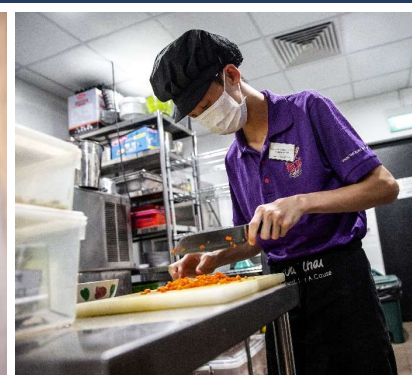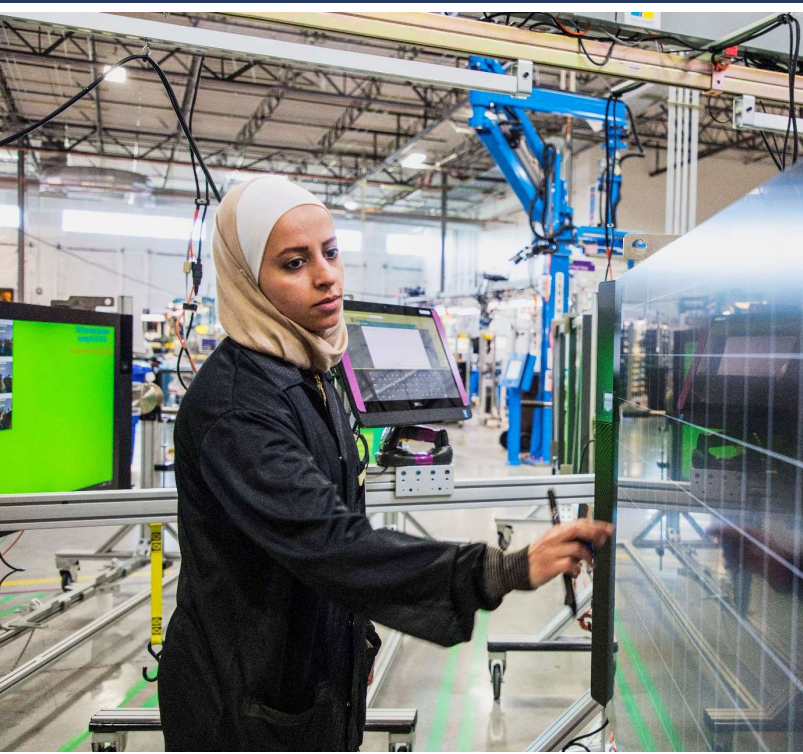# Get the digital skills you need to get back to work

Helping people impacted by COVID-19 learn the skills for in-demand roles in a more digital economy

Why digital skills? Why now?

COVID-19 has created a global economic crisis, forcing tens of millions of people around the world out of work. Some of the jobs lost will not come back, or at least not fast enough to meet demand. Those that do come back will look different, requiring more digital skills as companies race to change the way they work to respond to and recover from the pandemic. Other jobs will become more "tech-enabled," requiring job seekers to have some level of digital fluency to be able to pursue them.

In the post-COVID world, all people–especially those from the hardest hit industries and the most vulnerable communities–will need to learn new skills to rejoin the workforce prepared for technical and tech-enabled roles that will be in even greater demand going forward.

We have a responsibility and an opportunity to help.

It's time to accelerate efforts

Microsoft has been committed to closing the skills gap for decades, but now is the time to accelerate efforts and build partnerships that help job seekers worldwide reskill and rejoin the workforce.

That's why Microsoft has committed to help 25 million people worldwide who have lost their job due to COVID-19 to reskill for in-demand roles in a more digital economy.

Together, we can help people who have lost work gain the skills they need to pursue the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Microsoft   Linked in   GitHub

> *"When your technology changes the world, you bear a responsibility to help address the world that you have helped create and accept greater responsibility for the future."*
>
> — Brad Smith, President of Microsoft

Resources available to help

Microsoft, LinkedIn, and GitHub are bringing together the best of their resources to help you:

1) Learn skills for in-demand jobs

Get free access to learning content across LinkedIn Learning, Microsoft Learn, and GitHub, ranging from entry-level digital literacy skills to advanced skills for technical roles. Through the end of 2020, LinkedIn Learning will share a free library of high-quality learning paths to help you learn the skills for in-demand roles like Digital Marketer, Project Manager, Data Analyst, and Software Developer[1]. Microsoft Learn—an online platform to help you learn Microsoft products—will continue its free access now and in the future to interactive, self-paced content to help you advance your technical skills while preparing for role-based Microsoft certifications. Finally, GitHub Learning Lab will continue its free access to hands on learning experiences so you can grow your technical skills by practicing on fun, realistic projects.

2) Earn a certification to show employers you have the needed skills

In addition to pursuing the learning content available, you will have the opportunity to earn an industry-recognized Microsoft Certification at a reduced cost. This certification shows employers that you have the skills required for roles such as Software Developer, Data Analyst, and Network Administrator. These roles are in high demand today, and—with increased digital transformation in the post-COVID-19 economy—that demand is likely to grow even more.

Certification exams that normally cost US$100 or more will be offered for US$15 for individuals who are unemployed or furloughed due to COVID-19 and have completed the necessary steps[2].

3) Get ready to get hired

Microsoft and LinkedIn are also bringing together resources to help you prepare for a successful job search. Through access to LinkedIn job search tools and free courses[1], you can gain the confidence and know-how you need to translate your new digital skills into opportunity.

Until the end of 2020, LinkedIn Learning will offer free learning paths to help you find a job during challenging economic times, master in-demand professional soft skills, and learn to use virtual collaboration tools. You can also get virtual interview feedback on LinkedIn, powered by Microsoft Artificial Intelligence ("AI"), to help you practice and prepare for interviews.

Get started

Ready to get back to work? Start your journey at **aka.ms/jobseeker**

[1] Free access to LinkedIn Learning content available until December 31, 2020. LinkedIn Learning content is available in English, Spanish, French, and German.
[2] Participant will be able to schedule one exam at reduced rate between September 2020 and December 31, 2020 and will have until March 31, 2021 to complete the exam. There will be no opportunity to retake exams. Participant must attest they are currently unemployed or furloughed due to COVID. All exams are available in English, Spanish, French, German. Some exams are available in Japanese, Chinese (simplified), and Korean. Check web site for details and complete Terms and Conditions.