

## e-skills UK: Work and Impact

### About e-skills UK

e-skills UK is the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology, rated 'outstanding' in the relicensing of Sector Skills Councils. (see below). e-skills UK unites industry, educators and government in collaborative, employer-led action to ensure the UK has the technology skills it needs to compete in the global economy.

Covering software, internet & web, IT services, telecommunications and business change, e-skills UK has UK-wide responsibility in the UK for:

- The technology workforce (the IT and telecoms industries, and the IT and telecoms professionals working in all industries).
- The IT-related skills needs of those in business management and leadership roles (the strategic exploitation of technology for business benefit).
- The IT-related skills needs of everyone who uses IT in their day to day activities and increased social inclusion of citizens (IT literacy/Digital Inclusion).

**e-skills UK's strategic objectives** are to:

- **Inspire future talent** – motivate talented students to pursue IT-related careers, and better prepare all young people for work in a technology-enabled world.
- **Support IT professionals** – develop the IT professional skills pool as the best in the world for deriving business benefit from technology.
- **Campaign for the IT Nation** – promote the compelling benefits of increased IT capability to organisations and individuals in every sector.

**Creating the skills for Digital Britain**

**Rated Outstanding – Sector Skills Councils Relicensing**

To inspire future talent, e-skills UK has:

Changed the attitudes of girls to IT through [CC4G \(Computer Clubs for Girls\)](#). CC4G provides fun resources for 10-14 year olds that make IT interesting through topics like sport, fashion and music. Over 135,000 girls in 3,700 schools have benefitted from CC4G so far, and over two thirds of those participating in the extra-curricula clubs say they are more likely to consider a career in technology as a result.

Developed the [Diploma in IT](#) with input from over 600 employers. The Diploma provides a blend of academic and applied learning, equipping students with a broad skill set and providing a strong foundation for those who may consider a business or IT career in the technology-enabled world of the 21st Century.

Launched the [BigAmbition campaign](#), fronted by a website that shows young people how rewarding careers in technology can be. The BigAmbition website features competitions, information and videos from a wide range of companies such as BA, MySpace and ITV. More than 9,000 14-19 year olds have already registered on the BigAmbition site.

Created the [Information Technology Management for Business \(ITMB\) degree](#) with employers and universities. ITMB ensures students graduate with a mixture of technical, business, and interpersonal skills that are in demand by businesses. The ITMB degree is running in 13 universities with 850 students, supported by 60 employers. 32% of students on the degree are female – more than double the proportion of female applicants to all IT-related degree courses.

Introduced the e-skills Internship, a professional placement scheme designed to boost the employability of graduates. The e-skills Internship builds on the best practices of existing placements, and creates an agreed national standard that focuses on developing skills in a real-life workplace environment. 250 employers, 500 students and 50 universities are involved in the e-skills Internship.

**To support IT professionals**, e-skills UK has:

Worked with employers to create new apprenticeship frameworks. In partnership with Microsoft, e-skills UK has developed a new approach to **apprenticeships** to make it easier for small and medium sized IT companies to take on apprentices. More than 4,000 people completed an IT & Telecoms apprenticeship last year, and apprenticeship completion rates have improved from 48% in 2004/5 to 83% in 2009/10.

Worked with employers to develop the **National Skills Academy for IT**. The Skills Academy provides IT professionals with access to industry-valued courses and qualifications that cover technical, business and interpersonal skills. It makes it easy for employers and individuals to find what they are looking for and for IT professionals to gain recognition for their skills.

Developed the **e-skills Professional Programme**, a flexible, Masters-level fast track development scheme that accelerates the business contribution of IT professionals in the early years of their careers. 100 participants from a wide range of companies are already undertaking these university courses which are co-funded by employers.

**To create an IT nation** where all people are able to make the most of technology, e-skills UK has:

Produced the **Business IT Guide**, an online service which helps small businesses make the most of technology. 75,000 people in SMEs have benefited from the Business IT Guide so far, and 92% of users say they would recommend the Business IT Guide to another business.

Created the **IT User qualification (ITQ)**, which more than 57,000 people have completed since April 2009. The John Lewis Partnership undertook an analysis which showed a Return on Investment of 140% for Departmental Managers undertaking a training programme leading to ITQ certification.

Worked with BIS, Enterprise UK and employers including Google and BT to develop '[Getting British Business Online](#)', a scheme which has helped get over 100,000 businesses online with a free website by the end of 2010. As part of the scheme, e-skills UK developed a bespoke ITQ training course which will be delivered by training providers nationwide.

Almost 40,000 people requested [e-skills UK's research](#) publications in the past two years, with that research used widely by employers, educators, media outlets and government officials.

**e-skills UK were rated 'outstanding' in the re-licensing of Sector Skills Councils for which e-skills UK showed through their strategic actions:**

- 35,000 individuals in small businesses have benefited from the Business IT Guide.
- 81% of the 50,000 students involved with BigAmbition say they're more likely to pursue a future in technology
- e-skills UK have changed girls' attitudes to IT through computer clubs, reaching more than 127,000 girls in over 3,700 schools
- More than 4000 people completed an IT & Telecoms apprenticeship on 2008/2009.
- e-skills UK created the Diploma in IT with more than 600 employers
- Nearly 40,000 people achieved their ITQ last year
- e-skills UK's IT Management for Business (ITMB) degree is running in 13 universities with 750 students
- In the previous year, 107,000 individuals directly benefited from e-skills UK's work.

More information at [www.e-skills.com](http://www.e-skills.com) or email [nigel.payne@e-skills.com](mailto:nigel.payne@e-skills.com)