NCC Education announces
New Partnership with the
University of Worcester
The start of 2015 heralded a significant new opportunity for NCC Education centres and students around the world: I am delighted that this year we entered into a new partnership with the University of Worcester for an online BA Business Administration Top-up Degree which you can read about on page 6. We have also welcomed our first centres in Switzerland, Armenia and Ivory Coast and are looking forward to working with them to introduce the benefits of our qualifications and teaching programmes to even more people globally.

In her recent speech about the future of technology in schools in January, the UK Secretary of State for Education, Nicky Morgan, confirmed that investing in the UK's infrastructure is a key part of the long-term economic plan evidenced by an investment of £1.7 billion in bringing superfast broadband to over 95% of the UK by 2017. Already more than 4 million UK primary school children are working to the new computing curriculum delivered by teachers who are being upskilled to stay on top of change. Nicky Morgan also announced a new partnership with leading technology firms including O2, Google, BT and IBM collaborating with universities to train the next generation of computing teachers. This support from major technology companies will help to ensure that young people leave school prepared for life in a digital age. Our new suite of Digi-Qualifications is continuing to contribute to delivering that aim. And with more Digi launch events taking place in Kenya and Sri Lanka this Spring, it is evident that appreciation of this is continuing to grow.

We understand that graduation and progression are essential and a fundamental reason why candidates choose to study NCC Education qualifications. In the coming months, to further understand the success of our alumni, we will be improving our candidate tracking process to accurately record student success. Alumni status is very important and we would like to build on our current alumni profile to identify the journey our qualifications have enabled them to take. Therefore I urge centres to encourage students to participate in all the opportunities for alumni offered by NCC Education.

My personal thanks are extended to all those of you who participated in the 2014 annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, the results of which are highlighted on page 10. It is pleasing to note that many of your suggestions are reflected in current workstreams – such as extending our range of university partnerships worldwide – or are planned to be addressed through our strategic developments. We value your feedback and are committed to continuous improvement in our products, operations and service delivery. So please do continue to offer your comments and suggestions for improvement to feedback@nccedu.com for our consideration.

With best wishes

Dawn Postans
Managing Director

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Welcome
UK

A recent report, entitled *Make or Break: The UK’s Digital Future*, commissioned by a cross-party Select Committee, has called upon the incoming and future UK governments to directly address the UK’s digital future as a priority. Many leading economists have speculated that within the next two decades 35% of current jobs will become automated, signalling a growing reliance on technology in an increasingly digital age. The digital sector added approximately £105 billion to the UK economy in 2011, which highlights that the incoming and successive UK governments will need to tailor educational policy to meet the emerging, complex technological needs of businesses if the UK is to remain competitive in the global market place.

The impact and increasing reliance on technology is clear across vital public services. For example the 3D printing of organs is already assisting surgeons in medicine, as is the use of advanced robotics, which is rapidly developing to the point where surgeons can control robotic arm movement with their minds. Within the private sector the influence of technology continues to grow and spread across business processes. The emergence of dedicated technology hubs, which echo the large industrial estates of the past, such as Tech City London or Media City in Manchester, further highlights the move to a digitally led economy. With the arrival of technical advancements, such as automated payment terminals in supermarkets and the increasing efficiency of online shopping, technology is also continually changing and influencing the personal lives of individuals globally.

As a result of these ongoing technological changes and advancements, the Select Committee has emphasised the importance of ensuring that the UK is prepared for the future. As digital businesses are capable of setting up anywhere, UK educational policy will need to increase the focus on digital literacy and computing to ensure that the UK workforce is armed with the skill-set required to thrive in the ‘Digital Age’. NCC Education is pleased to be contributing towards the future of the digital economy as Digi-Qualifications help to inspire students to get involved with computing at an early age. Digi-Qualifications introduce learners to the fundamentals of computational thinking and Boolean logic, ensuring learners are immersed in a relevant, technologically focused curriculum from the age of five onwards.

