

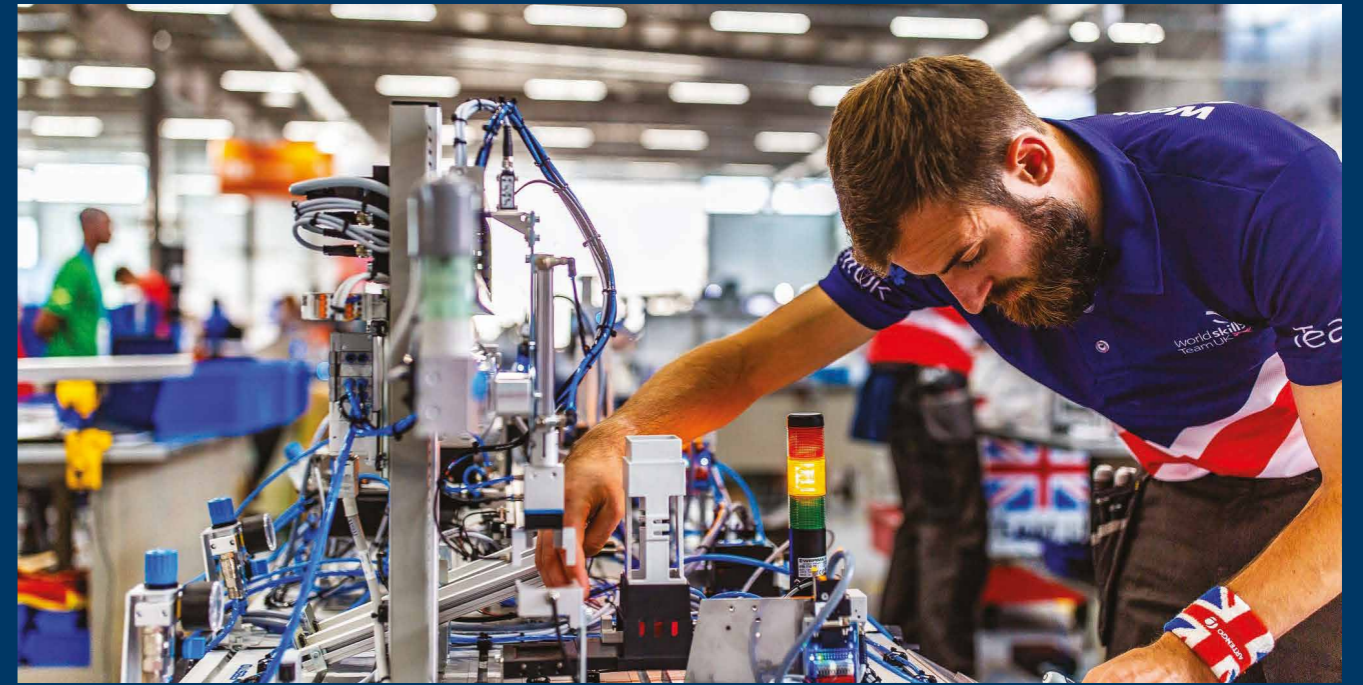
Centre of  
Excellence  
Toolkit



To support institutions  
in making an application

**NCFE**





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“The Centre of Excellence is a radical new way of working to bring global best practice to local economies and level up skills across the country – ensuring that we can embed international standards into training programmes and deliver what employers need in order to kick-start the economy.”

**Dr Neil Bentley-Gockmann OBE**  
**Chief Executive, WorldSkills UK**

“By providing much-needed investment in technical educators through the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence, we will mainstream international best practice into programme delivery. We are raising the bar for technical teaching and helping to create a cohort of highly skilled, employment-ready young people who can positively contribute to the workforce as we strive to rebuild the UK economy.”

**David Gallagher**  
**Chief Executive, NCFE**

## Championing demand for world-class technical education & apprenticeships



The 'Skills for Jobs' White Paper set out clearly the government's blueprint for post-16 learning for England. At WorldSkills UK, we welcomed the focus on driving up the quality of teaching and training to better prepare young people to meet employer and economic development needs with reference to the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence in partnership with NCFE.

The WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence is an award winning workforce development pilot to transfer insights from global skills systems and world-class practices to equip educators across technical and vocational education and training (TVET) with the knowledge and skills to embed international best practice to advance technical teaching, training and assessment.

Through our partnership with NCFE we aim to make a tangible, positive difference for learners in technical education by transforming the quality of teaching and learning, and by August 2023 we will:

- promote and advance technical learning so that teaching quality is higher, and staff, student and apprentice performance is raised
- support educators to gain high performing and industry relevant skills that enhance their career development and progression
- provide students and apprentices with increased confidence and career aspiration and give them a springboard to transition in to higher technical learning or work
- give employers a more highly qualified and skilled young workforce which will support higher business productivity
- boost social mobility to change the lives of learners of all backgrounds.



