

# ENABLING FUTURES: EMPOWERING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WITH DIGITAL SKILLS

Addressing the UK's digital skills gap with solutions that equip graduates with the capabilities they need for employment.

Digital skills are now more crucial than ever for employability and UK colleges and universities acknowledge that they must educate their students with these skills to ensure future success. However, at present, a discrepancy exists between what employers require and how students are being prepared for the workplace, and a lot of higher education institutions aren't equipped to take on the challenge on their own.

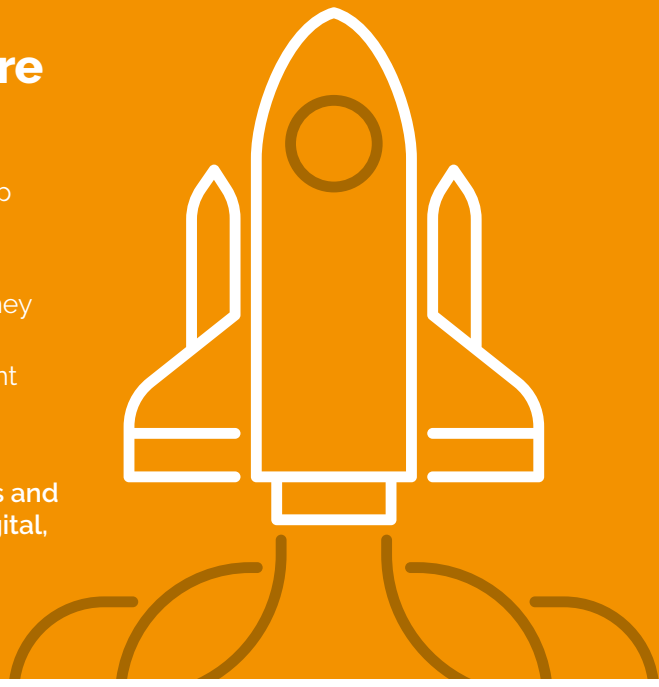
Educators need the support of partnerships between education institutions and the tech industry to resolve the digital skills gap and provide graduates with the tools they need to succeed on the job market. A new Microsoft report (in partnership with LinkedIn), '**DEGREE + DIGITAL: How today's UK academic institutions can equip students to thrive in tomorrow's workplace**' exposes the support UK colleges and universities need to prepare their students for the world of work and how digital transformation has changed the career landscape for graduates.

## Providing digital skills for the future

According to the report:

- 69% of leaders say their organisation is facing a digital skills gap
- Almost 80% of employers do not believe graduates arrive fully equipped with the skills they need for the workplace
- Many senior leaders at UK universities and colleges feel that they require support in preparing students for the digital workplace
- The digital skills employers are looking for include the confident use of documents, presentations, and spreadsheets, and knowledge of data, AI, and cloud technologies

Universities and colleges are challenged by a lack of resources and knowledge, budget restrictions, and due to the fast pace of digital, a difficulty predicting what skills employers will desire next.



In 2018, LinkedIn claimed that the **top three digital skills** organisations wanted from candidates were **cloud computing, statistical analysis and data mining, and middleware and integration software.**

But just two years later, in 2020, their top priorities had changed to **blockchain, cloud computing, and analytical reasoning.**

And, it is not just technical or IT skills that are in demand. In every sector, roles require soft skills too, including:



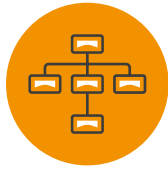
TEAM WORKING



CRITICAL THINKING



COMMUNICATION



LEADERSHIP

To meet the demand, students need access to relevant, informed advice on how to futureproof their education by aligning their degree to skills that are required in the workplace.

## The solution

Microsoft – alongside LinkedIn – has identified the key areas required to accelerate digital transformation and enhance digital skills for students through learning with the following solutions:



### CAREER COACH: PERSONALISED CAREER COACHING

A tool developed by Microsoft in partnership with LinkedIn to provide students with career guidance tailored to them to ensure that they graduate with the skills they need to increase their chances of employment.



### WORLD CLASS CURRICULA AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Both Microsoft Learn and LinkedIn Learning have been developed to help universities and colleges strengthen traditional subjects with additional modules and professional certifications centred around digital skills.



### BOOSTING WORKPLACE PRODUCTIVITY

Most roles require some digital ability and Microsoft's professional certifications and learning curricula ensure that every student graduating from higher or further education has the skills and knowledge to succeed in the modern workplace.

## TALK TO US ABOUT DIGITAL SKILLS FOR YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE

As Microsoft UK Partner of the Year 2021, we are the education sector's partner of choice to support digital transformation within further education.

Share your organisation's digital skill building challenges and requirements with us and we'll find outcome focused solutions that suit you. Book your **FREE 1:1** consultation with our Microsoft education specialist now:

BOOK NOW

[calendly.com/education-team-3/empowering-universities-with-digital-skills](https://calendly.com/education-team-3/empowering-universities-with-digital-skills)

## CONTACT US

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