Subject: Python Accreditation option: PCEP™ – Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer

Dear Participants,

The MIDAS Skillnet is happy to announce that participants who successfully complete the **Introduction to Python 3** course will now also be offered the option to obtain accreditation from the Python Institute. This involves taking an online Python exam approximately six weeks following the course. On passing the Python exam, you will receive a formal recognition of your Python skills as a *PCEP - Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer*

The **Introduction to Python** course covers all the content for the exam. In addition, the training provider will provide access to online practice tests that will help you familiarise yourself with the format and types of questions you might encounter on the actual exam. Furthermore, the course Trainer will provide a one-day exam preparation tutorial.

Benefits of Python Accreditation

- Becoming PCEP™ (Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer) certified validates that you are familiar with the most essential tools provided by Python 3 and it highlights your professional development

- Preparing for the exam cultivates a mindset that prioritises accurate syntax usage, fostering the habit of relying on one's understanding rather than solely depending on the Development Environment to flag basic errors.

For further benefits and **a list of frequently asked questions** associated with Python Accreditation please **see further below**.

The additional subsidised cost of accreditation is €150 max pp, which might be less if there is strong take-up.
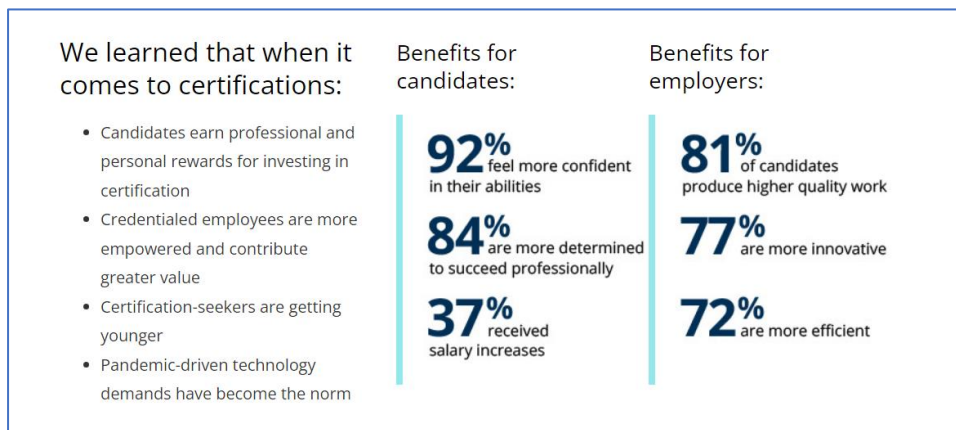
We believe that this additional accreditation option will greatly benefit you in your professional endeavours.

If you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, or have any questions please contact Ben Kelly ben@bdlearning.ie

Accreditation Frequently Asked Questions

What is the value of accreditation?

The Pearson *2023 Value of IT Certification Candidate Report* shares the perspectives and experiences of more than 21,000 professionals in 176 countries who prepared for and earned IT certifications amidst changing and challenging working conditions.

Why should I get certified?

Becoming PCEP™ (Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer) certified validates that you are familiar with the most essential tools provided by Python 3, highlights your professional development and is an interim step to the PCAP™ (Certified Associate Python Programmer).

What are the exam details?

The exam is taken online on the OpenEDG TestNow™ Testing service and is based on an honour system. It is AI proctored.

Duration: 40 minutes; NDA/Tutorial: 5 minutes

Format: 30 Single- and multiple-select questions, drag & drop, gap fill, sort, code fill, code insertion | Python 3.x

Passing Score: 70%.

Click **here** to view Testing Policies

To what extent will the course prepare me for the exam?

The Python3 Introduction course and the Exam Preparation session will cover all of the content required for the exam, enabling you to prepare effectively to take the exam, but focused exam preparation is required.

To assist in preparing, at the end of the Introduction course, exam candidates will be given a study document showing how the course materials map to the exam syllabus.

How much preparation is required for the exam?

At least four weeks up to eight weeks prior to the exam preparation day, participants need to be taking the six practice tests and need to be consistently passing to have a good chance of success in the actual exam. A good guide is at least two hours per week over six weeks preparing for and taking the practice exams provided.

On the preparation day, candidates will take the official practice exam, then – if they feel ready to do so - take the official exam. This can be done with the knowledge that a later retake is available at no additional cost and can be scheduled at their convenience.

Is it a 'tough' exam?

Like all certification style exams, questions probe deeply into the basics of the Python language. The pass mark is 70% and at 40 minutes the time is tight with just less than 90 seconds per question.   It is a certification worth having and candidates are expected to prove they deserve to achieve it.

Can I practice the exam?

As noted, candidates really must practice the six tests and then an official practice test is included in the preparation day. (See also "How much preparation is required for the exam?)

Where can I find sample questions?

There are various sources of practice questions online but not all are suitable to prepare candidates for the exam.   As part of your course fee, a block of six exam practice tests will be provided.

What topics are covered in the exam?

Click here to view Exam Syllabus

At the end of the Introduction course, exam candidates will be given a study document showing how the course materials map to the exam syllabus, to assist with focused study and being effective in taking the six practice tests provided.

Can I repeat the exam?

Yes, we include a retake as part of the exam preparation day.

Who is the Python Institute?

The Python Institute is an independent non-profit project venture set up, run, and managed by OpenEDG, the Open Education and Development Group, to promote the Python programming language.