
Improving Skills and the Use of Skills:

Responding to the needs of employers and learners and developing new services

Ray Harris
Interim Chief Executive



Overview

- Colleges in Scotland
- Skills and colleges
- Partnerships
- Examples
- Recession and recovery.

Scotland's Colleges – the facts

- 43 colleges, located across Scotland, with campuses from Stranraer to Lerwick
- Over 390,000 students attended a college in 2007-08
- 38% of Scottish 17 year olds and 35% of 16 year olds attend a college
- 26% of college students come from Scotland's most deprived areas
- Part-time study accounts for 84% of enrolments
- Average age of students in Scotland is 30

Skills and colleges

- Focus on employment
- Partnerships with:
 - Employers
 - Schools
 - Sector Skills Councils
 - Universities.
- Sustainable economic development.

Responding to the needs of employers and learners

Three contrasting examples:

- **Engineers of the Future**
(Capturing and enhancing talent to meet skills needs)
- **Skillzone**
(Potential MCMC students)
- **Technical Theatre**
(Meeting employer and individual needs).

Engineers of the Future

- Innovative five-year company sponsored programme
- Combination of practical skills, work experience and academic study
- Employed status for students from leaving school and leading to job on successful completion.

Who are the Partners?

- Forth Valley College
- INEOS (specialist chemicals manufacturer)
- Heriot-Watt University
- Adam Smith College
- SEMTA (Sector Skills Council for Science, Eng. and Manufacturing Technologies).

	Academic	Vocational and Handskills
<u>Year 1</u>	HNC Health and Safety Year 1 MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performing engineering operations • Emergency procedures • Health and Safety • Work Placement
<u>Year 2</u>	HND Health and Safety Year 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VQ3 • Projects (Work based)
<u>Year 3</u>	Ordinary Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Placement within sponsoring company
<u>Year 4</u>	Honour Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honours Project (Work based)
<u>Year 5</u>	Masters Degree	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters Project (Work based)

Benefits to Partner Company(ies)

- Early foothold in recruitment market for companies looking for engineers
- Attract high potential individuals to company
- Tailored to meet business needs
- Students will complete company specific projects during their training period
- Qualified engineers will have a good understanding of company operations and procedures
- Work ready graduates on completion of Masters

Benefits to Students

- Paid whilst you learn
- Real live work experience
- Through track to a Masters Degree
- Unrivalled support and mentorship
- Confidence developed reflected early in learning
- Step off points throughout programme if required (within SCQF).

Benefits to Scotland

- Workforce needs met, allowing continued development of key sector - chemical sector earns £9 billion a year for Scotland
- Increased co-working between schools (aware of programme through recruitment), colleges and university(ies)
- Increased parental/influencers support and understanding for vocational imperative.

Skillzone

- The Angus College 'Skillzone' is a specialised unit working with young students, many of whom have complex learning needs and chaotic lifestyles
- Main focus is employability skills evidenced through nationally recognised City and Guilds qualifications
- Encompasses community projects, volunteering, supporting others and work placements
- 48 week programme can be started at any time.

Skillzone

- In addition, involvement of an independent educational psychologist provides detailed evidence of 'distance travelled' by students.
- 07-08: Positive Student Outcome 86.4%
- 08-09: Positive Student Outcome 95.5%

Skillzone

- Skillzone Team are also project leaders in European MASS Project (Measuring and Assessing Soft Skills)
- International partners – Sweden, Greece, Hungary and the Netherlands.
- Local partners in delivery Schools, CLD and Youth Agencies
- Acknowledged as sector leading practice by HMle and shortlisted for other awards.

Theatre Technicians

Partners:

- Creative and Cultural Skills
- Festival Theatres
- Edinburgh's Telford College
- RSAMD
- Queen Margaret University.

Specific to Scottish economy



Parliamentary Debate: 01 10 09

- *It was apparent from the earliest days of the recession that there were some core characteristics that the Government and its partners would need to exhibit as we tackled this unprecedented challenge. Among those were resilience, flexibility and responsiveness. Scotland's colleges have risen to that challenge.*

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning (Fiona Hyslop)

Parliamentary Quotes

- *Scotland's colleges play a vital part in sustaining and developing the Scottish economy. Scotland's colleges truly provide excellent value to the public purse.*
Karen Whitefield (Labour)
- *Scotland's colleges are central to tackling the recession and preparing for the upturn*
Margaret Smith (Lib Dem)
- *Scotland's colleges are highly innovative and can set up new courses with a flexibility that is not always seen in our university sector.*
Mary Scanlon (Conservative)

Parliamentary Quote

- *... no one can fail to acknowledge the commitment that Scotland's colleges have shown in their response to the economic recession. At our request, and in response to the demands of the recession, they have reprioritised their learning provision to ensure that what they offer gives students the best possible chance of employment.*

The Minister for Schools and Skills (Keith Brown)

Outcome

That the Parliament recognises that Scotland's colleges are central to the Scottish Government's plans for tackling the recession and preparing for economic recovery; agrees that through the provision of flexible, locally relevant skills and training they are helping individuals and employers build for recovery;

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Contact Details

- **Tel: 01786 892030**
- **ray.harris@scotlandscolleges.ac.uk**
- **www.scotlandscolleges.ac.uk**