

Published based on [Microsoft SQL Server Interactive Certification Courses - Updated](#)

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If you're seeking certified training from Microsoft, you will no doubt be hoping for training organisations to provide a good number of the best learning programmes available today.

Maybe you'd like to find advisors with experience of the IT industry, who might give you help to sort out which job role would work for you, and the kind of tasks that are suitable for a person with your personality.

Training should be tailored to suit your current level of knowledge and ability. So, having got to grips with the best kind of work for you, your next requirement is the most suitable program to see you into your career.

Beware of putting too much emphasis, as many people do, on the certification itself. Training for training's sake is generally pointless; you're training to become commercially employable. Stay focused on what it is you want to achieve.

You may train for one year and then end up doing a job for a lifetime. Don't make the mistake of taking what may be a very 'interesting' program and then spend decades in an unrewarding career!

Get to grips with what you want to earn and what level of ambition fits you. Sometimes, this affects which precise accreditations you'll need to attain and how much effort you'll have to give in return.

We'd recommend you take guidance from an industry professional before embarking on a learning programme, so you can be sure that a program provides the appropriate skill-set.

The classroom style of learning we remember from school, with books and manuals, is an up-hill struggle for the majority of us. If you're nodding as you read this, find training programs that are multimedia based.

Our ability to remember is increased when multiple senses are involved - learning experts have been saying this for many years.

Start a study-program in which you'll receive a selection of CD or DVD ROM's - you'll be learning from instructor videos and demo's, with the facility to use virtual lab's to practice your new skills.

All companies should be able to show you a few examples of their training materials. Make sure you encounter videos of instructor-led classes and a variety of interactive modules.

Avoid training that is purely online. Always choose CD or DVD based study materials where obtainable, so that you have access at all times - ISP quality varies, so you don't want to be totally reliant on your internet connection always being 'up' and available.

One feature that many training companies provide is job placement assistance. The service is put in place to steer you into your first IT role. Don't get overly impressed with this service - it isn't unusual for their marketing department to overstate it's need. At the end of the day, the massive skills shortage in the United Kingdom is the reason you'll find a job.

Bring your CV up to date as soon as possible however (advice and support for this should come from your course provider). Don't wait till you've finished your exams.

Many junior support jobs have been bagged by students who are still learning and haven't got any qualifications yet. At least this will get your CV into the 'possible' pile and not the 'no' pile.

The most reliable organisations to get you a new position are normally specialist independent regional recruitment consultancies. Because they make their money when they've found you a job, they're perhaps more focused on results.

Just ensure you don't invest a great deal of time on your training course, just to give up and leave it in the hands of the gods to sort out your employment. Take responsibility for yourself and get out there. Invest as much time

and energy into landing your new role as you did to get trained.

An important area that is sometimes not even considered by new students considering a training program is 'training segmentation'. Essentially, this is how the program is broken down into parts for timed release to you, which can make a dramatic difference to how you end up.

By and large, you will purchase a course staged over 2 or 3 years and receive a module at a time. This sounds logical on one level, until you consider this:

What if you don't finish every exam? Maybe the prescribed order won't suit you? Through no fault of your own, you might take a little longer and not receive all the modules you've paid for.

Ideally, you want ALL the study materials up-front - so you'll have them all to return to any point - as and when you want. This also allows you to vary the order in which you complete each objective where a more intuitive path can be found.

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