



Key UK Government action/ initiatives underway relevant to digital skills:

- The new computing curriculum was introduced into schools in September 2014. A major impetus to redevelop the old ICT curriculum came from the creative industries – the NextGen report made a compelling case for a new curriculum that would give young people the skills to become makers rather than consumers. The new curriculum was developed to support students to gain the computational thinking skills to enable them to adapt to emerging technologies, and to prepare them for current and future career paths.
- The apprenticeship system is being reformed to enable employers to design apprenticeship standards that reflect their needs. A number of standards have already been created for digital roles including Network engineer; Software developer; Cyber intrusion analyst; and Data analysts.
- The Government's Digital Engagement Team is working with 92 cross-sector partners to meet the target set out in the 2014 Digital Inclusion Strategy to ensure that everyone who can be digitally capable by 2020, will be.
- SMEs under the Small Business Digital Capability Programme under the banner of Do More Online, were helped to acquire the digital skills to transact online through changing perceptions and providing targeted support.
- In November 2014 Tech City UK launched the pilot of the free online training platform (MOOC) 'Digital Business Academy' - designed to teach digital business skills.
- A new 'Introduction to Cyber Security MOOC' was developed with the Open University - an online course that provides a foundation level knowledge of cyber security skills, principles and concepts. This has seen over 70,000 "sign ups" so far.
- Jobcentre Plus is supporting the BBC Make it Digital traineeships, which started in August 2015 and are now being delivered in a number of locations across the UK. Make it Digital is aimed at 16- to 24-year-old NEETs who are interested in working in digital media. The eight-week programme consists of five weeks of employability and digital skills training and three weeks work experience.
- Part funded research on data analysis skills and facilitated the formation of a cross industry, academic and other agency Data Skills taskforce looking at measures to address the gap between the supply and demand of data science skills in the workforce.
- Degree Apprenticeships: which will enable young people to get a fully integrated honours degree in a computer science related discipline alongside on the job training. Initial courses started in the September 2015. These apprenticeships, are two thirds funded by Government with the remaining third (and an apprentice wage)

are funded by employers. Other degree apprenticeships are available in other disciplines.

- Ada National College for Digital Skills: the ambition for the College is for it to be a beacon for digital skills provision, providing high quality training driving up standards in Further Education Provision across the country. The College is planning to open in September 2016, with the ambition of reaching 5,000 students within five years.
- An independent review of computer science degree accreditation: to improve course quality and graduate outcomes. The government has asked Professor Sir Nigel Shadbolt to lead an independent review of computer science degree accreditation and graduate employment outcomes to explore in more detail what lies behind the relatively high rates of graduate unemployment and to look at what more could be done to improve this. The review is due to report in Spring 2016.
- Skills Funding Agency Review of Digital Skills Qualifications: Following industry feedback that FE digital courses were not rigorous enough and were not meeting the needs of employers the Skills Funding Agency has been commissioned to undertake a review of Digital Skills Qualifications. The Review made recommendations on how any reforms of Professional and Technical Education can best support responsive, employer-led, high level digital skills. The review was independently chaired by Liz Williams (BT) and was published in February 2016.
- Computer science degree conversion courses : Winning bids were announced in March 2016 for funding to support innovative approaches to increase the number of graduates pursuing computing science in disciplines in particular demand from industry such as data analysis and cyber security. Pilot courses lasting one year, predominantly at post graduate level, will start in the 2016-17 academic year.
- In November 2015 the Government announced it was going to establish a new Institute for Coding: Centre for Digital Skills and Computer Science. Its aim is to enable training of the nation's next generation of coders. The government will launch a competition to attract joint collaborations between universities and business for a capital prize of £20 million focused on digital skills and computer science.