

## ConstructionSkills – What does it do?

Since our launch two years ago, ConstructionSkills has been working both to influence Government education and training policy and gain funding for the industry. The focus is squarely on getting the best for you, the UK construction industry. Our four key goals are:

- Reducing skills gaps and shortages.
- Improving performance.
- Boosting skills and productivity.
- Improving learning supply.

### What's in it for you?

We're striving to ensure that the voices of construction professionals like you are heard. We want to see real benefits for you and your business so that our industry can meet the challenges ahead – this means:

**Finding the right people** – attracting the brightest and best to our industry and helping to retain experienced and knowledgeable professionals.

**Providing the best possible training** – improving the quality of training on offer to meet employers' needs.

**Looking to the future** – ensuring that the future skills needs are addressed for every UK region.

**Get involved and help to shape your industry.**

**If you'd like to be kept informed on developments, would like to share your views or would like to get more actively involved in your region then visit**

**[www.constructionskills.net/professionals](http://www.constructionskills.net/professionals)**

## Making professional employers' needs top priority

Employer engagement is fundamental to the success of the ConstructionSkills Agreement. With this in mind, CIC-ConstructionSkills is creating a series of Employer Panels around the country, with the first already up and running in London. Further Panels are currently being developed in the South East and the North West regions and other areas look set to follow suit in the near future.

These regional Panels will give employers the opportunity to express their concerns about recruitment and retention of qualified staff and graduates among construction professionals. The structure and remit for these new Employer Panels will follow the example set by London and will include representatives from a cross-section of professional disciplines.

These Employer Panels will:

- Offer input from an employers' viewpoint on actions to reduce skills gaps
- Guide and react to initiatives proposed by CIC-ConstructionSkills

Current issues being investigated by the London Employers Panel include a lack of practical and people skills in graduates and a general under-investment by firms in training.

To find out more about this initiative or to enquire about joining a regional Employer Panel, please contact Janette Welton on 020 7399 7400 or email [jwelton@cic.org.uk](mailto:jwelton@cic.org.uk)



### New 14-19 Specialised Diploma

Work is in progress by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) on a range of Specialised Diplomas, which will sit alongside the present GCSE and A-level qualifications. The first phase of these, which will include a Construction Diploma, will be launched in September 2008. This will include compulsory work experience.

### Positive Image – latest campaign successfully helps to boost industry image

The ConstructionSkills Positive Image campaign continues to raise the profile of construction careers to young people. During April a new TV advertisement supported by PR and online activity will commence. The campaign aims to present the scale and scope of opportunities available in the construction industry from craft through to professional occupations. Look out for campaign activity throughout 2006.

# Attracting the best

Following the great success of the Inspire Scholarships scheme in 2005, which saw ConstructionSkills receive over 200 applications in its first year, the scheme is set to continue this year with support from a wide variety of employers. The scheme aims to address employers' concerns about current skills gaps and staff proficiency by attracting large numbers of high calibre young people into the construction industry.

Successful applicants receive a bursary of up to £9,000 to support them through university while also gaining valuable work experience during a 10-week summer placement with their sponsor and potential employment on graduation. In this way employers can maximise their investment and save on recruitment costs, supported throughout the whole process by ConstructionSkills which acts as a co-sponsor and broker between employers and students.

Any employer interested in enrolling for the programme should contact Karen Patrick on 01509 283174 before the end of June 2006 or for more information please refer to [www.bconstructive.co.uk/scholarships](http://www.bconstructive.co.uk/scholarships).



# Want to improve your performance?

As the UK's largest industry, we need a skilled and qualified workforce. Whether you need to train your staff or want to further develop your own skills, ConstructionSkills can help you reach your goals. Through our work with government and industry on Sector Skills Agreements we are working to boost the skills and productivity of professions such as yours within construction. The Sector Skills Agreements are real opportunities to reduce the skills gaps among professionals by brokering the delivery of training that you want. This work will shape tomorrow's construction training, ensuring it keeps pace with your needs.

We'd like to know what you think of current training provision and what else you think is needed.

**If you're an employer** – what training do you think your staff need or what would benefit them further?

**If you're a construction professional** – what training would you like to further your career?

Let us know your views at [www.constructionskills.net](http://www.constructionskills.net)



# ConstructionSkills in the Regions

CIC-ConstructionSkills work in the regions continues with the addition of a full-time member of staff dedicated to the South East. Janette Welton is the new CIC regional administrator for London and the South East and can be contacted on 020 7399 7400 or email [jwelton@cic.org.uk](mailto:jwelton@cic.org.uk) We are also currently recruiting a Regional Co-ordinator for the North West who will be based in Manchester.



# Planning for the future

To help make the best decisions about the future of the construction industry, ConstructionSkills is co-ordinating the newly created Construction Skills Network. This has been developed to produce authoritative data and predictions which provide a clear view of the industry's current status and confirm future goals and objectives.

To ensure that research draws on knowledge from as wide a number of sources as possible including government, construction companies, training providers, regional organisations and customers, 12 Regional Observatory Groups and a National Group have been established. Comprehensive reports produced by the Construction Skills Network on current skills levels, the first of which is expected to be published in Spring 2006, will enable the industry to plan for the future and aid construction companies with recruitment and training. For further information please refer to [www.constructionskills.net](http://www.constructionskills.net).

# We're here for you

The Construction Industry Council, which represents construction professionals, is a partner in ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for construction. Working in partnership with CITB-ConstructionSkills and CITB Northern Ireland as ConstructionSkills we represent the whole of the industry, from the crafts to the professions, and cover the whole of the UK.

**To keep up to date on the work of ConstructionSkills sign up now to receive our e-update at [www.constructionskills.net](http://www.constructionskills.net)**



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