Chile

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet is pushing forward policy reforms that will transform the country’s current education system. Funded by an $8.3 billion tax overhaul, the new initiative will see 730,000 Chilean children gain access to a guaranteed free education, aiming to reach upwards of 93% of children by 2016. The reforms are planned to take effect as of March 2016 and the government also intends to sharply increase the number of preschool institutions which will help provide access to a further 90,000 Chilean children. Educational reform is key to increasing Chile’s university admissions and with the expansion of free education, the Chilean government will also look to create two new universities to meet the demands of children hoping to progress to higher education.

The expansion of the Chilean education system will help to increase the country’s skilled workforce, ensuring that Chile can compete effectively in the global market place. This expansion is a key step for the Chilean government as they look to continue to strengthen their economic position.
Academic News

IT Diploma assessment changes

As part of our commitment to continuously reviewing and improving our qualifications we are preparing a revised assessment strategy for our QCF Level 4 and Level 5 Diplomas in Computing. This follows extensive review and consultations market analysis, centre feedback and also evaluative discussions with the external subject specialists involved with the qualifications.

The key objectives and benefits for our partner centres and their candidates are:

- To bring the overall burden of assessment more in line with other NCC Education same-level and same-credit-size qualifications, as well as other Awarding Body same-level and same-credit-size qualifications.
- To better harmonise each unit’s Learning Outcomes with the most appropriate existing method of assessment for that particular unit.
- To better reflect, in terms of component weighting, the assignment size, scope and assessment load required for candidates.
- To better allow students to demonstrate the practical application of their knowledge and skills as well as the depth of their knowledge and understanding.
- To maintain the same proportion of NCC Education marked examination components compared to centre assessed work.
- To ensure all quality procedures that apply to the qualifications remain unchanged.
- To maintain exactly the same overall qualification structure and assessment methodology and regulated status for the qualification with our regulator, Ofqual.

Level 4 Diploma in Computing will be reduced to 12 assessment components (currently 16) and the Level 5 Diploma in Computing will be reduced to 11 assessment components (currently 15). We will be working closely with our partner centres to provide further details and our implementation timeline shortly.

Don’t worry there is plenty of time for centres and students to prepare for the changes. The new assessment will go live in December 2015.

For more information contact centre.support@nccedu.com

Service Enhancements

Dedicated Past Papers Area: we are delighted to inform you that the NCC Education past paper section is now live on the website. This new section will provide centres and students with access to past papers from a range of individual units from our qualifications. Past papers act as an invaluable revision tool for students as they progress through their academic journey.

Replacement Certificates and Transcripts Service: We have now made it really easy to order replacement certificates and request transcript letters. They are available for a charge via the website; simply visit nccedu.com and select the contact us page.
We are pleased to announce our new Student Prizes Programme. The launch of these new prizes will benefit centres and students alike.

Candidates completing an NCC Education qualification in March 2015 will be eligible to receive the current prize offering – Global and Regional High Achievers. This will be the final cycle of the original High Achievers and the new prize structure will be effective from June 2015 onwards.

From 2015, we will issue one set of annual prizes at the end of each year to offer global recognition to candidates who have achieved 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the world for their respective qualifications, as well as awarding regional prizes (full details below) for each Diploma. Winners will receive a medal in recognition of their achievement. This new prize structure will be effective for the June 2015 cycle onwards and the winners will be collated after the results for the March 2016 cycle have been released.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidate must have obtained an overall distinction (70% or above)
- Minimum of 100 entries per qualification
- Minimum of 100 entries per region (for regional prizes)
- Prizes will not be available for performance in single units – only at full award/diploma level
- Candidates are not eligible for both World and Regional Prizes
- The decision of NCC Education is final

Prize Categories

1st in World
2nd in World
3rd in World
1st in Asia
1st in Africa
1st in Europe and South America

Please contact the NCC Education Customer Services Team (info@nccedu.com) for further information.

Good news!

We have enhanced the online library for 2015

NCC Education is pleased to announce to students and centres an increase in the number of academic journals on NCC Education’s Online Library available via Campus. Students can now access 225 academic journals across 24 Management disciplines.

We are delighted to be offering this new, expanded service to students and centres and believe this will be of significant benefit to students as they progress through their academic journey.

