

# Keeping London working:

support for business and jobs



## Keeping London working

The London Development Agency (LDA) is committed to ensuring that London has a thriving and prosperous business sector.

The changing economic circumstances make the challenge of starting, sustaining or growing your business harder. By focusing on growth, skills and jobs the LDA is determined to find more enterprising ways to support you and your business and counteract the fallout of the economic downturn.

If the business you work for runs into difficulties, or you are looking for a career change, the LDA can also help.

The LDA, together with its partners, is working to deliver comprehensive support for all London businesses.

# Business support

## Do you need someone to talk to about your business?

**Business Link in London** can help answer your questions. Business experts provide free and impartial advice as well as point you in the right direction if you need more detailed support.

Phone **0845 6000 787** or email **info@bllondon.co.uk** or visit **www.businesslink.gov.uk/london**

## Do you or your employees need extra skills to keep your business competitive?

Now is the time to invest in upskilling your workforce. Choose from a range of options from improving English and Maths, through accredited **NVQs** and **Apprenticeships to leadership and management training**. A **Train to Gain** broker can find you a bespoke solution, or you can use the **Skills for London website** to find the training you need.

Phone **0800 015 5545** or visit **www.traintogain.gov.uk** or **www.skillsforlondon.org**

## Do you want to hear from leading business experts on how your business can survive the current economic conditions?

Business consultants **KPMG** and **Deloitte** are running short seminars on critical recession-beating strategies including:

- Managing your cash
- Winning new business
- Alternative sources of cash
- Guarding against fraud.

Visit **www.lda.gov.uk**

## Do you want to stay ahead of your competitors?

**Protect your ideas** – The British Library has a Business & IP Centre which is free.

**Think smarter** – Helps you improve your products and services by linking you to the wealth of expertise in London's universities and research centres.

**Boost performance** – Speed up growth and improve the bottom line by putting design at the centre of your business strategy.

Phone **0845 6000 787** or email **info@bllondon.co.uk** or visit **www.businesslink.gov.uk/london**

### Do you want to win a share of London contracts?

**Supply London** provides support for businesses wishing to apply for contracts via CompeteFor.

Visit [www.supplylondon.com](http://www.supplylondon.com)

**CompeteFor** provides opportunities within the London 2012 Games and the public sector where businesses can find out about and bid for contracts.

Visit [www.competefor.com](http://www.competefor.com)

### Do you want to sell to the world?

**UKTI** will help you break into new markets across the world. The organisation provides expertise to get your business ready to enter new international markets.

Phone **020 7234 3000** or email [info@uktilondon.org.uk](mailto:info@uktilondon.org.uk) or visit [www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/london](http://www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk/ukti/london)

### Do you want your business to be more environmentally friendly?

If you recognise the need to reduce your environmental impact but don't know where to start – **Green500** is for you!

Phone **0845 36 500 25** or email [green500@aeat.co.uk](mailto:green500@aeat.co.uk)

### Do you want help recruiting staff?

**Employer Direct** at Jobcentre Plus can advertise your vacancies for free.

Phone **0845 601 2001**

The **National Apprenticeship Service** offers a vacancy matching service, linking businesses seeking new staff to committed apprentices looking for opportunities to work, learn and succeed.

Register your interest on [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

**“London still ranks as Europe’s top city for business.”**

Source: Cushman & Wakefield, European Cities Monitor 2008

# Jobs and training

## Do you want help finding work, changing career or training to brush up your skills?

If you're ready to go back to work, **Jobcentre Plus** has one of the **largest vacancy databases** in the UK and can provide advice and support on finding a job.

Phone **0845 6060 234**  
or visit  
**www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk**

If you want to see if you are eligible and/or make a benefit claim.

Phone **0800 055 6688** or  
visit **www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk**

**Relay London Jobs**, the LDA's London job brokerage network can also help you look for and apply for a new job.

Visit **www.lda.gov.uk**

If you have been out of work for a while, the **Personal Best** programme provides training and a qualification to prepare you for work. It also links to volunteering and opportunities associated with the **London 2012 Games**.

Email **personalbest@lda.gov.uk**  
or visit **www.london2012.com**

If you need advice about learning new skills or changing your career, you can get face-to-face support from a **Nextstep** adviser, or speak to the **Careers Advice Service**.

Phone Nextstep **0800 0641 481**  
Phone the Careers Advice Service  
**0800 100 900** or visit **www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk**

If you want to learn new skills while working and earning, from January 2009 the **National Apprenticeship Service** will offer a vacancy matching service, linking people keen to learn and work with employers seeking new staff.

Visit  
**www.apprenticeships.org.uk**

There are local colleges and training providers all over London. You can find details of local training through **Nextstep** or the **Careers Advice Service** or online.

Phone Nextstep **0800 0641 481**  
or the Careers Advice Service  
on **0800 100 900** or visit  
**www.londoncolleges.com** or  
**www.westlondonworking.org.uk**

For all training options, the <b>Choice</b> website offers a comprehensive guide to courses across the capital.	Visit <b><a href="http://www.mychoicelondon.co.uk">www.mychoicelondon.co.uk</a></b>
Help may be available to fast track you if you're interested in <b>becoming a teacher</b> .	Phone <b>0845 6026 880</b> or visit <b><a href="http://www.teach.gov.uk/transition">www.teach.gov.uk/transition</a></b>
<b>Do you need support for the costs of training to help you find work?</b>	
You may be eligible for financial support for training, particularly if you have few qualifications and are low paid.	Phone <b>0800 100 900</b> or visit <b><a href="http://www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk">www.careersadvice.direct.gov.uk</a></b>
Childcare cost can be a key barrier to finding work for many parents. The <b>Childcare Affordability Programme</b> provides help and advice on the cost of childcare as well as advice on funding for parents on low pay.	Phone <b>0800 587 7115</b> or visit <b><a href="http://www.lda.gov.uk">www.lda.gov.uk</a></b>

**“Almost 75% of employers currently say they are short of skilled staff.”**

Source: CBI London Business Survey June 2008

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**The London Development Agency is investing £150 million this year to support businesses and help Londoners find a job, stay in work and make progress.**

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**For more information about Business support, Jobs and training,  
visit [www.lda.gov.uk](http://www.lda.gov.uk)**

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Translated versions of this leaflet are available on request.

Email [info@lda.gov.uk](mailto:info@lda.gov.uk)

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In partnership with:

