

ICDL GCC Foundation launches Advanced ICDL certification program in the GCC region

The Foundation to organise “certify the trainers” sessions in Gulf States ahead of program debut

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ICDL GCC Foundation is launching the ICDL Advanced module certification in the GCC region, by initially conducting a series of “certify the trainers” programs in UAE. The sessions will be attended by several trainers from accredited training centres in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Oman, in order to enable them to start offering the program in April of this year to the public.

ICDL Advanced Modules offer candidates who have completed their ICDL Core Certification the opportunity to move to the next level of the ICDL program and continue to advance their IT skills and specialise in database, presentation, spreadsheets and word processing packages.

Testing sessions organized and administered by ICDL GCC Foundation will be held in UAE in January and February of this year, and set to continue for the next few months. UAE was chosen to host the training sessions as it serves as the regional presence for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) Foundation represented by the ICDL GCC Foundation. The sessions will be held at Zayed University’s Institute of Technological Innovation (ITI) and Higher Colleges of Technology’s Centre of Excellence for Applied Research and Training (CERT). The trainers will prepare for the exam by studying the ICDL Advanced syllabus, using ICDL approved material provided to them by the ICDL GCC Foundation.

“The rapid increase in the application of IT tools indicates that the Middle East is ready for the Advanced ICDL program,” said Jamil Ezzo, Director General, ICDL GCC Foundation. “Thousands of people in the region who have completed the core program are looking for an opportunity to move to the next level of computer proficiency that will provide them with new tools to achieve greater success in their professional life.”

ECDL Foundation, the global governing body of ICDL programs has developed a special syllabus for this advanced program in cooperation with a wide range of experts in the IT industry and through evaluating suggestion from the trainers and feedback from end users of ICDL programs. The intensive Advanced ICDL program consists of four modules that cover word processing, spreadsheets, databases and presentations. The key difference between the two programs is that while the ICDL Core certification incorporates seven exams, all of which must be passed, the advanced program involves four exams that can be taken separately, each with its own certification.

The advanced program aims to help people realise the richness of different applications and encourage them to achieve the skills that allow them to demonstrate

their expertise in creating complex document outputs, to deal effectively with the ever-increasing demands of the emerging e-Society in both private and professional life.

“We are proud to offer Advanced ICDL program to candidates in the GCC region where PC penetration is moving at a rapid pace and businesses are getting integrated into global networks of economics and finance, underlining the need for advanced computer skills,” added Ezzo

“Zayed University is proud to be associated with the launch of ICDL Advanced certification program in the GCC,” said Dr. Abdulla Abonamah, Director, Institute for Technological Innovation, Zayed University. “Having witnessed the success of the ICDL core program, we are confident that the new certification will offer people an opportunity to learn more advanced applications of computers and skills that have been used successfully all over the world.”

“CERT is driven by a vision to provide access for all to Information Society and this can only be achieved through computer competencies attained through proven training modules,” said Mansour M. Al-Jedayeh, Manager, Information and Communication Technology, CERT. “The ICDL Advanced program offers all essential tools for those who want to move beyond the basic computer applications. We are delighted to be part of this soft-launch of the ICDL Advanced program in the region and would extend all support to make it a success.”

The “certify the trainer” program for the Advanced ICDL is open for trainers working at ICDL accredited training centres that have earned the ICDL certificate. The Advanced ICDL training and testing will be offered to the public by selected ICDL approved centres that meet certain qualifications set by the ECDL and ICDL GCC Foundation.

Most of the key academic institutions and all the Education Ministries in the Gulf Region have adopted the ICDL program as a minimum computer proficiency standard, including University of Qatar; University of Bahrain; Kuwait University; Sultan Qaboos University; UAE University, Higher Colleges of Technology and Zayed University from UAE; in Saudi Arabia, University of Umm Al Qura , King Khaled University and King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals.

About ICDL

International Computer Driving License (ICDL), is an internationally recognized computer proficiency standard that is owned by the European Computer Driving License (ECDL) and introduced by the UNESCO's Cairo Office (UCO) for Arab states in 2001. ICDL is gaining increasing acceptance in the Middle East, with several governments adopting as a requirement to their employees. The ICDL program exists in over 132 countries, and is offered in 32 languages, including Arabic. The programs offered are all based on one standard syllabus and question set. There are more than 15,000 centres worldwide, and over 10 million exams have been taken globally since the launch of the program.

About ICDL GCC Foundation

ICDL GCC Foundation was created by the ECDL Foundation, the not-for-profit global governing body of the ECDL and ICDL member countries dedicated to helping raise the general level of computer skills in societies and providing access for all to the information society, to serve the to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States with their implementation of ICDL and for providing them with localised support to ensure quality of ICDL programs. The ICDL-GCC Foundation is the sole ICDL licensee and accreditation body that is responsible to support ICDL accredited training and testing centres in the GCC. It also acts as the reviewing and approving body for the local adaptation of ICDL programs, including authorizing the sale of Arabic ICDL content and testing material in the region.

In the news

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