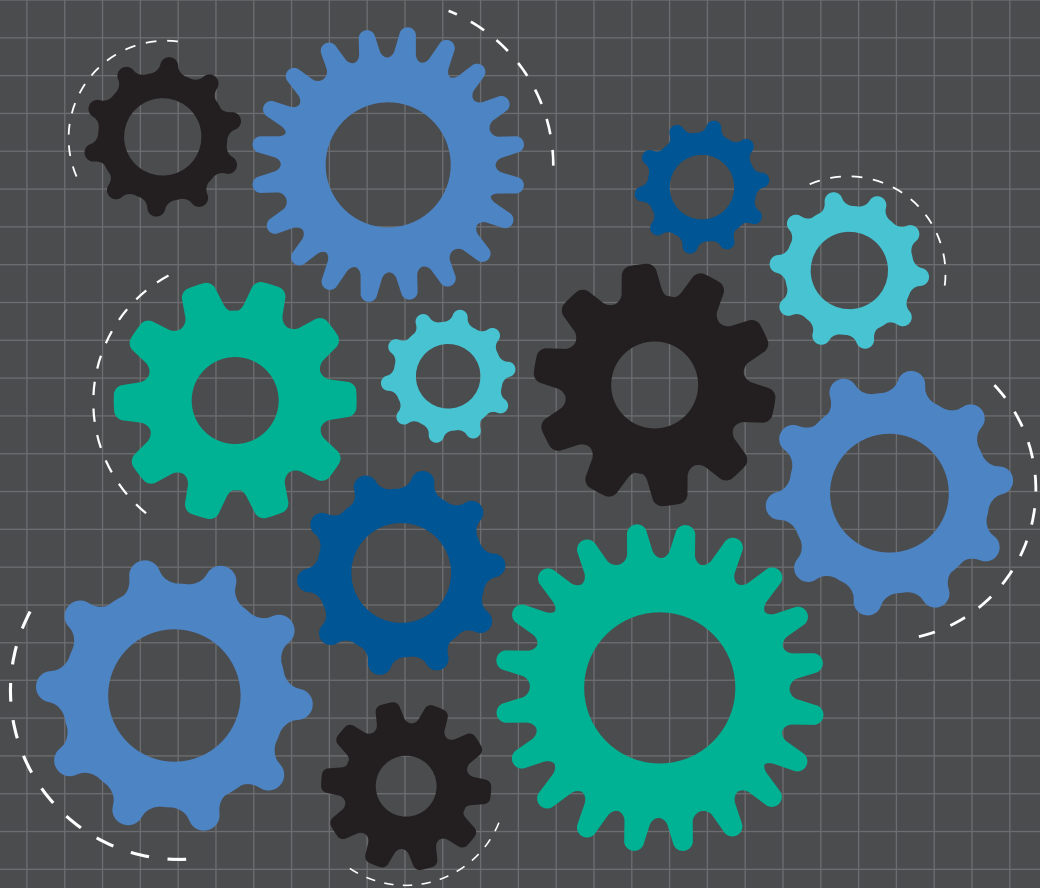


INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS



WHY ARE SKILLS IMPORTANT TO BUSINESS?

Whatever the shape, size and nature of your business, whether you manufacture products or deliver services, the one thing that sets you apart from your competitors, wherever in the world they are, are your employees. And more specifically, their skills, experience and knowledge.

A skilled workforce is flexible, adaptable, innovative and creative. A skilled workforce can spot new opportunities, develop new products and markets, make the most of new technologies;

give your business a competitive advantage. A skilled workforce is engaged, empowered and committed – because they see a successful future for themselves within your business.

Industrial partnerships give employers the chance to work together to define the skills they all need to create a skilled workforce. Industrial partnerships are putting businesses in the driving seat and are shaping the supply, content, standard and delivery of skills for their sector.









WHAT IS AN INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP?

