

Boosting employability and real-world readiness with Red Hat Academy



The Red Hat® Academy program at International Information Technology University (IITU) has flourished beyond expectations since its inception in 2020. In just a few years, approximately 1,700 students have successfully completed program coursework, gaining invaluable knowledge of open source technologies and in-demand skills that will open doors and set them apart in a highly competitive job market.

Here are 4 key benefits that IITU students realized through Red Hat Academy:

1 Practical skills through hands-on learning

IITU students don't simply study theory. Red Hat Academy provides first-hand learning based on real-world use cases, allowing them to develop tangible skills that they can put to use in the workplace on day one.

"Red Hat Academy bridges the gap between theory and practice, ensuring that students are not only equipped with cutting-edge skills but are also career ready," said Sandra Moldoveanu, Program Manager, Red Hat Academy EMEA.

And since Red Hat's industry-leading curriculum aligns closely with the demands of top employers worldwide, IITU students' hands-on experience with the latest open source technologies and methodologies makes them highly attractive job candidates.

"Red Hat Academy enhanced my employability by providing in-depth, hands-on knowledge of Linux systems, automation, and cloud technologies—skills that are highly valued in today's IT industry," said Ninel Mametyarova, program graduate, IITU. "I felt confident in my technical abilities and was able to demonstrate my skills effectively during interviews."

2 Valuable connections and increased opportunities

Through Red Hat Academy, IITU students participate in networking events and connect with technologists in fields such as IT services, software development, and cybersecurity. This exposure builds their professional circle and helps them better understand the current state of—and prepare for—the job market.

IITU has also experienced a significant increase in employer outreach within Kazakhstan since joining the program. Many companies, particularly in the technology sector, recognize the value of the Red Hat curriculum and recruit graduates directly.

"Red Hat Academy increased my attractiveness in the labor market. Employers are actively looking for people with experience in Linux systems and cloud technologies, and having Red Hat certifications has been an important advantage for me during interviews and the hiring process," said Bekzhan Kyrgyzbay, program graduate, IITU.

3 An advantage over the competition

IITU has seen impressive results in the hiring and compensation of Red Hat Academy participants compared with their fellow students.

“The employment rate for graduates who completed Red Hat Academy training is 92%, versus 82% for the rest of the student population, demonstrating their increased desirability in the job market,” said Talgat Nurlybayev, Assistant Professor, IITU. “Program participants also enjoy greater earning potential with an 18% higher starting salary on average.”

In addition, program graduates realize significantly more positive outcomes than candidates from similar institutions.

The university has also made progress in addressing the digital gender gap in the region, with women graduates of the Red Hat Academy program continuing to outperform their peers in terms of employment and earnings.

4 Reduced onboarding time

With a turnover rate between 13% and 20%¹, nearly 1 in 5 IT professionals are in their first year at their current organization. And the time required to bring them up to speed—which can span several months—can be very costly in terms of lost productivity and increased potential for mistakes.

IITU program graduates, by comparison, are ready to be productive and bring value to their employers more rapidly.

“Participation in Red Hat Academy significantly accelerated my adaptation process in my new position. The training focused on real practical skills that I could immediately apply in my work. And the knowledge I gained helped me more quickly learn the tools and systems, which allowed me to get up to speed faster and benefit the team,” said Kyrgyzbay.

Looking towards the future

In a testament to the quality of instruction and the dedication of both instructors and students, IITU’s program was honored as Red Hat Academy of the Year for its region. This prestigious recognition put IITU and Kazakhstan on the map as a hub for open source education.

“The Red Hat Academy program at IITU stands as a shining example of how collaboration between academic and industry leaders creates transformative opportunities for students,” said Jens Ziemann, Senior Director, Red Hat Training EMEA. “Partnerships like these will continue to play a crucial role, enhancing employability by equipping future technologists with practical knowledge and skills for the open source jobs of tomorrow.”

Learn more

Help your students build the Red Hat skills necessary to reach their academic and career potential with [Red Hat Academy](#).

Get started

Provide free access to Red Hat’s training courses and certification exams at your institution through the [Red Hat Academy](#).

¹ Abboud, Yara. “A look at the Tech Retention Crisis: Causes, Key Trends & Plausible Solutions.” LinkedIn, 8 July 2022.



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1 888 REDHAT1 www.redhat.com	00800 7334 2835 europe@redhat.com	+65 6490 4200 apac@redhat.com	+54 11 4329 7300 info-latam@redhat.com