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# Get the IT advantage

Even if you're pursuing an unrelated degree, a part-time IT course will help you in this uncertain job market. And for engineering professionals, it's a great add-on for the CV.

By **Kunal Doley**

**T**HE GLOBAL slowdown may have shrunk the job market like a bad nightmare, but it has spurred young professionals to upgrade their educational baggage. Recruitment numbers are low, so students are using this time of adversity to increase employability. They are pursuing both short-term and long-term certificate programmes in computer education to beef up their CV.

Investing time in skill-upgradation programmes provides opportunities of understanding the latest trends in the job market, along with building on the foundation of existing skills, says Anuj Kacker, global head, Aptech Computer Education. "This is important even if your purpose is not limited to making yourself recession-proof. Employers retain people who

are aware of latest industry trends, for this facilitates increased productivity, which in turn enhances the bottomline." G. Raghav, President, Individual Learning Solutions, NIIT Ltd, also agrees that students now need to stay prepared. "This year, not too many companies have come for recruitment. So students want to be prepared for the future. They

are under pressure to get trained and be job-ready," he insists. Today, many institutes have computer courses whose offerings range from the basics to the most advanced certificate programmes. Short-term programmes are popular among graduates and professionals who want to enhance or update their skills in a particular tech-

nology; the longer courses find more takers among those focused on careers in IT. "Specialised certificate programmes from Oracle, Sun, Red Hat and Microsoft are in demand with young IT professionals and also with those who have been affected by the slowdown," says Kacker.

By enhancing your career skills, continuing education is the route to job security.



— ANUJ KACKER, Global Head, Aptech Computer Education



G. Raghav, president, Individual Learning Solutions, NIIT, says students are under pressure to enter the market 'job-ready'

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