Case study

De Montfort University Gets Started with HP Institute

The University has more than 27,000 students with more than 170 courses that are professionally accredited

Challenge
Students were not gaining the right IT skills

Solution
Enhance employability and work-readiness

Results
Introduce the HP Institute certification program

HP Institute provides the right skill set for today's IT career.

"When I join a company with HP Institute qualifications, then I can actually hit the ground running because I will have the credentials the company is looking for."

— Ronald Pisa, DMU student

De Montfort University Makes HP Institute Certification Part of New IT Degree to Improve Graduate Employability

Based in Leicester, in the heart of England, De Montfort University has more than 27,000 students supported by 2,700 staff, including 13 National Teaching Fellows, higher education's most prestigious teaching awards. This is one of the highest numbers awarded to any university. More than 170 courses are professionally accredited.

HP Institute provides the right skill set for today's IT career.

Challenge

Because the De Montfort University (DMU) focuses on employability and meeting business needs, their courses provide relevancy that give their graduates a head start. The university faces an ongoing challenge, especially in a down economy, to give their students the skills they need to succeed in the workplace.

"There have been a lot of changes to the university education, particularly very recently," said Andy Collop, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, DMU. "One of the things that has gone right to the top of the agenda is employability for graduates."

There is a skills gap and DMU wants to produce industry-relevant graduates that meet the needs of employers.

Solution

As a result, DMU has partnered with HP to work collaboratively to design, develop and deliver a series of innovative educational programs to better connect academia and business, as well as to start collaborative research in the areas of cloud, information security, networking and sustainability technologies. Together HP and DMU developed a new IT degree for students.

DMU sees professional certification as an important component, as it provides their students with up-to-date skills, hands-on experience, and a professional qualification that will help differentiate them in the job market. As a result, DMU embraced HP Institute and the HP Accredited Technical Associate (ATA) certification program as part of the new IT degree program.

Neil McBride, Reader in IT Management, Centre for Computing and Social Responsibility, led the validation of HP Institute at DMU. He found very few other universities embedding industrial certification into their business IT courses.

"The HP certification provides a different lens, a different view," said McBride. "The one thing I think is really good is that when you get the HP certification, you are not getting the same thing as in academia. You are getting a different way of teaching—a different, hands-on approach."

Results

Collop believes the students in their program take the HP certification, and then finish the degree ready to contribute in industry, particularly with small and medium businesses.

McBride agrees, "The industry certification is giving us more employability and making that connection between the academic and the industry for our students."

Students are very excited about HP Institute, and DMU student Ronald Pisa says, "When I join a company with HP Institute qualifications, then I can actually hit the ground running because I will have the credentials the company is looking for."

Students benefit from hands-on instruction in the program, with participants working on Remote Labs to configure hardware and software.

"This isn't a traditional education; this is more of a practical learning environment," said Andrew Owen, a student at DMU.

Industry professionals are also seeing the value of the HP Institute program, such as Mike Wheeler, Solutions Director at Prolinx Ltd.

"When you are looking at a number of personnel who are looking for employment, obviously the first thing you look at is qualifications. They have to give you an indication that they may be capable of filling a role in your organization. So from that point of view certification is important."

Graduates of the HP Institute program will have the skills to fill valued IT roles.

CERTIPORT®

certiport.com/hp   hp.com/go/institute

Share with colleagues