

South Devon College

Commitment to Delivering Skills in the Construction Sector

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'Inspiring our Community through Learning for All'

- South Devon College is located in Torbay, Devon
- We deliver outstanding teaching and learning to the semi-rural and wider region
- Courses are available for 14 year olds upwards
- We offer a broad range of further education courses, apprenticeships, higher education and short courses
- Our key aim is to meet the needs of the community and employers
- We have campuses in Paignton, Torquay, Newton Abbot and Kingswear on the River Dart
- Our exceptional environment and state-of-the-art facilities include the award-winning £17m Hi Tech & Digital Centre, dedicated University Centre and specialist Marine Academy



Aims and Objectives

- Closing the skills gap
- Long-term skills strategies for the region and UK plc
- A highly desirable and inspirational venue for learning
- A vibrant and flexible education system
- Developing strong industry relationships
- Centre of Excellence for delivery
- Anticipating future demand and innovation
- Work with partners influencing all levels and progression
- Support and inspire the local community, schools and businesses



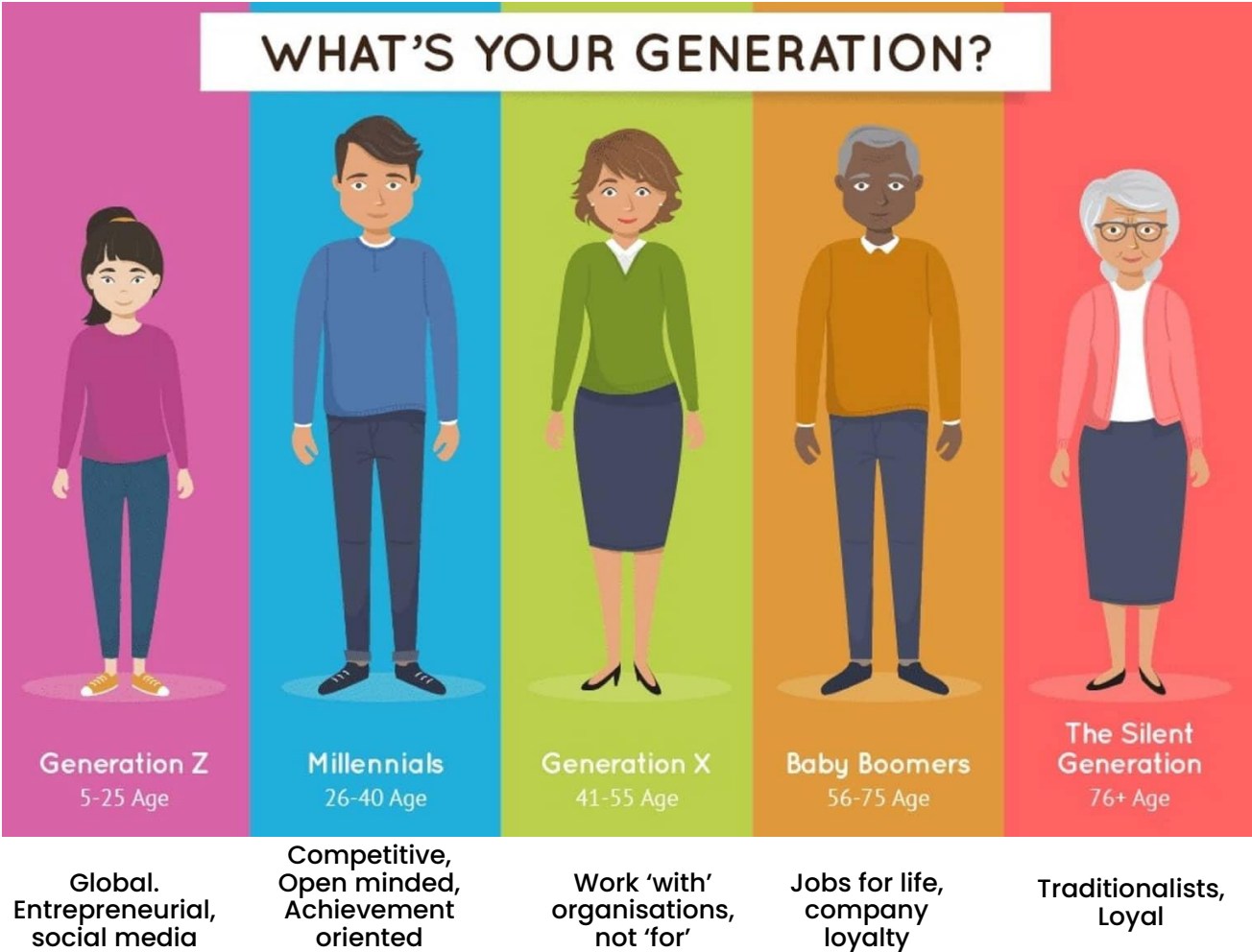
World Leading Facilities



How Do We Consider the Skills Development?

Generational Differences in Education and the Workplace

What are their attitudes to work?



How Do We Consider the Skills Development?

