

What is the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering?



Our Mission

The Skills Academy's mission is to transform the education and training capability and capacity of public and private sector training provision, to ensure that the current and future needs of the employers are met; and the requirements and aspirations of their employees are fulfilled.

The need for the Skills Academy

The UK taxpayer contributes around half of the cost of the railways. Thus there is a huge government incentive to reduce costs and increase value for money which inherently requires the provision of a properly skilled workforce.

The need for investment in skills is largely determined by the requirements for the cost effective maintenance and renewal of existing assets and the demographics of the existing workforce. The challenge of delivering the major investment programmes coupled with the need to provide the necessary skills required to implement new technologies strongly reinforce these requirements.

The demand for railway engineering skills is growing (in terms of both quantity & quality) and there is a competing international demand for railway engineers, particularly professionals. There is also a competing demand for engineers from other UK sectors e.g. telecoms, manufacturing, construction, power and nuclear - all of which have skills academies and major initiatives to attract engineers of all levels.

accessible

The industry's vision is that by 2015, its engineering workforce will have the necessary skills to support the maintenance, development and expansion of a first-class, cost effective 21st Century railway.

The National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering (the Skills Academy) has been developed in collaboration with employers, training providers and stakeholders from across the sector. This includes infrastructure and traction and rolling stock owners and their associated supply chains together with train and freight operating companies working together to support the industry in achieving this vision.

The Skills Academy is the industry's chosen vehicle for leading the employers' response to the challenge of enhancing the national railway engineering capability to design, build and maintain this key component of the UK's infrastructure.

Research undertaken during the development and approval of the Skills Academy identified the following specific skills challenges faced by the industry:

1. Recruitment of school leavers to train as apprentices, with a career path to becoming professional railway engineers.
2. Recruitment, training and development of graduates to become the Level 4+ engineers of the future.
3. Encouragement and training of experienced engineers without degrees, to also become the engineers of the future.
4. Up-skilling of the engineering workforce to a minimum of Level 2, including transient workers.
5. General up-skilling of the workforce to meet the technology and efficiency demands of the railway of the future.
6. Training of today's craftsmen to become the supervisors of tomorrow.
7. 'Conversion' training of craftsmen and professionals from other sectors to become railway engineers.

What will the Skills Academy do?

The Skills Academy will develop and implement a unified railway engineering skills strategy for the whole industry, ensuring that training capability and capacity meets the future needs of Britain's railways. Its activities, shown below, are planned to include forecasting skills requirements, accreditation of training organisations, standardisation of training course content, Business to Business services for employers and training companies, and promoting careers in the rail industry.

Industry Promotion	➤	Schools initiative - commenced Jan 2011 to raise awareness of Railway Engineering and the excellent career opportunities it offers
Skills Forecasting	➤	Developing & maintaining a cross industry view of future (10 years +) skills needs and gaps
Accreditation	➤	Raising training standards through a unified industry accreditation scheme for training organisations, trainers and assessors.
Skills Passport	➤	A transportable recognised record of skills and competence for use by individuals and employers
Standard Course Content	➤	Rationalisation of training content & materials to support joined-up career pathways
Business to Business	➤	Enabling employers to find the best training and funding to meet their needs

Who is the National Skills Academy for Railway Engineering for?

- Employers – large and small.
- Training & skills providers – private, in-company, FE Colleges and Universities.
- Trainers including verifiers and assessors.
- Employees current and future from within and outside of the sector.
- Partners and stakeholders having an interest in education.

If you would like to know more about the Skills Academy please visit our website:

www.nsare.org or contact enquires@nsare.org