



Libraries

Centres of Digital Inclusion

Providing digital skills across your community

As part of our [skills manifesto](#), Cisco is launching a programme to provide digital skills training in libraries. Available first in libraries across Manchester, it will give residents free access to courses ranging from the basics of getting online to the Internet of Things (IoT) and cybersecurity. The programme will roll out across the UK during 2018.



Libraries: The heart of the community

The UK's public libraries form the centre of our towns and cities and offer many vital services to their communities. Not only do they make books available to all, but they enhance child literacy and offer extensive research facilities.

They also provide free access to computers and the ability to get online. This makes them perfectly placed to support the Government's drive to address [the national digital skills gap](#), which both is costly to the economy and limits employment opportunities for many.



Why digital skills are so important

The world is changing. Almost 90 percent of all jobs already require some level of digital skills, and 90 percent of job roles are anticipated to be digital in the next 20 years. As businesses become ever more technology focused, digital literacy will make people more employable and help improve their life chances.

That's why the [Cisco Networking Academy](#)[®] (NetAcad) is making digital training available to all, regardless of age, background, or ability. In libraries throughout the UK, residents will enjoy free access to a variety of courses.

The programme kicked off in Manchester – the birthplace of the UK public library. Starting in the city's historic Central Library, this training will soon be available in all 22 libraries across Greater Manchester.

What type of training could my library support?

The NetAcad training portfolio offers several learning options. The courses are designed to generate interest in technology and help participants develop vital skills. Training is delivered through either instructor-led or self-paced training at the following levels:



Exploratory: For basic understanding, encouraging students to find out more and possibly consider a technology-related career.



Foundational: For the development of beginner and intermediate skills, helping participants choose which technology areas they wish to specialise in.



Career-ready: For the more in-depth skills needed to prepare for entry-level technology employment.



Collaborate for impact: Checkpoint events, where students can put into practice the skills they have learned in a problem-solving context.

How can my library get involved?

Any library can join NetAcad and become a Cisco® Academy, free of charge. Please [contact us](#) to find out more.

NetAcad courses require minimal intervention from library staff. However, by getting involved, your library will be actively supporting digital inclusion across your community. You will also be helping to educate your citizens in the vital skills we all need in this digital age.

Every year, we help thousands of people in the UK enhance their career prospects through digital skills. Libraries can play a vital role in promoting and improving digital inclusion and making digital literacy a reality, so [contact us](#) and find out how you can get involved.

About NetAcad

This initiative is part of our commitment to support digitisation in the UK. Our digitisation strategy is a long-term partnership with Government, industry, and academia to deliver real outcomes faster and more effectively for the country. It is part of Cisco's global commitment to accelerating digitisation of countries around the world.

From the digital skills perspective, [NetAcad](#) is our not-for-profit education programme, launched in 1997 to address digital skills gaps. Over the past 20 years, our academies have trained more than 7,800,000 students across 180 countries in digital skills. Many of the courses we provide align with industry certifications such as the CompTIA A+, Cisco CCNA® Routing and Switching, Cisco CCNA Security, and Cisco CCNP®.

In the UK, we work to improve digital literacy in partnership with schools, colleges, universities, and apprenticeship training providers, as well as prisons, homeless shelters, JobCentre+, and other less traditional training environments.