We encourage students to use the online library as much as possible in 2015 and will review the expansion of journals in 12 months to understand how beneficial the journals are in supporting student with their studies.

To access the online library students simply need to log in to their Campus account and select ‘Online Library’ which is located on the left hand side. From there students can browse from a comprehensive list and select a journey specific to their subject specialism.
On 02 February 2015, NCC Education confirmed a new strategic partnership with the University of Worcester which aims to meet the career aspirations of learners around the world. The agreement will see the third top-up year of the Business degree pathway to a BA (Hons) in Business Administration delivered online by NCC Education and validated and awarded by the University of Worcester.

Students who complete one of NCC Education’s Level 5 Business diplomas can progress onto the online top-up degree. Upon successful completion of the course students will be awarded with a BA (Hons) Business Administration degree.

Mark Richardson, Head of Worcester Business School at the University, commented: “We are delighted to work with experts in online learning at NCC Education to bring a University of Worcester degree qualification to students around the world looking to maximise their potential for a successful career in international business and management.”

Dawn Postans, Managing Director at NCC Education, commented on the new agreement: “It is wonderful when two institutions that have collaborated for a number of years find new ways to serve students and support the goals of both organisations. This partnership will enhance the student experience and widen opportunities for career progression. Together, The University of Worcester and NCC Education will recognise the full potential of students and prepare them for rewarding employment or further study.”
NCC Education announces New Partnership with the University of Worcester

What does the programme cover?

• With this course, students are able to study and complete a UK degree in their own country.

• Delivered online through NCC Education's Virtual Learning Environment, Campus, the programme is a natural progression for graduates of the Level 5 Diploma in Business (QCF).

• On successful completion of the programme, graduates will have knowledge and understanding of the global business environment, as well as the skills required to research, analyse and manage business relationships.


• Each semester is for 16 weeks and there are weekly video lectures, live chat sessions, and a discussion forum (which accounts for 10% of overall module mark) to partake in.

• Examinations at the end of the semester are for two hours, with the exception of the Business Research Methods module which is for three hours and consists of two parts.

Additionally, IT students who have followed the NCC Education IT pathway benefit from being able to top up their studies to a full UK undergraduate degree validated and awarded by the University of Central Lancashire.

For more information contact the NCC Education Customer Services Team: info@nccedu.com

“ We are delighted to work with experts in online learning at NCC Education to bring a University of Worcester degree qualification to students around the world looking to maximise their potential for a successful career in international business and management. ”
NCC Education is set to exhibit at the Independent Schools Association’s Annual Conference 2015, a three-day event which will take place between Thursday 30 April and Saturday 2 May.

Hosted at The Midland Hotel in Manchester, the conference will feature keynote speakers as well as opportunities for those in attendance to discuss and debate various issues. The ISA is an approximately 350-member strong organisation that provides headteachers of independent nursery, prep and secondary schools, as well as sixth form colleges, with professional support.

ISA Heads and Life Associates are invited to attend, providing an opportunity for debate and to inform members of educational developments. The conference is seen as the standout on the ISA’s calendar and all who come along will get the chance to meet with NCC Education and discuss the provision of Digi-Qualification’s.

Registration at the Peter Street venue will be from 11.00 on Thursday 30 April and the networking opportunities at the conference have often proved invaluable for individuals looking to discuss ideas, as well as difficulties typically faced, especially when member schools are facing change.

Emma Dawkins, Director of Qualifications and Academic Delivery, commented: “Independent Schools are always keen to understand how they can continuously deliver the highest level of education. We are looking forward to showcasing our suite of Digi-Qualification’s and holding further discussions on how we can work together in partnership.”

For more information regarding NCC Education events please contact: marketing@nccedu.com

Centre Anniversaries

NCC Education awards anniversary plaques to centres upon each five year anniversary. In the past year the following centres have each received a plaque to commemorate a key milestone in their ongoing partnership with us.

