Advertise with us

FEATURED ARTICLE

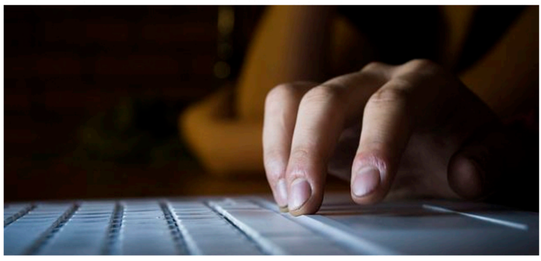


Image source: Eneas

Professional courses gaining in popularity

Jonathan Reed

05 NOV 2013 ADVICE

With the economy taking a slide and the cost of tuition on the rise, many students have been drawn to professional courses rather than university degree programs in recent years. There has been a boom in enrolment numbers in professional courses, giving students the qualifications necessary to launch skill-based careers in fields such as accounting, childcare and barbering. With high numbers of youth unemployment, professional courses provide a short-term way for many to gain valuable long-term skills and enter the workforce on their own terms.

Gaining Real World Skills

One of the primary advantages that professional courses give to students is that they give them the chance to train in real-life settings. For example, at barbering courses at London School of Barbering students not only gain theoretical knowledge of barbering techniques; they also have the chance to train on real clients. This puts them at a distinct advantage once they get out into the real world, because they have the comfort and experience to work with professional clients. By contrast, students who attend university often find that they must then work in a low-paid internship in order to gain relevant work skills, on top of their primary education.

Affordability

The cost of a three-year Bachelor's degree grows every year, making it difficult for many families to put their children through a university course. Vocational training is a top alternative for many students, particularly those who have a set career path in mind. Research from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants in the UK found that only 22 per cent of UK students received information about vocational training at their secondary school, but this is changing. Business leaders across the UK are now encouraging young people to look at the potential of vocation based qualifications and professional courses. Not only are these programs lower in cost than university programs, but they also produce graduates who are ready to directly enter the work force. As a result, the government is striving to educate more students about the possibilities that vocational colleges provide.

Online Certificate Programs

Another type of professional course gaining popularity is the online certificate program. Taking courses online allows students to continue attending their day job, while they gain new skills on the side. Business, finance, and IT courses are some of the most popular professional subjects for online students, because these fields are more theoretical rather than practical. To be awarded an online certificate, students generally take four to six online courses and then pass a proctored exam. These are often offered by larger universities as part of their course offerings.

Whether it's through online certificate programs or intensive professional academy courses, there are a number of vocational qualifications that students can now turn to. These can be viewed as an alternative to the traditional university route, or as a way to switch careers later in life. With low investment costs and a high rate of return in the form of job opportunities, these programs offer an increasingly attractive option to students in the UK.

#national #advice #employment #training

Join our 3,000 contributors | Write an article

HAVE YOUR SAY

Message...

Name | Email | POST IT

Notify me when others comment

Previous POPULAR Next

UK Steel hits £17 million investment milestone

Enterprise Team inspires next generation of entrepreneurs

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise with us

PROFILES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Daniel Kolodziej
http://www.linkedin.com/pub/daniel-kolodziej/12/241/97a

Helen Warriner
http://www.linkedin.com/pub/helen-warriner/36/a40/699

John Hunt
http://www.huntconsult.co.uk/

MORE ↦

BUSINESSES IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Employers Jobs Launch Their New Online Employment Portal
Kim Grove

Britain's Personal Best - What's Yours?
Eleanor Cook

DemocraSay - Bring everyone together to create and curate your social content
DemocraSay

TranslatorsVillage - Removing language barriers
Blanca Gonzalez

Faceifi - Facial Recognition App
Faceifi

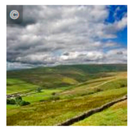
Pastures Moo, The Self-Publishing Bookstore for Indie Authors.
Pastures Moo

MORE ↦

MORE NEWS

Enterprise Team inspires next generation of entrepreneurs

UK Steel hits £17 million investment milestone



YAS Nuffield scholarship aiding Yorkshire's agricultural industry

UKTI Export week success in Yorkshire and Humber

South Yorkshire businesses primed for growth as confidence rises

New recruitment venture attracts £200k funding from Finance Yorkshire

MORE ↦

ADVERTISEMENT

Advertise with us

© 2013 Bdaily Ltd. All rights reserved.