### For institutions

Inspire excellence in teaching, learning and assessment and advocate for world-class skills in every setting to support continuous improvement and innovation to develop highly performing and qualified apprentices and students ready for work.



### For educators

Enhance teaching practice and play an influential role in the development of young people with exposure to world-class insights, access to advanced techniques in skill development and technical learning.



### For learners

Raise levels of achievement for apprentices and students by boosting formal attainment and motivation so apprentices and students aspire towards skill excellence and support the development of a deeper understanding of skills for the world of work.

# How institutions will benefit and contribute towards mainstreaming excellence



The WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence provides an exciting proposition for colleges, Independent Training Providers and employer providers to apply to join the pilot programme and lead in the transformation of teaching, training, and assessment practices to contribute towards quality improvement from within their institutions. The pilot is comprised of four features:

## 1. Community of practice

We have seen great strength in our network from the first two years of the programme and we invite technical and vocational education and training (TVET) leaders, quality leads and teaching practitioners to join our community from the successful institutions.

We will share our calendar of workshops and forums to attend and participate in a range of opportunities either virtually or face to face (when safe to do so) to network with peers, collaborate, exchange, and share ideas.

## 2. Developing Skills Excellence - Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

Five teaching staff (see criteria page 5) from your institution will be coached and trained by a WorldSkills UK High-Performance Skills Coach who will transfer insights from global skills systems and world-class practices to equip educators with the knowledge and skills to embed international best practice to advance technical teaching, training, and assessment.

Through the programme educators will explore:

- WorldSkills UK international training methodologies
- World-class standards of practice in teaching and learning
- Competition based training techniques to raise quality and outcomes
- Developing mindset of learners and building resilience.

The CPD will be delivered through a combination of virtual and face to face sessions with a commitment totaling 10 days within the 2022-23 academic year.

As part of the application, we require institutions to have understood the commitment of time, criteria for selecting teaching staff (educators) and consideration to the CPD delivery method from October 2022 – February 2023. Delivery will take the form of block delivery totaling 10 days.

Teaching staff will be supported over the duration of the pilot by their associated High-Performance Skills Coach.

## 3. Knowledge and skills transfer

The five-teaching staff will be mentored and supported to cascade the learning to peers within their institution to create a network of inspirational world-class educators who will drive systemic change from within their institutions across the UK.

We would expect the knowledge and skills transfer to be cascaded to at least ten additional teaching staff by the end of the 2022/23 academic year to embed practices within your institution. This will be supported by a High-Performance Skills Coach, in addition to a condensed CPD package with online resources to cascade the learning to peers.

## 4. Impact and evaluation

Our partnership with NCFE is enabling us to deliver the pilot to help us test a range of methods and practices to better understand the most effective means of disseminating and mainstreaming excellence across TVET.

The delivery of the programme will be underpinned by a robust impact and evaluation framework to measure:

- reaction
- knowledge change
- what is being done differently?
- impact.

The methodology for collecting this data will include anonymised data from institutions, surveys, meetings, and case studies and therefore we require support from each institution to combine efforts in collecting data over the course of the pilot.



## Commitment and Criteria

### Essential Criteria:

The pilot is open to:

- Independent training provider and employers and employer providers with an excess of 150 16 - 24-year-olds engaging in learning programmes
- General FE colleges with an excess of 1,000 16 - 18-year-olds engaging in learning programmes.

Institutions must also be in a position to:

- Provide capacity to release annually five members of teaching staff for CPD over 10 days (non-teaching time) plus suitable additional time to implement programme activities in line with the agreed Cascade Plan.

Educators engaging in the programme must meet the following criteria:

- Be employed on a minimum of 0.8 FTE
- A substantive amount of delivery should cover both practical and technical learning within a Digital or STEM vocational context
- Have contact with at least 30 learners at Level 2 to 5, in order to transfer practice in a teaching and learning environment
- Be willing and able to cascade the techniques covered in the programme to peers as part of planned CPD activity, supported by their High-Performance Skills Coach as per details on page 4.

### Institution Commitments:

In addition to meeting the essential criteria, institutions will also commit to the following in order to maximise the impact of the programme:

- Nominate an Institution Lead, who should hold a senior leadership position within the institution. This individual will act as lead point of contact for WSUK and will hold responsibility for overseeing educator engagement in the programme and ensure opportunities to cascade techniques are available and supported.
- Nominate a Quality Lead to support educators in the dissemination of learning and assist in the collation of anonymised data and feedback.
- Pledge to support dissemination of best practice, knowledge, and skills transfer within institutions and to work with WorldSkills UK to achieve impact and mainstream excellence.
- The institution should identify the five-teaching staff to be involved by running their own internal recruitment process, ensuring a representation of individuals from underrepresented groups.