Developing the Intent

In order to contribute to employers' skills needs, South Devon College has adopted the following **strategies**:

- Carry out a **needs assessment** to identify the skills gaps for employers regionally and nationally
- Conducting **employer surveys**, holding **focus groups** or **consulting with industry experts** to identify the key skills that are needed in the region
- **Work with employers**: Engage with employers to understand their specific skills requirements and develop training programmes that are tailored to their needs
- **Working with industry bodies**, trade associations and chambers of commerce to identify the key employers in the region and develop partnerships
- Focus on **apprenticeships**: Promote apprenticeships as a way for employers to build the skills of their workforce
- Working with schools and colleges to **encourage young people** to consider apprenticeships as a viable career path

The Aim: Supporting Employers and Businesses

- This is our **long-established approach to Skills** at South Devon College
- Curriculum **continually developed** to support all key local sectors of business and the economy, making a strong contribution
- **Building confident students** who are competent, ready for employment, entrepreneurial and show creative enterprise
- Help to **recruit, train and retain** local talent
- Support and build **transferable skills**
- **Careers** is one of our pillars of Personal Development to support **confident and employable students**
- **Specialist curriculum staff** who have come from industry and remain current
- Know and **collaborate** with business
- **Lifelong learning**- continuing professional development to improve and adapt existing skills and develop new ones to grow local business and our economy

Technology changes our knowledge, skills and behaviour



Evolution of Skills Requirements

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S K I L L S C H A N G E

Evolution of Skills Requirements in Construction

Example:

Traditional skills:

- i.e. Manual drafting, physical prototyping, basic CAD



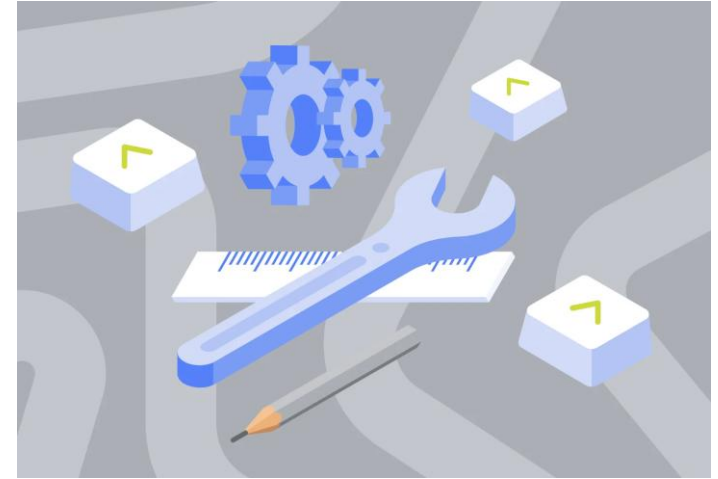
Modern skills:

- i.e. Advanced BIM, VR, programming, smart monitoring and control, AI applications, sustainability practices, diagnostics




Evolution of Skills Requirements in Construction

- **Greater Emphasis on Power/Soft Skills & Interdisciplinary Knowledge**
- Construction education now includes **project management, teamwork, communication, and sustainability & ethics.**
- Growing importance of **business, entrepreneurship and digital skills** for construction.
- More interdisciplinary courses combining **construction with finance, healthcare, digital and environmental studies.**



Meeting the of Skills Requirements in Construction Sector

– Groundworker Apprenticeship

Status: Approved for delivery 

Level: **2**

Reference: ST0513

Version: 1.2

Date updated: 14/03/2023

Approved for delivery: 7 December 2018



Route: Construction and the built environment

Typical duration to gateway: 18 months (this does not include EPA period)

Maximum funding: £9000

LARS Code: 388

EQA Provider: [Ofqual](#)

-  Role & Purpose
- Groundworkers are the first trade's on site.
- Tasks Include setting out sub-surfaces, installing drainage, concreting, building roads, pathways, and hard landscaping across a variety of construction environments
-  Key Responsibilities
- Interpret drawings and instructions to establish and prepare site substructures
- Construct and maintain drainage systems, paths, roads and hard landscaping
- Work safely with tools, machinery, materials and enforce site health & safety

Meeting the Skills Requirements in Construction Sector

- Newly Opened Clean Energy Centre
- £1.5M spent redeveloping and introducing new technologies
- Air Source, Ground Source heat pumps, solar thermal and EV Charger installation
- Designed to meet future and current needs – 60000 heat pumps by 2028!



Evolution of Skills Requirements in Construction

-  Recently Launched:
- First 7 Foundation Apprenticeships have recently been announced by Skills England
-  Duration & Start Date
- Typically 8 Months in duration with the earliest starts being from August 2025 – Subject to legislative changes reducing minimum duration from 12 months
-  Funding Bands
- Each funded between £3,000–£4,500 depending on the occupational sector

First 7 foundation apprenticeships

Name	Route	Funding band £	Typical duration
Building service engineering foundation apprenticeship	Construction and the built environment	4000	8 months
Finishing trades foundation apprenticeship	Construction and the built environment	4000	8 months
Onsite trades foundation apprenticeship	Construction and the built environment	4000	8 months
Hardware, network and infrastructure foundation apprenticeship	Digital	4000	8 months
Software and data foundation apprenticeship	Digital	4000	8 months
Engineering and manufacturing foundation apprenticeship	Engineering and manufacturing	4500	8 months
Health and social care foundation apprenticeship	Health and science;Care services	3000	8 months

Source: IfATE website

FEWEEK





Features of Foundation Apprenticeships

Target Group & Progression

- Designed for learners aged 16 to 21 or up to 24 years of age if you have an EHCP, are a care leaver, or have been in prison.
- Intended as entry-level, jobs with training at Level 2
- Supports progression into employment or onto higher-level apprenticeships

Programme Structure

- Combines technical training, employability skills, and English & maths
- English and maths study is required if not already achieved, but no need to pass a test to complete the apprenticeship

Employer Incentives

- Employers can receive up to **£2,000 per apprentice**
- Paid in phases linked to retention and progression milestones

Survey Feedback – ‘The Opportunity’

Working in partnership with CECA/Bridge Civil Engineering/AccXel

Paul Santer