



# Skills Taskforce for Global Britain



# Aim:

“To ensure that, by 2030, UK skills quality is recognised globally as a key driver in attracting foreign investment, boosting inclusive economic growth and creating jobs across the UK.”





# Creating a skills economy

The UK is a well-established globally as a knowledge economy, with outstanding universities and research institutes and world-leading knowledge-intensive industries such as finance, business services, and pharmaceuticals.

However, the UK has not established itself as a world-leading skills economy and this is key for a post-Covid economic recovery particularly with a focus on sectors of the economy which must be internationally competitive – requiring world-class skills – to attract investment and succeed.

These sectors, such as advanced manufacturing/engineering, life sciences, infrastructure, and digital/creative, are critical to the UK's 'plan for growth' and net-zero ambition. However, our relatively poor standard of technical skills is arguably holding back these sectors, all of which have potential to boost innovation, productivity, competitiveness and attract investment to create jobs and growth across the UK.



By setting a new level of ambition to be a world-leading skills economy, we can harness WorldSkills UK's ability to benchmark the UK's technical skills internationally, combined with data and insights from EY's annual inward investment surveys, to provide new perspectives on how increasing the quality of our technical skills can help attract more inward investment for those sectors of the economy which are internationally traded and have the potential to become more productive and boost ongoing economic growth for the long-term.





## Embedding world-class skills in the UK



WorldSkills UK leverages the global WorldSkills network to benchmark our skills quality on an ongoing basis against major competitor economies, increasingly in Asia, and we are in a unique position to bring insights from this global skills benchmarking process back into the UK.



Our international training experts mainstream learning with practitioners through our UK-wide local networks – the Centre of Excellence, Innovation Network and digital hub – to help raise training standards and develop young people's technical and employability skills, improving quality of skills



development from inside the skills system. The Centre of Excellence alone is designed to support the development over the next three years of 40,000 young people, many from disadvantaged communities.

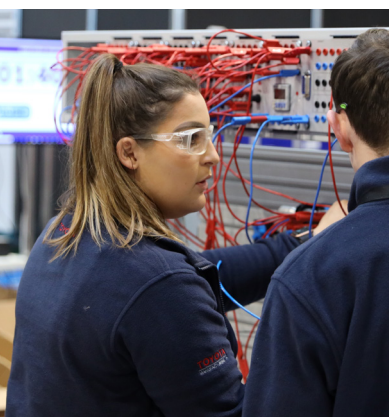
We share insights from international best practice with policy makers across UK governments to help inform public policy development. The Centre of Excellence, which came out of diagnostic research from Oxford University, was cited in the recent Skills for Jobs White Paper for England as representing best-practice in high-quality training development for teaching staff.





# Supplying world-class skills for long-term growth

Setting a new level of ambition to create a competitive skills economy with a world-class skills supply for key sectors would not only help provide a much-needed long-term goal but also create a compelling action plan “roadmap” to join up and address many of the UK Government’s key economic priorities:



- improving our national skills, particularly in digital, science and technology, to help attract inward investment as set out by the Prime Minister in ‘Global Britain in a competitive age’
- supporting productivity growth with high-quality skills, innovation and infrastructure development as set out by the Chancellor in ‘Building Back Better – our plan for growth’
- delivering an employer-led skills system in England as set out by the Education Secretary in ‘Skills for Jobs: Lifelong learning for opportunity and growth’
- improving quality of skills as stated as a priority in ‘Scotland’s Inward Investment Plan’, the ‘International Strategy for Wales’ and Invest Northern Ireland’s latest business plan
- levelling up investment, productivity growth, and living standards in towns and cities across the UK
- growing the quality of goods and services from our domestic high skill economic base to create a stronger foundation from which to trade competitively with the rest of the world.

# A skills economy roadmap to 2030



The principle output of the Skills Taskforce for Global Britain is the publication of a skills economy roadmap to 2030.

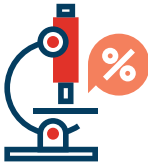
The Taskforce will be asked to:

- comment on and steer analysis to test the hypothesis that the lack of a supply of high-quality skills is holding back key growth sectors of the economy
- identify what steps should be taken to create a world-leading skills economy in the UK over the next 10 years
- champion the skills economy roadmap.



Key areas of analysis will include:

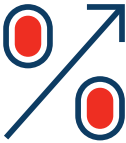
- how do our skills compare with those competitor countries?
- what are international investors looking for in terms of skills in the UK?
- what skills do UK CEOs need in order to attract investment?
- are all parts of the UK able to attract inward investment? Is the skills pipeline holding any regions back?
- can we quantify the skills gaps in the UK? What is the opportunity cost for UK plc?



# Working together for a skills economy



With a shared interest in the correlation between the availability of high-quality skills and international inward investment for key growth sectors, WorldSkills UK and EY have come together, harnessing their collective insights and know-how, to set a new level of ambition and create the case for the UK as a world-leading skills economy.



While there have been skills commissions and growth commissions in the past, no one has tackled the specific and important question of improving the quality of our skills economy, including to world-class levels, to help attract inward investment to help drive growth in key sectors and help meet the UK's long-term economic global ambitions.



To address this question and help create a long-term compelling action plan, we need your experience and expertise as someone who has been involved in skills development and inward investment at the highest level.



By pooling your insights with others in a Skills Taskforce for Global Britain, and supported by analysis from EY and WorldSkills UK, we are confident that we can develop proposals which will help inform the strategic direction of skills development and inward investment policy across Whitehall and devolved governments over the next ten years.







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