

Telerik Academy Alpha

FAQ

What is Telerik Academy Alpha?

With [Telerik Academy Alpha](#), we turn traditional education upside down. We have introduced a new training method to help you get ready for a career start in the software industry faster, better and more efficiently. By leveraging innovative teaching techniques and methodologies, we bring a personal training approach to everyone. It fosters teamwork and most importantly, helps you gain invaluable practical experience. Our trainers serve as your personal mentors and coaches, helping you build upon your strengths and attain all skills needed to land your dream job in IT.

Who can apply and how?

You need to be 18 years of age or older and eager to kickstart your career in software development. Whether you have little or no programming knowledge, are a tech student or a graduate, a junior developer or an expert in another field, this program will equip you with the skills you need to succeed.

The admission process includes the following steps:

- CV and application form submission (mandatory)
- Career event (optional)
- Online cognitive assessment (mandatory)
- Early bird entrance exam (optional, reserves you a spot)
- Entrance exam preparation course (optional)
- Final entrance exam (mandatory)
- Interview (upon request)

What backgrounds do students come from? Is there a typical profile?

There is no typical profile. We have taught people from various backgrounds, including high school graduates, IT students, architects, lawyers, marketers, financiers, bartenders, and many, many more. However, they all have one thing in common - just like you, they all want to build a successful career in the IT sector. Some of them are looking to start a new future-proof and more fulfilling career, while others have no previous professional experience and are pursuing their dream of becoming software engineers. Learning with such a diverse group of people is a great experience that helps you develop your technical and soft skills.

How can I prepare for the entrance exam?

Our entrance exam tests your programming skills (basic knowledge is required). You can take our entry exam using a language of your choice - Python; Java; C#; JavaScript; C++; Kotlin; PHP 7+; Swift – for all programs. If you are new to coding, we recommend that you prepare for the exam by using our online preparation materials and applying for our free onsite entrance exam preparation course. More information is available at <http://telerikacademy.com/alpha>.

I have little/no programming knowledge, does this mean my chances are smaller to get accepted into the program compared to people with programming education/experience?

No, all applicants will be assessed based on their entrance exam results, their application and motivation to participate in the program overall.

If you are completely new to programming, we recommend that you apply for our entrance exam preparation course. It is held once a week during weekends and is six weeks long. More information is available at <http://telerikacademy.com/alpha>.

How much time do I need to prepare for the entrance exam if I don't have any experience in programming?

The time necessary to prepare for the entrance exams depends mainly on your learning pace. Up to two months of regular learning and exercising should be more than enough to master the material tested at the entrance exams.

How can I take part in the exam preparation course?

You need to complete your Alpha preparation course application within the deadline specified on our website. If admitted in the exam preparation course, you will be invited to join it via e-mail.

How can I take part in the practice exams?

Practice exams will be held in our learning system, and you will be able to take them online. You can access the exams at any point in the timeframes listed in our timeline. Once you enter an exam, you will have 3 hours sharp to solve the problems and submit your solutions. Please have in mind that results from the mock exams are NOT part of the application process and you will NOT be able to apply for the program with your practice exam results. These are merely for you to test your skills and knowledge, and a good assessment of your preparation towards the actual exams.

Is there a minimum passing score for the entrance exam?

No. We use a holistic review process when evaluating applicants for admission.

What will the cognitive assessment include?

The cognitive assessment is a 12-minute timed assessment that measures general cognitive ability and the ability to learn, adapt, and grasp new concepts and handle complexity. The cognitive assessment does not measure IQ or previously acquired knowledge, skills or willingness to make an effort to learn new things but indicates how fast an individual can be expected to acquire new knowledge. The score is referenced against the general population norm. Candidates receive an e-mail invite to take the test online within 1-3 days prior to the entrance exam.

What is the candidate selection process?

We use a holistic review process when evaluating applicants for admission. The final selection of candidates is not based on a simple formula of grades and tests scores. Instead, we consider a variety of factors: application documents, online cognitive assessment, entrance exam results, personal motivation for applying, etc. Some candidates might also be invited to attend interview to additionally discuss their career and development aspirations.

If I am invited for an interview what will that include?

Interviews will focus on candidates' motivation and aspirations and will determine if the program is appropriate for each candidate based on their needs and expectations.

The program will be held online. Please note that attendance is key to our students' successful graduation. Up to 10 days of absence are allowed, plus the program has three self-preparation weeks where no attendance is required.

Do I need to know Bulgarian and English to be part of the program?

Please note that although all our materials are in English, the courses are held in Bulgarian. Hence, you need to have a good understanding of English and full proficiency in Bulgarian in order to participate.

Can I work while attending the program?