## How to apply to join the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence

## Supporting institutions make an application

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4
<p>Leadership teams can submit a video application from 4th April to 12pm on 6th May 2022.</p> <p>Institutions must demonstrate how they meet the criteria and commitments of the pilot, see page 7 for more information.</p>	<p>Applications will be jointly assessed by WorldSkills UK and NCFE from the 9th of May.</p>	<p>Following an internal moderation process, we will confirm the successful institutions from the end of May 2022.</p> <p>We will then schedule induction meetings with each institution's leadership team from Summer 2022 who will sign up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with WorldSkills UK.</p>	<p>From September 2022 we will publicise the institutions joining the pilot and work with each institution in readiness for delivery to start from October 2022.</p>

As part of the selection process, based on the review of the volume of high-quality applications we will, at our discretion, consider a range of factors including: vocational areas offered and curriculum specialisms; geographical spread and the engagement of under represented groups within vocational sectors.

- there is no requirement to have previously participated in WorldSkills UK competitions or deliver NCFE qualifications
- applications must demonstrate how they meet the commitment and criteria for joining the pilot
- we will host a series of webinars from April to May to introduce the programme and assist institutions consider their application
- we have provided the application guidance to help you prepare your video submission, which will be open from 12pm on 4th April to 12pm on 6th May 2022.



## Application guidance

Applications will take the form of a video presentation of no more than 15 minutes, during which institutions will provide details on how they meet the associated criteria and their vision for delivery of the programme.

Applications are required to be submitted through the WorldSkills UK website. Institutions will need to provide details of a senior point of contact and video presentation through a WeTransfer link.

On this page we have provided some guidance to assist you in preparing your application via a video presentation.

Due to the popularity and success of the programme for the last two academic years, there will be a limit of six places available for the academic year 2022/23.

*“Being part of the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence programme is an honour. I am working alongside a brilliant team with an amazing mentor. Every session is so insightful and extremely engaging. I thoroughly enjoy our sessions and it feels like I am doing this training programme for myself rather than my establishment. It has certainly highlighted areas where I would like to further develop my skills. The support offered is brilliant and I am really enjoying the resource.”*

**Katie Asgari, Educator, RNN Group**

### What we want to see as part of your application

- details about your institutions and who is making your application including confirmation of support and endorsement from your institution's senior leadership team e.g., Principal/CEO
- details about your learners and the potential reach of the programme e.g., geographical areas covered, number of learners, engagement with underrepresented groups and curriculum areas delivered
- we are keen to see where institutions believe the Centre of Excellence can provide benefit to the delivery within an organisation. With particular focus on the anticipated impact on areas such as quality improvement, training and assessment practices, learner engagement and associated outcomes
- we would like to know more about how you envisage the programme supporting you in the delivery of Apprenticeships, T-Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications
- we are interested to find out how you will select your five-teaching staff with a specific focus on STEM and underrepresented groups and how as an institution you will support your five-teaching staff to participate in the programme and carry out the skills cascade activity
- details of how your institution will support WorldSkills UK in measuring impact. We are interested to understand qualitative / quantitative frameworks in evaluating quality and performance and if the institution is prepared to release personnel and share these insights with us to report on effectiveness and impact of pilot
- we also welcome any additional information you wish to share with us to support your application.

## Get in touch

If you would like to find out more information about the pilot please visit the WorldSkills UK [website](#) or email [centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org](mailto:centreofexcellence@worldskillsuk.org)

WorldSkills UK is registered at  
332, Third Floor, 25 Wilton Road,  
London SW1V 1LW  
W: [worldskillsuk.org](http://worldskillsuk.org)



Charity number 1001586, Company number 02535199,  
VAT registration number GB945610716

"We are delighted to be part of the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence programme and to be able to access the expert support of the WorldSkills UK High Performance Skills Coaches. We are already seeing the positive impact on the staff involved in the programme to date, as they innovate their teaching, learning and assessment skills to embed world class competencies and standards. We are excited to soon be rolling out the programme across the college, so that all learners are able to develop world class skills to enable them to excel in their chosen careers."

**Gary Cumiskey, Deputy Principal / Chief Executive  
Middlesbrough College**

"I feel more confident with my teaching, learning and assessment approaches. I have enjoyed the discussions with other Colleges who teach different subjects and collaborating together. I am enjoying the training more and more each week and I feel this training stretches you as a Tutor, moulding you into an even better more efficient Teacher. The support which we receive is excellent and I would recommend others to complete this training."

**Heather Ferguson, Educator  
Middlesbrough College**



