly acclaimed Digital Compositing course at The Finishing

School - once part of the National Film and Television School.

For more information and booking contact Neil Emery on 0121 202 4800 or email neil@ntibirmingham.co.uk