All Alpha programs are immersive 6-month programs and require 100% participation. Telerik Academy Alpha with Java, C# and JavaScript trainings are held Monday-Friday. Expect 4 hours of trainings every workday, plus additional time for self-preparation. Due to the format of the program, maintaining a full-time job while attending these programs will be very difficult to impossible.

Telerik Academy Alpha QA trainings are held 2-3 times a week in the evenings, which makes it suitable to maintain a part-time or even non-demanding full-time job while attending evening classes. Expect 9-12 hours of trainings per week, plus additional time for self-preparation.

Can I miss a lecture at all?

You can have up to 10 days of absence throughout the course for Telerik Academy Alpha Java, JavaScript, C# and Python, and up to 6 days of absence for Telerik Academy Alpha QA.

What happens if I miss a lecture - will I have access to the materials online?

Every lecture will be video recorded, and you will have access to it once it gets uploaded to our learning system.

Do I have to sign a contract to join the program?

Yes, all admitted students have to sign a contract with Telerik Academy prior to the program start. If you'd like to pay your tuition fee in installments, you would also have to sign a second contract – with our bank partner.

What happens if I drop out of the program?

In case of any unforeseen and unintended circumstances and within the first 5 weeks of your tuition for Java, C#, JavaScript and Python trainings, and within the first 9 weeks for QA trainings, you can drop out of the program with no accrued costs.

Are we going to have homework assignments?

You will not be expected to submit homework on a regular basis but based on your progress and the specifics of the topic you are covering. You might be given home assignments throughout the program.

Do all students graduate?

Students must successfully pass all requirements and assignments to graduate.

Will I receive a certificate at the end of the program?

Graduates will receive a certificate, which is widely recognized in the IT industry in Bulgaria. As of 2021, Telerik Academy is a vocational training centre, licensed by the National Agency of Vocational Education and Training. All Telerik Academy graduates can pass an additional exam after graduation and also receive a certificate in Application Programming, which is recognized by the Bulgarian Ministry of Education.

Will I land a career in the software industry upon graduation?

Graduates will have access to the Telerik Academy partner network, which will help them jumpstart their career in a software company upon graduation. In addition, they are free to explore other opportunities within the IT industry, which is the leading industry in Bulgaria with a 20% annual growth, thousands of job opportunities and over 22% raise in wages in the past 4 years. The upward trend is expected to continue and the number of professionals in the sector to almost double (reaching 58,000 people) by 2024.

What happens if I don't land a job upon graduation?

Upon graduation, you will take part in our career guidance program and our power skills team will assist you with all queries you have on the job application process.

What companies are in your partner network?

Telerik Academy forges partnerships with some of the leading software companies in Bulgaria. We give our students access to positions and employers that we believe are a great match for them. More than 85 innovative companies such as Experian, Tick42, Tinqin, American Eagle, Zuhlke and Progress are part of our partner network, which is constantly growing. More information about our partners, along with opportunities to get acquainted with the companies' work, culture and job openings, will be available throughout the program.

Can I apply for a job in a company outside your partner network?

Yes, graduates can apply for open positions outside our network. However, they will still have access to our partner network, which will amplify their career opportunities upon graduation.

How much does the training cost?

At Telerik Academy Alpha, students are equipped with in-demand technical and soft skills to quickly jumpstart their careers in IT. We want to give more people access to our world-class trainings, seasoned trainers, career, and personal development specialists, while keeping our groups small (up to 40-45 people) and providing personalized education, tailored to the individual student needs.

The standard tuition fee for Telerik Academy Alpha C#, JavaScript and Python is BGN 5,500 and you can start paying it back via bank loan with monthly installments of BGN 248* (based on a 24-month repayment schedule). The standard tuition fee for Java is 4,800 BGN and you can start paying it back via bank loan with monthly installments of BGN 216* (based on a 24-month repayment schedule). The standard tuition fee for Telerik Academy Alpha QA is BGN 4,000 and you can start paying it back via bank loan with monthly installments of BGN 180* (based on a 24-month repayment schedule).

We are giving you a grace period of 6 months after graduation for all programs, during which you can focus on finding a job and not worry about any tuition payments. By the 6th month we expect you will already be working in the IT sector, where starting junior developer salaries range between BGN 1,600-2,300. There are no additional education taxes or fees.

You could also choose to opt out the service of the bank and cover the tuition fee for each program via self-payment (prior to the program start).

Also, if you are employed by one of our partners, you will get a discounted tuition at the Academy amounting to 4,100 BGN for Telerik Academy Alpha JavaScript, Python, and C#, 3,400 BGN for Java, and 3,000 BGN for Telerik Academy Alpha QA.

* Illustrative payment method.