

# Shake up your business with online classes

IF YOU'RE IN the hospitality industry, Learn2Serve, a company that offers online certification classes in food safety, the sale and handling of alcohol, and other industry-related courses, may save you time and money training employees.

Learn2Serve is the UK division of U.S.-based 360training.com, an Internet-based training company headquartered in Austin, Texas, that has given classes to more than 3 million people worldwide, in a wide range of industries. Learn2Serve, launched last year, offers self-paced online courses that work on Microsoft and Apple platforms.

According to Tyrone McKenzie, Learn2Serve's business unit manager, this online resource has been popular with UK businesses. He says the courses generally cost much less than hiring a trainer to come on-site or sending employees to off-site classes. "The courses are self-paced, so employees can work them in around their work and home-life schedules, and they're quality classes given by industry experts," McKenzie says. He also points out that dedicated customer support is available seven days a week.



PHOTODISC

"We speak to clients and customise our courses to meet their needs," McKenzie explains. "Employees then have around-the-clock access to the classes." Upon successfully completing the classes, employees earn certificates, many of which are legal requirements for working with food and/or alcohol.

For more information, visit [www.learn2serve.co.uk](http://www.learn2serve.co.uk). ☐

HOT  
web site

## Nuts about networking?

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to grow your business by networking with like-minded people, there's an online resource that can help you. Aptly named, Find Networking Events ([www.findnetworkingevents.com](http://www.findnetworkingevents.com)) offers a simple, quick way to access business networking events, networking groups, business clubs and business shows taking place in your area.

From the home page of the Web site, select the region in which you operate and a date from drop-down menus. A list of events will appear. Read through the descriptions to find one that sounds right for you. The Web site also offers "how to" articles under a "Business Articles" heading and business news.

One group that has found the site useful is chambers of commerce. "Find Networking Events is a great new site that allows us to not only inform the wider business community about upcoming Chamber events, but it also lets us upload press releases," says Marianne Creaney of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group. "Our brand has a good presence on the site, providing us with quality promotion for no fee. It's definitely a winner." ☐



# Personal Pension planning

## Personal Accounts Delivery Authority (PADA)

**MISSION:** PADA, which reports to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), is briefed to establish a national, trust-based pension scheme called "personal accounts" that will help millions of people on low and moderate incomes, who do not have access to a good-quality workplace pension, save for their retirement.

**IMPORTANCE:** The DWP estimates that about 7 million people are not saving enough to fund their retirement. A huge swath of the population risks a hand-to-mouth existence in their old age. This is alarming when seen against the backdrop of population projections suggesting the number of retirement-age citizens (65 years and older) will almost double by 2055.

**SERVICES:** PADA is currently putting into place the framework needed as part of

the workplace pension reforms that are scheduled to take place in 2012. Pension reform will hopefully make saving for retirement the norm.

Employers will have to offer a pension scheme to their workers. All eligible employees must be automatically enrolled into this chosen scheme. This auto-enrolment plan is designed to make it easy for individuals to participate in pension saving, helping to overcome the work involved in setting up a retirement plan.

Individuals will still be able to opt out, but having a plan in place will help many begin saving.

PADA says it will:

- Work in the interests of future pension scheme members
- Take responsibility for the success of its programme
- Establish the best possible scheme for members with low charges
- Set up a trustee corporation with a first-rate governance framework. ☐

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