5 Year Anniversary
- BMC International College, Singapore
- Cosmopolitan College of Commerce and Technology, Brunei
- Daffodil International Academy, Bangladesh
- ESEI International Business School, Spain
- Internet Systems Company Limited, Myanmar
- Myanmar Computer Company Ltd (MCC), Yatanarpon
- PCTL Training Institute Limited, Tanzania
- Softwarica College of IT and E-Commerce, Nepal

10 Year Anniversary
- Business and Management International College, Malaysia

15 Year Anniversary
- AEA Training Centre, Mauritius
- LearnIT Institute of Business and Technology, Tanzania

20 Year Anniversary
- STC Training Centre, Malta

25 Year Anniversary
- National College of Information Technology, Malawi
- Speciss College, Zimbabwe
Our centre and student community is growing every year and what better way to keep in touch with NCC Education than through the power of social media. NCC Education is present on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn so make sure you visit our pages. We use social media to present new information including qualifications, university articulations, general company news and gather feedback from our community.

One of the most successful campaigns in 2014 was ‘A World of Opportunity’ where students and centres submitted photographs of themselves, friends and teachers from all over the world. This allowed NCC Education to build up a picture of the wider global community and all of the countries in which we have a presence. The winner of a Google Nexus Tablet was Shamim Ayub from Malawi.

We are always open to receiving your feedback and you can do this in many different ways. We have a dedicated email address feedback@nccedu.com or you can join our social media communities for the latest news, competitions and quizzes. We look forward to hearing from you.
NCC Education distributed an annual survey in October 2014 to effectively measure and understand the level of Customer Satisfaction with existing centres.

The survey aimed to understand the level of satisfaction in the following areas:

- Customer Service Support
- Qualifications and Teaching Programmes
- **Connect:** Candidate Registration System
- **Campus:** Virtual Learning Environment
- Centre Support
- Most Recent Experience
- Overall Experience
- Any Complaints

Customers were given a deadline of 31 December 2014 to respond, with respondents subsequently entered into a draw to win a Google Nexus. The winner chosen at random was Gideon Mwanza, Centre Coordinator at ZCAS, Zambia.

94% of respondents satisfied with attitude and friendliness of staff, quality of response and helpful staff.
2014 Customer Satisfaction Survey results

Further comments about NCC Education

"It is a pleasure to have a relationship with this kind of international awarding qualification body, which is always helpful, understanding and professional. We would like to have this same relationship for years to come."

"Really impressed with the level of relationship NCC Education staff have with their customer centres. They are highly effective and always happy to answer questions accurately and cheerfully."

Suggestions for improvement

53% made suggestions, such as:

- “Multiple choice exam questions”
- “More partner universities” and “more recognition from universities”
- “Should be more focused on local absorption in the local job market”
- “Each qualification must have clear pathway”
- “Introduce introductory programming course”
- “More IT Technical programmes”
- “Provide a security unit” – IT based qualifications

Level of satisfaction with...

- Quality of response: 97%
- Helpful staff: 97%
- Product knowledge: 92%

Would recommend NCC Education to other centres: 94%

Satisfied with Campus: 87%

Satisfied with Connect: 89%
Business Degree Pathway Explained

NCC Education Level 3 Diploma in Business (L3DB)
Units:
- Study and Communication Skills
- IT Skills
- Introduction to Accounting and Economics
- Mathematical Techniques
- Introduction to Business

NCC Education Level 4 Diploma in Business (L4DB)
Units:
- Essentials of Management
- Fundamentals of Economics
- Communications for Business
- Understanding Business Organisations
- Business Mathematics
- Introduction to Finance and Business
- Principles of Marketing
- eBusiness

NCC Education Level 5 Diploma in Business (L5DB)
Units:
- Business Economics
- Advanced Business Mathematics
- Marketing in Business
- Human Resources in Business
- Understanding Consumer Behaviour
- Principles of Business Operations
- Financial Management
- Information Systems and Organisations

Study your Final Year of a British Degree

Progress to Year Two at a UK university.
Please visit our website for a full list of university partnerships.

Online Top-up now available BA (Hons) Business Administration delivered by NCC Education, validated and awarded by University of Worcester

We are here to help
For more information contact us today

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