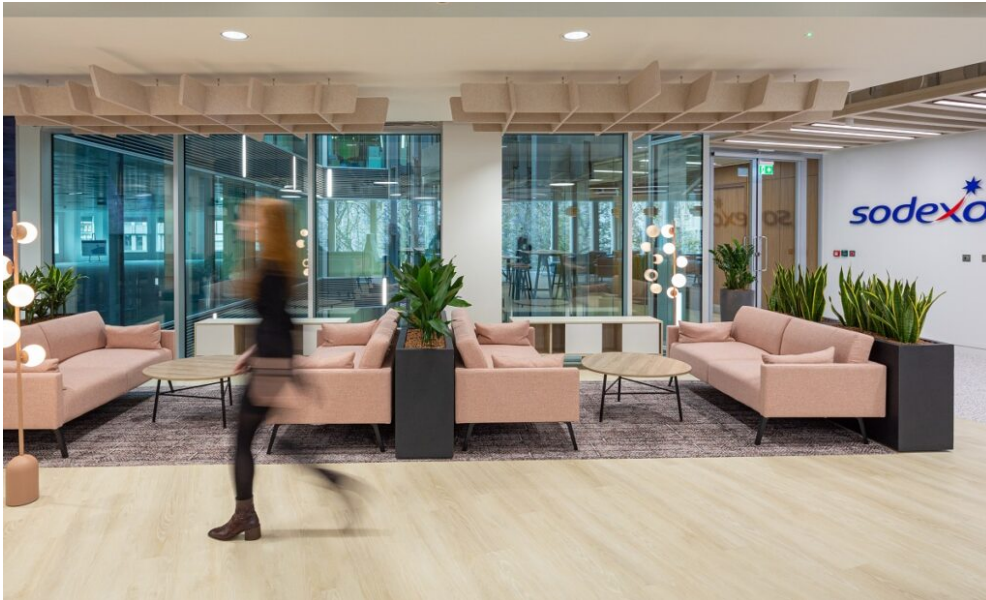


Sodexo Launches AI Academy to Strengthen Digital Skills Across Workforce

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[Sodexo UK & Ireland](#) has partnered with training provider Corndel to launch a new AI Academy aimed at strengthening digital capability and accelerating the organisation's wider AI transformation strategy.

The programme has launched with an initial cohort of 60 colleagues enrolled on a 12 month apprenticeship designed to build practical AI and data skills across a wide range of roles and career stages.

Participants include employees working in operational, specialist and leadership positions, reflecting Sodexo's broader focus on using apprenticeships to support career development and future workforce capability.

Delivered in partnership with Corndel, the programme combines workplace learning with nationally recognised qualifications, enabling colleagues to complete either a Level 3 Digital Support Technician or Data Technician qualification.

The training focuses on applying AI tools and data skills to real business challenges while promoting responsible and effective use of emerging technologies.

Focus on practical workplace application

Sodexo said the initiative forms part of its wider investment in long term career pathways, apprenticeships and workforce development.

Pete Siddle, Talent and Learning Director at Sodexo UK & Ireland, said apprenticeships continue to play a central role in the company's talent strategy.

“Apprenticeships play a crucial role in how we attract, develop and retain talent at Sodexo,” he said.

“This new programme gives our people the opportunity to grow their skills, build confidence and future proof their careers, while continuing to deliver the high quality services our clients and customers expect.”

The company said strong uptake during the first month reflects growing demand among employees for flexible learning opportunities that combine academic development with day to day workplace experience.

AI capability and responsible adoption

Alongside technical learning, the programme is intended to support broader cultural adoption of AI across the organisation.

Each participant will become an internal AI champion, helping colleagues adopt automation tools and AI systems responsibly while supporting innovation and operational improvement.

Vimal Mistry, Service Director at Sodexo UK & Ireland, said the organisation’s AI strategy depends on equipping employees with the right skills and behaviours.

“AI has real potential to transform how we operate, but only if people across the organisation know how to apply it thoughtfully and responsibly,” he said.

“The Academy is key to driving our AI ambition, embedding capability that scales responsibly and delivers real operational impact.”

Mistry added that Microsoft Copilot has already been made available to employees as part of the company’s wider digital transformation programme, with additional guidance and support materials being developed in partnership with Microsoft.

Supporting long term workforce development

Corndel coaches will provide one to one support throughout the programme, helping apprentices balance study alongside operational responsibilities and apply their learning directly to workplace challenges.

Nick Fisher, Senior Client Manager at Corndel, said programmes of this kind are becoming increasingly important as organisations prepare for future workforce demands.

“Programmes like this open up access to professional development and help employers build the skills they need for the future,” he said.

“We’re excited to see what this cohort unlocks, and to support Sodexo as they continue to lead with intent, not hype, when it comes to AI.”

Sodexo said the AI Academy forms part of a wider portfolio of learning and development initiatives designed to support social mobility, internal progression and long term skills growth across the business.