

Telerik Academy Alpha

FAQ

What is Telerik Academy Alpha?

With [Telerik Academy Alpha](#), we turn traditional education upside down. We are introducing 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 aims to foster teamwork and most importantly, to help you gain invaluable practical experience. Our trainers will 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)

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 - C#; Java 8, Java 9, Java 10; JavaScript; C++; Kotlin; PHP 7+; Python 2, Python 3; Swift – for all programs except JavaScript which requires using JavaScript only. 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 on <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 on <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 for preparing 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 application and pass your cognitive assessment 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 we take part in the practice exams?

Practice exams will be held in our learning system ([Mock Exam 1](#), [Mock Exam 2](#)), 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.

Can I choose between online and onsite training?

Training is planned to be onsite. In case the epidemic situation in Bulgaria persists, and/or onsite training might pose a risk to students and trainers' health, the program may be held online. Attendance (both onsite and online) is key to our students' successful graduation. Students must attend all

classes. Up to 10 days of absence are allowed, plus the program has three self-preparation weeks where no attendance is required.

Can I work while attending the program?

All Alpha programs require 100% participation. Telerik Academy Alpha with Java, .NET 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 12-16 hours of trainings per week.

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 8 weeks of your tuition for Java, .NET and JavaScript 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?

The Telerik Academy Alpha program aims to constantly improve its format to the ultimate benefit of the students. 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.

Are there computers in the lecture halls that we can use during exams or lectures?

No, there are no computers in the lecture halls. All students need to bring their own devices while attending lectures and sitting exams. Please note that the program may be held online, depending on the COVID-19 situation.

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.

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 24% annual growth, thousands of job opportunities and over 13% 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 60,000 people).

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 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 80 innovative companies such as ScaleFocus, Experian, The Coca-Cola Company, Tick42, Accenture, Chaos Group, 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 Java, JavaScript and .NET is BGN 4,400 and you can start paying it back via bank loan with monthly installments of BGN 198* (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 1,200-2,000. There are no additional education taxes or fees. For programs in training during the COVID-19 situations, we may provide extension of the grace period to 9 or 12 months, depending on the current circumstances.

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 3,000 BGN.

* Illustrative payment method.