



NEWS – TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2018

Digital skills academy expands to the Highlands

Scotland's only accredited academy for software and web development, CodeClan, is expanding to the Highlands to give more people a career pathway to a digital economy.

Fifteen students will get the opportunity to learn to code software in an intensive 12-week course when [CodeClan Highland Academy](#) commences in spring 2019.

CodeClan Highland Academy is a new initiative which provides industry-led training for a new generation of software and web developers. It will help attract and retain young people in the Highlands, create high-value jobs and ensure businesses have access to skilled people to help innovate and improve their competitiveness.

CodeClan already successfully works across the Central Belt and will deliver its Highland Academy offering the Professional Software Development (Level 8) course, an internationally recognised qualification.

It will be managed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) as part of the Northern Innovation Hub on behalf of the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal Partnership.

The Hub is a set of carefully targeted projects to strengthen innovation and increase competitiveness among businesses across The Highland Council region.

It was awarded £11 million by the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal, along with £3 million from the European Regional Development Fund and £2 million from HIE.

Senior project manager at HIE, Felix Spittal said: "Coding skills are increasingly in demand and employers are struggling to recruit suitably qualified people so it's fantastic to have a provider with the experience of CodeClan deliver such an important project in the

Highlands. Their track record in the central belt is remarkable, so we're really looking forward to seeing them make a similar impact in the Highlands."

Melinda Matthews-Clarkson, ceo at Codeclan added: "We are delighted to have been chosen as the delivery organisation for this HIE initiative. CodeClan has seen success in central Scotland and it is time to engage with other parts of Scotland.

"Inverness will be our next location and we are proud to be part of the initiative. We are also launching our new [Partner Programme](#) to better service the needs of the tech industry, helping address the digital skills gap across Scotland.

"We will bring a highly successful delivery model to the Highlands, which will be given a local twist to ensure the course meets the requirements of businesses in the area. We hope to develop strong relationships with local businesses, collaborating with them in the development of the course as well as helping them to build relationships with students to aid recruitment."

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors:

- For information about courses and CodeClan, visit www.codeclan.com
- Interviews available on request – see contacts above
- Supporting image available: Melinda Matthews-Clarkson headshot
- CodeClan was launched in October 2015 and was supported by the Scottish Government, Skills Development Scotland and ScotlandIS as part of the Government's Digital Strategy for Scotland
- 320 people are expected to graduate in 2018
- 90% of graduates have been placed in jobs, 75% of which within three months

About Northern Innovation Hub

The Northern Innovation Hub is a Highlands and Island Enterprise initiative that's been developed as part of the Inverness and Highland City-Region Deal. Forecast to reach 1,650 businesses over its lifetime, the initiative has been designed to have far-reaching and long-term impact on the economy. From one-day workshops to intensive support lasting up to a

year, the Northern Innovation Hub offers a hugely diverse range of opportunities, all aimed at helping businesses to embrace the latest technology, develop products and streamline processes.

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- For further information about the Northern Innovation Hub visit www.nih.hie.co.uk