

News Release

GET EQUIPPED FOR THE FUTURE

IF you're looking to learn new skill or keep up with the rapid advances in technology then look no further than Glasgow Metropolitan College.

A new batch of evening and Saturday morning classes start at the Met in January – and can be the perfect stepping stone to work or simply a chance to make new friends and have fun.

The technology courses are available at all levels and last between 10 and 22 weeks.

These include Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, 3D Technology and an Introduction to Computers. There are even plans to run Game Design classes for the Wii computer console.

However, Mike Jannetta, Head of Division (ICT), revealed the most popular course is Web Design and Authoring. The next one starts on January 19 and gives an introduction to creating your own online site through the Adobe CS3 software suite.

But with more and more people using the Internet, Mike isn't surprised at the level of interest. He said: "All ages are using the web and this is reflected in the demand. Last year we had nine Web Design and Authoring evening classes which speaks for itself!"

"It's popular with people who have their own business and those who studied journalism or design. We're even teaching this kind of thing to jewellery students because it helps them promote their work with a view to selling it."

Mike added that those who complete the Web Design and Authoring course often want to learn how to launch, run or promote a business online. He recommends the Certified Internet Webmaster programme, which starts on January 21, teaches basic skills including website authoring and internet business in three stages: Associate, Site Designer and E-commerce Designer.

The last two parts are more advanced and feature website development, conducting business online and managing the technical issues of e-commerce websites. Students can start at any stage provided they pass the relevant exams. Those who achieve all three will become a Master CIW Designer, which is an internationally recognized certification.

Since taking charge of the division in 2007, Mike has introduced a number of industry-related courses in partnership with technology giants like Microsoft, Oracle, CompTIA and Adobe.

In fact, last year the college was the first in Scotland to introduce the ACE (Adobe Certified Expert) courses.

Mike said: "I get a lot of the course material shipped from America because that's where the industry software comes from and these learning materials are not available in the UK. Our students follow the official certificated programmes and then they are free to sit their exams."

An example of this is the Adobe Certified Expert (ACE) courses for students who already know their way around one or more Adobe software products such as Illustrator and Photoshop. The next Illustrator and Photoshop course starts on January 19.

Unlike most other departments whose courses have remained relatively unchanged, the Division for ICT has had to keep up with advances in technology. Over and above the continual hardware upgrading, £50,000 was spent in the summer upgrading computer software that included Adobe CS3 to CS4 – but Mike insists it was money well spent. He said: “With the industry changing all the time we need to ensure we have the latest software available.”

Other courses include an Introduction to 3D Studio Max and Maya, one of the most powerful 3D animation and effects software products available. Both are industry-standard software applications used in the film, TV and computer game industries, as well as for architectural design.

There’s also Final Cut for advanced video and audio editing, Microsoft Visio for drawing, an Introduction to Computers and Game Design classes for the Wii. Lecturer Dougie Scott who runs the latter admits it’s not for beginners. He said: “It’s a lot of fun but people must have experience of Adobe Flash.”

Glasgow Metropolitan offers over 150 evening and Saturday morning classes in everything from ICT, Languages, Cake Decorating, Cookery, Jewellery and Photography. If you’re interested in any course at Glasgow Metropolitan more information including dates and prices can be found at www.glasgowmet.ac.uk. You can also request a part-time prospectus by calling the Marketing and PR Section on 0141 566 4150.

Information Days are also being held at the college on Thursday 3rd December and Thursday 7th January from 10am - 3pm and 5pm - 7pm. The event provides a great chance to meet lecturers, learn more about full time courses and entry requirements in addition to advice on careers and funding. At the event you can also enroll for Evening and weekend classes.

Visit www.glasgowmet.ac.uk for more information.

For more information contact:

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Notes to Editor:

- Glasgow Metropolitan College formed by the merger of Glasgow College of Food Technology and Glasgow College of Building & Printing, was officially launched on 7th February 2005.
- The college is a leading provider of high quality education within the food, hospitality, tourism, construction and creative industries offering full time and part time certificated and non certificated courses.
- The college is Glasgow’s largest, home to over 20,000 students and 530 members of staff
- For further information on the college please visit www.glasgowmet.ac.uk