



# The Diploma in IT

**The new Diploma in IT is transforming the way 14 to 19 year olds learn about technology.**

**e-skills UK worked with hundreds of employers, teachers and others to create the Diploma and is now focused on helping employers to support the first schools teaching it.**

## › The need for change in IT education

Career opportunities for IT professionals are varied and exciting. Yet every year fewer young people choose to study IT at school and university.

This downward trend is due, in part, to negative perceptions about IT education and a lack of understanding about modern careers in IT. The current IT curriculum is focused mainly on skills in the everyday use of IT and many young people believe a degree or career in IT will simply offer more of the same.

We must address this misperception as a matter of urgency and help to reform and support IT-related education with inspirational tools and content.

## › Facts to consider

- Current IT education does not reflect the excitement and relevance of a modern IT career.
- Our research has revealed that students' interest in IT education falls sharply at GCSE level. This has contributed to a dramatic decline in the number of young people studying IT-related subjects at higher levels – the number of students taking A-level computing has declined by 45% in the last four years and UK applicants to computing degrees have fallen by 50% in the last five years.
- Reversing these trends requires far reaching reform in IT education at all levels.
- An important first step in this reform is the introduction of the Diploma in IT, which focuses on the way in which IT is transforming our world.

## › e-skills UK action

Diplomas are new qualifications for 14 to 19 year olds which combine theoretical and applied learning. The Diploma in IT was developed with more than 600 employers and others in a partnership led by e-skills UK.

The Diploma in IT is innovative and inspiring. Due to its employer involvement its content is fresh, vibrant and up to date. Content is built around the themes of business, people and technology and focuses on how technology can be used to increase productivity and business success.

The Diploma in IT equips young people with the skills they need for a technology-enabled world, particularly those who are thinking of a technology or business career.

To help teachers deliver the Diploma in IT, e-skills UK is working with employers to create inspiring materials that can be used in the classroom. These materials include case studies from Logica and Cisco, multimedia resources and employer-backed 'How To' guides.



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Teachers are also supported through e-skills UK's virtual Staffroom. Here they can access e-skills UK's employer materials, share experiences and learn from each other.

Employers can get involved with the Diploma in IT through case studies, visits, work placements and lectures; helping to educate and inspire young people whilst motivating their own staff.

***“The Diploma in IT encourages curiosity and creativity and brings technology to life for young people. It builds knowledge and skills that prepare students for rewarding careers in IT and business.”***

Pat Hughes, BT

➤ **For more information** [www.e-skills.com/diploma](http://www.e-skills.com/diploma)

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An inside look at technology careers and education opportunities  
 Inspirational Videos \* Dream Job Quiz \* Personal Know-IT Challenge  
[www.bigambition.co.uk](http://www.bigambition.co.uk)

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 Delivering CC4G and Diploma \* ICT resources \* manage student progress \* share best practice  
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e-skills UK is the Sector Skills Council for Business and Information Technology, rated 'outstanding' in the relicensing of Sector Skills Councils in 2009. We work on behalf of employers to ensure the UK has the technology skills it needs to succeed in a global digital economy.

➤ **Rated Outstanding**  
 Sector Skills Council Relicensing 2009