Industrial partnerships are ‘owned’ and led by businesses; who determine what they will do and how. The employers involved look at their skills shortages as part of their wider business needs; not as a ‘bolt-on’. Because they are led by businesses, who understand their industry pressures, peaks and troughs and market demands, the industrial partnerships look at forecasting future skills needs. They plan to secure the quality of supply, striving for continuous improvement to grow their business and their sector.

By applying the same rigour to the skills supply chain as businesses apply to their other supply chains, individual business performance and UK productivity will improve.

Ultimately, recruiting, developing and upskilling people will fuel business growth, as well as improving productivity. It is employers who know best who to recruit and how to develop and upskill them. Collaboration is the only way to make this happen across whole industries and regions, so that businesses have a pipeline of talented people now and into the future.

There are currently eight industrial partnerships (chaired by):

Aerospace	Automotive	Creative Industries	Digital Economy
			
Energy & Efficiency	Nuclear	Science	Tunnelling
			

WHAT DOES AN INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP LOOK LIKE IN ACTION?

There isn't an industrial partnership blueprint, but we believe that to have impact they need: employer leadership; to be representative of and owned by the sector; and to have the drive and ambition to make a change.

Continuing with the supply chain analogy, they need to think about:

- ✓ building the pipeline of new talent – engaging, inspiring and supporting more young people into careers in their sector
- ✓ keeping pace and growth – by building the skills of the existing workforce to enable businesses to increase productivity, innovate and grow

- ✓ driving up quality, setting standards and making colleges and training providers responsive to their needs
- ✓ shaping the skills landscape nationally and locally - the partnerships' combined voice is a powerful one

Working together, businesses have the purchasing power to achieve economies of scale, stimulate demand and encourage new or more tailored training. They can set industry standards and work with employees and training specialists to drive up quality. They can also improve supply chain capability through best practice procurement and over-training for small businesses. In many areas this is already happening and there are models in place that facilitate investment in skills.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIPS ARE A SUCCESS?

The first eight pilot industrial partnerships are still quite new, but we have seen some early signs that they are already shaping the future of skills in their sectors.

By March 2017 these eight industrial partnerships will:

- define and co-ordinate the skills and talents needed by their industries and the people who will work in them now and in the future
- engage 16,000 young people to find out about or experience working in these sectors
- provide continuous professional development to 44,000 people in work
- deliver nearly 9,000 apprenticeships

- support 3,100 people to become higher skilled / specialists in industry-targeted areas
- continue to lead the development of new trailblazer standards

Individually the industrial partnerships focus on the skills challenges crucial to their sectors. As a collective group they represent a powerful voice to national and local government on shared skills needs such as the continuing shortage of young people with strong science, technology, English and maths, or the need for higher level digital skills.

The industrial partnerships know the skills challenges that threaten to undermine the productivity, competitiveness and growth of individual businesses and sectors at large; they are therefore the best placed to shape solutions to these challenges.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED IN AN INDUSTRIAL PARTNERSHIP?

If there is an industrial partnership for your sector:

The industrial partnerships are keen to broaden their reach to businesses in their sector.

To contact your industrial partnership please go to www.gov.uk/industrial-partnerships-an-overview

or contact IPTeam@ukces.org.uk and UKCES will put you in touch.

If your business is in a sector without an industrial partnership:

Where there is demand from businesses within a sector to develop a partnership UKCES can support and give advice on possible models.

If you are an employer and would like to discuss further please contact IPTeam@ukces.org.uk

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills (UKCES) is a publicly funded, industry-led organisation providing leadership on skills and employment issues across the UK.

Together, our Commissioners comprise a social partnership of senior leaders of large and small employers from across industry, trade unions, the third sector, further and higher education and across all four UK nations.

Our vision is to create, with industry, the best opportunities for the talents and skills of people to drive competitiveness, enterprise and growth in a global economy.

This is a collective agenda for employers working in partnership with government, trade unions, education providers, industry bodies and local organisations.

