



Odisee
DE CO-HOGESCHOOL

BiASC
Belgian IT Academy
Support Center vzw/asbl
www.biasc.be

VMWARE IT ACADEMY—BUILDING IT EXPERTISE IN THE DIGITAL FUTURE

Offering a programmatic approach to developing IT talent, the VMware® IT Academy enables training, coaching, and academic institutions around the world to deliver authorized VMware courses to students. By mastering VMware coursework, participating in hands-on labs, and completing the online certification process, students can jump-start their careers as IT professionals specializing in VMware, virtualization, and cloud computing.

“We have many small and midsize businesses in our area, and they are all relatively new to virtualization. These businesses appreciate our students’ knowledge of virtualization, which they gained during their internships here at the college. In this way, our students are leading positive change in the Flanders region.”

ROEL VAN STEENBERGHE
LECTURER
ODISEE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Extending Virtualization Expertise Across Multiple Campuses—Enabling Students to Build the Digital Future Today

Odisee University College and the Belgian IT Academy Support Center (BiASC) partner with VMware IT Academy to provide the knowledge, skills, and certification students need to become virtualization experts today and looking forward.

Making virtualization expertise a reality

With campuses located in Alost, Brussels, Dilbeek, Ghent, Schaerbeek, and Saint-Nicolas, Odisee University College offers 25 professional Bachelor degree programs and three Bachelor-after-Bachelor programs in six fields of study: biotechnology, commercial sciences and business studies, education, healthcare, industrial science and technology, and social and community work. Odisee offers state-of-the-art education focusing on talent, diversity, and a strong bond with the professional field of work.

In 2011, instructors at the Ghent campus of Odisee received an invitation from VMware IT Academy to attend a series of lectures. As the IT staff at this campus used virtualization technology on a day-to-day basis, they were eager to attend the lectures and learn new tips, tricks, and techniques for managing their VMware-based environment.

Once back on campus, the instructors immediately began sharing the information they learned from the VMware IT Academy with other Odisee staff members. The Ghent instructors were so excited about the positive feedback they received about the courses that they began to create additional virtualization courses of their own.

Word about the VMware course offerings at the Ghent campus quickly spread to the other Odisee campuses. During a VMware Instructor Training organized at the Odisee campus in Ghent, colleagues from six educational institutions in Belgium and Netherlands were eager to learn everything they could about virtualization in general and VMware specifically. Soon, the original Odisee instructors were receiving requests from other universities in the area—all linked via the BiASC—asking for help setting up a virtualized environment and providing virtualization courses to students.

What started by attending a series of free VMware IT Academy lectures has turned into a full-blown virtualization practice at Odisee and BiASC—complete with a train-the-trainer program and a full-featured virtualization lab where students can take a deep dive into the latest VMware vSphere®-based technology.



Server room, Odisee University College,
Ghent campus

“We are very happy to provide this deep level of detail about VMware’s virtualization technology to our students. While our short-term plans are to redesign our labs to keep the experience fresh, as well as update to the latest versions of VMware software, our long-term plans are to redesign our curriculum to include new courses in cloud technology. We feel providing courses in both virtualization and cloud technologies will better prepare our students for rewarding careers in IT.”

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Giving students what they need to succeed

Each student enrolled in the cloud infrastructure program at Odisee receives two brand-new servers for use in the lab and accessible remotely. Both servers come pre-loaded with the latest releases of VMware and other software—provided at no cost to the students—so they can begin experimenting on day one of their training.

VMware vRealize®—a purpose-built management solution for the heterogeneous data center and the hybrid cloud—is one of the applications available for students. vRealize enables students to experiment with the VMware software as their schedule permits—either at school or at home—via the Odisee cloud.

Extending the benefits

For small and midsize business owners in the Brussels area, the demand for virtualization expertise is growing. These companies welcome graduates of Odisee’s virtualization program as entry-level employees who can help them tackle the complexities of a virtualized environment today, and enable them to extend to the cloud in the near future.

Important benefits for Odisee University College include:

- Using the same software as the students to create courseware
- Receiving course materials from VMware IT Academy, which provides inspiration for creating original labs and exercises
- Receiving training they can share with other trainers (“train the trainers”)
- Gaining new experience they would not otherwise have received

VMware’s “best-kept secret”

The VMware IT Academy has been operating on a global level for many years. Up until now, it’s been VMware’s best-kept secret. With the growing success of the IT Academy program at organizations like Odisee University College, however, more people are talking about the value of the IT Academy:

- Proven program for training the trainers
- Offering a complete curriculum, as well as setting up hands-on labs, at minimal cost
- Fueling broader technology labs to be delivered to students; for example, one VMware license on a laptop can run Red Hat Linux, enabling students to learn that technology, too
- Providing local program support to institutions through Regional IT Academies, offering training to instructors at other area institutions
- Educating and empowering tomorrow’s digital leaders and entrepreneurs with skills today

Learn more

Discover more about how VMware IT Academy students can lead in the digital future. Visit [vmware.com/company/research/it-academy.html](https://www.vmware.com/company/research/it-academy.html).