



# Digital Skills Strategy

## A Skills Curriculum for a 21st Century Scottish Digital Nation

### Executive Summary

The Digital Scotland Tech Talent Pipeline is a collaborative, community-driven initiative aimed at addressing the digital skills gap by aligning educational offerings with the needs of Scotland's technology-driven industries.

By engaging businesses, educational institutions, government bodies, and community organizations, the initiative ensures that training programs are relevant, future-proof, and accessible to diverse populations.

The initiative aims to boost economic growth, enhance workforce diversity, and position Scotland as a leader in digital innovation.

<b>Initiative Overview.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Curriculum Development Process.....	3
Curriculum Delivery Methods.....	4

# Initiative Overview

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## Curriculum Development Process

The curriculum development process for the Scotland Tech Talent Pipeline initiative is a streamlined, collaborative effort to align educational offerings with industry needs. It begins with analyzing data from business surveys and interviews, identifying in-demand digital skills like AI, cybersecurity, and data analytics.

A task force of industry experts, educators, and Skills Development Scotland representatives then maps these skills to specific learning outcomes, competencies, and certifications, creating a modular curriculum framework.

This framework includes core modules (e.g., coding fundamentals), specialized tracks (e.g., cloud computing), and flexible delivery options (e.g., online, part-time, apprenticeships), emphasizing accessibility for diverse groups.

The draft curriculum is refined through stakeholder feedback, ensuring relevance and practicality. Finally, the curriculum is disseminated to colleges, universities, and training providers via workshops and a digital platform, with ongoing updates based on annual industry surveys to keep it aligned with evolving tech demands.

# Curriculum Delivery Methods

The curriculum delivery methods for the Scotland Tech Talent Pipeline initiative are designed to be flexible, accessible, and aligned with industry needs. Courses are offered through a mix of in-person, online, and hybrid formats to accommodate diverse learners, including full-time students, working professionals, and those in rural areas.

In-person classes, hosted at colleges and universities, focus on hands-on labs and collaborative projects, while online platforms provide self-paced modules, recorded lectures, and virtual simulations for skills like coding and cybersecurity.

Apprenticeships and work-based learning, developed with industry partners, integrate real-world projects, ensuring practical experience. Short, intensive bootcamps target rapid upskilling for specific skills like cloud computing or AI.

Delivery emphasizes inclusivity, with accommodations for underrepresented groups and modular structures allowing learners to customize pathways, such as part-time or stackable micro-credentials, to fit their schedules and career goals.