alx Foundations - Program Welcome Video Transcript

Introduction

Hello and welcome to the ALX Foundations Program! You've made a great decision to join this program, and we look forward to having you with us on this journey of growth and learning! I am Muhammad Khisal Ahmed, one of the learning experience designers here at ALX, and I'll be your course guide for the online component of this program! I'll be here each week to greet you and share what's in store for that week. Isn't that exciting?!

This week is all about getting you oriented and onboarded fully into the program. By the time this week is over, three things should be true:

1. You should have access to all of the technical tools you need to reach your online course experience.
2. You will also have a good understanding of what this program is all about, and what you will be able to know and do by the end of it.
3. You will also understand the requirements of the program and what is expected of you to maintain good standing in it.

Let me start by telling you more about the program and our approach to creating it. At ALX, we believe that education is not just about acquiring knowledge of facts, but is also about experiencing personal and professional transformation and acquiring and practising new skills. We also believe that learning happens best when you are actively engaged in the process, and so we have done our best to create a fun and interactive learning experience. ALX Foundations is the gateway to so many good things, and it is a prerequisite to all of ALX's technical courses including software engineering, data analytics, data science, Salesforce, and AWS.

The first part of the Foundations course requires around 30 hours per week of your time and runs for 8 weeks. After you have completed the first part of ALX Foundations, your technical track will begin.

What you will learn

So, what does it take to be a successful tech professional these days? Well, In this course, you'll get a good taste of the "Special Sauce" that makes ALX graduates a top pick for employers. So many employers have told us that they are frustrated in trying to find tech employees who have more than just rote memory and technical knowledge. You see, tech organisations are looking for people with critical skill sets that they really need to succeed in the workplace. I'll share more about these skills in a moment, but you can think of this course as the secret weapon that will teach you everything you need to know and do for employers to view you as an exceptional well-rounded tech professional.

In addition to highly valued tech skills, you will have many opportunities to practise 8 key meta-skills. These meta-skills were chosen based on a consolidation of research from a large number of employers and have been refined and tested with time. So you can be confident that acquiring and practising these skills will serve you well over the course of your career. The 8 meta-skills are:
1. Leading Self
2. Leading Others
3. Critical Thinking
4. Entrepreneurial Thinking
5. Quantitative Reasoning
6. Communicating for Impact
7. Managing Complex Tasks
8. Navigating Tech Ecosystems

What we're not gonna do in this course, is go through them one by one like a robot. What we will give you are opportunities to get familiar with all of them and practise with them as part of everything we do. You know, like in the real world!

Let me share how the first part of the program is structured. It takes place over 2 months. Month 1 will focus on equipping you with a foundational aptitude in the 8 meta skills. This will focus on orienting you to the current state of technology, the big challenges and opportunities currently found in our world, and a deeper awareness of your own strengths and areas for growth. We ask you to reflect on where you feel most inspired and want to make an impact. You will also get to learn a lot about time management, goal setting, problem solving, design thinking and communication!

In month 2, you will apply your newly acquired skills within a tech team setting. You will work with a small group on a 3 week long project that uses technology to address a big challenge or opportunity. Working as part of a team will give you valuable experience that reflects what happens in real world workplaces. You'll be able to practise

communicating and working with people who may have different personalities and interests, to successfully carry out and deliver a big project. By the end of the 2nd month you will explore each of the tech tracks and learn about how teams work in a tech environment, how recruiting works in each industry, and what working in the field looks like. You will hear from young industry leaders, get some hands-on industry experience working in your chosen field, and gain practice with pitching yourself to industry leaders.

After month 2, your tech track will begin. As mentioned, you will continue building these skills for a few hours each week alongside your chosen tech specialisation.

So, in short, by the end of this program, you will have developed highly sought-after professional skills that will empower you to thrive in a continually evolving tech landscape. Now let's talk about what is expected of you and how you can succeed in this program. Buckle up, because this journey will require your energy, time, and utmost commitment.

How to Succeed

There are 3 main components that you will need to participate in throughout the program. These include:
- <u>Savanna</u>: This is the Learning Management System or LMS where you find and take your course content each week. This is also where you will be taking your tests and submitting your milestones. More on that later!
- <u>The ALX Fellowship Portal</u>: Our online community space where you get to interact and engage with other learners in the program. and
- <u>The City Hubs</u>: The ALX City hubs are spread across 8 cities in Africa: Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Casablanca, Johannesburg, Kigali, Lagos, and Nairobi. At these hubs, you get to interact with fellow learners in your local community.

In order to successfully pass this stage of your learning, you must pass all tests and milestones. We'll be sharing more details on how and what later in the week. In order to successfully complete these feats, you can expect to spend:
- 45% of your time learning the content
- 30% working on assessments and reflections
- 15% interacting with your peers
- 10% applying lessons learned with your local community

If you really want to succeed in this program here are some tips:
- Set aside around 30 hours a week for your learning.

- Strategically manage your time, there is a lot of material to get through each week so you will need to plan ahead.
- Carefully review all material and instructions on Savanna, and make sure you thoroughly understand them.
- Complete all exercises in the online course, especially practice quizzes and weekly Tests.
- Complete all Milestones and submit them on Savanna before the deadline
- Show up and participate in real-time ALX community events and activities, both online and, if possible, at your nearest city hub.
- Engage with your local community where prompted.
- Be an active, positive contributor to the program, and intentionally build a network of peers and friends who will form the foundation of your professional network to help you in your career going forward.

By following these steps, you will have taken significant strides to push your career forward, in leaps and bounds. We are committed to supporting you in achieving your goals. So, get ready to embark on an exciting adventure of discovery and growth – we can not wait to see what you will achieve! Good luck!