



Information Technology and Overseas Education



ICDL - a computer qualification useful for Employers and Employees....

The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) is a qualification that is extremely useful for individuals seeking employment as it will confirm to potential employers that the person seeking employment has a professionally recognised, relevant and up-to-date qualification. Similarly, a company looking to train its workforce will want to ensure that the money they spend on courses is going to be well spent. Therefore, ICDL will be the solution to many employers who are faced with a situation of proliferation of different courses making varying claims, often without any objective evidence.

ICDL syllabus is designed to cover the key concepts of computing, its practical applications and their use in the workplace and society in general. ICDL is open to everyone - regardless of age, education, experience and background.

The ICDL is growing at a rapid rate with over two million candidates worldwide. It is the international version of the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL), which was launched in Sweden in 1996 and subsequently rolled out across Europe and outside. ECDL was developed by the Council of European Informatics Societies (CEPIS), with the support of the European Commission, and is administered in Britain by the British Computer Society (BCS). ICDLAP has been established to develop and support the implementation of the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) in the Asia Pacific Region.

Listing the aims of ICDL, Mr. Cliff Lineker, Business Development Manager for ICDLAP said that it attempts to raise the general level of competency in IT. This will in turn improve productivity at work and reduce IT support cost, enabling employers to invest more efficiently in IT. It also ensures that best practice and quality issues are understood and implemented and establishes a tangible, benchmark for computer user skills. Explaining the operation of the ICDL tests, Mr Lineker explained that in order to obtain the ICDL certificate an individual

must pass 7 modules which covers the areas of Basic IT concepts, using the computer and managing files, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Database, presentation together with Information and Communication. Tests are delivered on-line at Accredited Testing Centres and the result will be known immediately after taking the test. He also said that together with the local business partner, the accreditation agent and the test providers, ICDLAP had worked a competitive price structure to make the exams affordable to the Sri Lankan market.

testIT (Pvt) Ltd., as been appointed as the Local Business Partner for Sri Lanka. testIT is headed by Dr Harsha Alles, well known for his contribution to quality education at all academic levels in Sri Lanka and other countries in the region. testIT will work proactively on behalf of ICDL Asia Pacific, marketing and selling the ICDL concept, and dealing direct with potential customers. Further information on ICDL testing can be found at www.icdlap.com

The Computer Society of Sri Lanka has been appointed as the Accreditation Agent to accredit Test Centres to carry out testing for the International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) in Sri Lanka by ICDL Asia Pacific Ltd (ICDLAP).

Explaining the decision of the CSSL to sign-up with ICDLAP, Mr. Chandana Weerasinghe, President of the CSSL said that the introduction of ICDL would provide a much-needed benchmark for IT literacy skills in the local market. "Today there is a profusion of IT training centres offering various types of literacy courses in IT. There is no benchmark against which the knowledge imparted in these courses and the standard of the qualification could be measured. This has become a problem for both the prospective students and their future employers. The CSSL is concerned about these standards and is pleased to be ICDL's Accreditation Agent in Sri Lanka to ensure that ICDL tests delivered in Sri Lanka follow internationally established norms" he said.

American College, Dehiwela

The only University - College that has direct affiliation with an American educational Institution...

The American College of Higher Education (ACHE), Dehiwela has a legitimate claim as being one of the pioneers in establishing the American system of higher education in Sri Lanka. The American system is characterized by its commitment to broad based educational goals reminiscent of the education concept of pragmatism originally promulgated by the greatest of all American Educationists - John Dewey.

In keeping with the broad based educational goals and the American concept of the "totally educated individual" students are encouraged to take many subject areas such as English, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences, Computer Studies, Speech Communications, Foreign Languages, Business Studies etc. These subjects take within the first 2 years of a 4 year American degree program enables students to find out where their talents and abilities lay and this experience helps them decide which area of specialization to embark on in the final 2 years.

The American College of Higher Education

The American College of Higher Education has been in existence since 1995.

The main Campus is ideally situated at 23 Hospital Road, Dehiwela, a location in the outskirts of the City of Colombo, a two minutes walk from the Galle Road with easy access from all directions. The branch Campus is in Kandy, the hill capital, on the main Peradeniya Road.

Entry Requirements

The concept of starting students on an American degree straight after their 'O' Level is not at all a new brainwave or a new concept. In fact, since 1995, American College of Higher Education, Dehiwela has been enrolling students directly after their 'O' Levels. A student is required to have 5 good passes in the 'O' Levels. A student is required to have 5 good passes in the 'O' Level including Maths and English.

In addition, most students and parents do appreciate the fact that we provide special courses in English Language in addition to or along with TOEFL, IELTS in order to equip them with the necessary language skills necessary to follow their degree program, both here and abroad.

**American College of Information
Technology. The IT Education Center
with a difference**