



Computer whizz nets top prize in WorldSkills UK regional final

A 'rising star' in computing beat students and apprentices from across the South of England to net first place in the regional final of WorldSkills UK.

Qilong Li, 23, was a winner in the National Qualifiers of the IT and Enterprise competition while studying an IT Extended Diploma Level 3.

WorldSkills UK is the country's largest skills, apprenticeships and careers event, and aims to inspire young people to gain the world class skills needed by UK business and industry.

Qilong was thrilled after winning the IT Software Solutions for Business sub-category of the IT and Enterprise competition.

"I was surprised but very happy to have won," said Qilong, studying for a degree in Games Design at Middlesex University.

"My tutors gave me some assignments so I could practice at home, which really helped when it came to the competition.

"I have liked everything about my time at CONEL. The teachers were good and I learnt a lot of skills I can take to university."

The competition tested the participants' knowledge of Microsoft Office software, focusing on Word and Excel, as well as their accuracy and time management skills.

Laila Hassanzadeh, Head of School for Computing, said: "We're very proud of Qilong and his success.

"He is an outstanding student who showed excellent commitment and motivation who passed his course with overall Distinction. He is one of our rising stars and has a bright future ahead of him."



Qilong Li was named a winner in the National Qualifiers of this year's WorldSkills UK competition.

Pass Rate

A huge **99.5%** of **ICT and Computing** students achieved their qualifications in 2016-17.



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Apprentices look to net great computing careers at IT Academy

An exciting partnership between CONEL and IT firm risual is providing apprentices with the tech skills to succeed in the digital world.

Jonathan Hood, Joseph Taylor and Fahim Ahmed are all apprentices on a Level 3 Apprenticeship scheme at King's College London where they work in IT support, having previously studied Level 2 computing courses at the College.

They are also among the first apprentices of CONEL's IT Academy, which was officially launched in November 2016 to address a shortage of for digital skills.

Britain's IT workforce is expected to rocket by 39% by 2030, while 82% of cybersecurity firms globally have reported a growing demand for these skills.

Alongside offering apprentices with risual and its partners, the academy boasts a new cutting edge Microsoft Showcase Classroom equipped with cutting edge Microsoft Surface Pro laptops and a Surface Hub digital display.

The academy also offers skills and employability workshops throughout the year to give students the best possible training and career advice to work in the IT industry.

Jonathan, 18, said: "I've always wanted to study IT at the highest level but couldn't clearly identify where I need to start or what to study. I must say, studying IT at CONEL helped me acquire a range of IT skills and build my confidence.

"The tutors are very helpful; providing me with all necessary resources and tools and going the extra mile to ensure I get the best possible result."

Joseph, 18, said: "I have always had an interest in the ICT industry, especially within the networking aspects of IT. This was one of the reasons why I choose this route as it provided me with challenges that intrigued me."

Fahim, 17, added:

"Apprenticeships provide more paths to your end goal, as you can go from apprentice to permanent role or go onto university."

"To be working at King's College, a prestigious and historical university, for my first ever job is just great."



What the employers say



"We're looking at how we can increase opportunities for apprenticeships and enhancing digital skills within the workforce and how we can support residents and businesses in the community, which is something this Academy can assist with greatly."

Ambrose Quashie, Employment and Skills Policy Officer, Haringey Council



"It is great for young people in Tottenham to have this opportunity on their doorstep, and help them to gain the skills they need in such a growth industry. We'll be making sure they know that this academy is available to them."

Jenny Kirk, Careers Consultant at Northumberland Park Community School



Student Successes



Stanislav Ivanov Access to Higher Education Diploma in Computing

Stanislav achieved Distinctions in all but one of the modules of his diploma. He was praised for helping other students with their subject knowledge and regularly provided guidance and support to them in class. He is now studying a BSc Computer Science at King's College London.



Panagiotis Plekis IT 90-Credit Diploma Level 3

Panagiotis's dedication and attention to detail saw him achieve a Distinction in all his assignments. With English being his second language, he ensured that he understood what was required of him and undertook his own research to support his learning. He described by his tutors as a delight to teach.



Luke Taylor Access to Higher Education Diploma in Computing

Luke found the course at CONEL incredibly helpful in preparing him for university, so much so that he was already ahead of where he needed to be at the start of his degree. He recalled his teachers going above and beyond in providing him with the knowledge and support to get the grades he needed.



Students gain digital marketing skills at Google workshop

More than 100 students from across the College had the chance to learn about digital marketing at a workshop run by Google.

A staff from the technology giant's training brand Google Digital Garage visited the College's Enfield Centre in March to give students the opportunity to gain new skills to boost their career prospects.

This workshop included sessions on how to reach new customers online, how to make a business more visible online and to help new customers find a business through search engine optimisation, local listings and search engine marketing.

Travel and Tourism student Tiegsti Yosief, 19, said: "I really enjoyed the workshop. It opened my eyes to the need of learning digital skills to get a good job."

Emel Alieva, 16, who is studying the same course, added: "The session was great. I found it informative and I will be doing the Google online workshops to get better digital skills."

The Digital Garage project is part of Google's commitment to provide free digital skills training to students, entrepreneurs and individuals across the UK by the end of 2017.

Abbey Lladapo, from Google Digital Garage who hosted the workshop, said: "Digital literacy is becoming increasingly important from an employer's perspective and for those who start their own businesses.

"It's important for students to take full advantage of the free digital opportunities as it's the best way to grow and have a strong online presence."

Are you an employer?

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