
SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN ENVIRONMENT (ACNA5000)

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Lecture 2: Skills and Opportunities in Environment

Date	Lecture #	Lecture topic	Activity
01/10/24	1	Introduction to ACNA5000	
08/10/23	2	Skills and Opportunities in Environment	
15/10/23	3	Community Engagement and CSA	
22/10/23	4	FIELDWORK WEEK	Cae Tan Visit
29/10/23	5	Communicating and the Environment	
05/11/23	6	Building YOUR Brand	
12/11/23	7	Blogging for Science & Sustainability	
19/11/23	8	GREEN ECONOMY CONFERENCE	Swansea Arena Conference
26/11/23	9	Employability and Digital Skills (S. Gill)	Digital Skills Team
03/12/23	10	Online GAM modules: Units 1 and 2	
10/12/23	11	Online GAM module: Unit 3 and 4	
	12	Christmas Break	
	13		
	14		

OUTLINE

- Icebreaker: Skills in Environment
- Types of Skills
- Hard versus Soft Skills
- What even is upskilling?
- MOOC
- ESRI StoryMapActivity



ACTIVITY:

In the previous lecture you were asked to visit a jobs website and review opportunities in your field of interest.

What skills were stated?

What skills were implied?

How attainable were these jobs to graduates?



Skills:

“the **ability**, coming from one’s **knowledge**, practice, aptitude, etc., to **do something well**” (dictionary.com)

“the **ability** to use one's **knowledge** effectively and readily in execution or performance”
(merriam-webster.com)



Types of Skills:

There are a variety of ways of classifying or grouping skills:

Hard vs. Soft

Special vs. General

Professional vs. Life

Fundamentally, a lot of overlap between classes types e.g. Hard and Special are similar.



Hard Skills



- Specific skills, often called technical skills, required for a role.
- Often need to be taught by an experienced person or teacher / professional.
- Without the hard skills, the role cannot be completed.
 - Can usually be measured

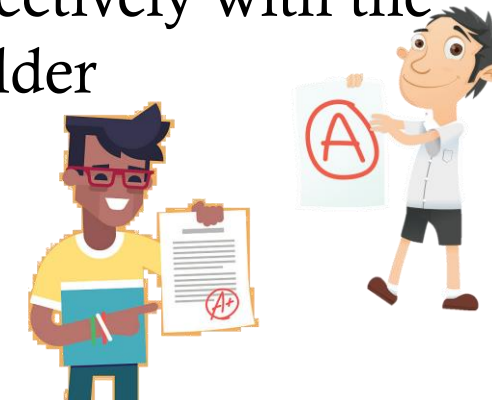
Importance of either hard or soft varies, but generally both are required.

While two or more individuals can have matching qualifications (hard skills), the soft skills can determine who will fit more effectively with the existing team and necessary client / customer / stakeholder interactions...

Soft Skills



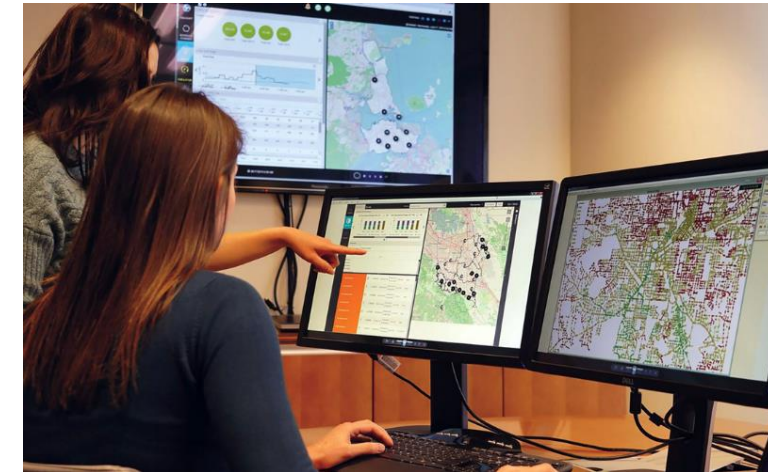
- General skills, which can apply across multiple situations.
- Often developed over time through interaction with others (professionally and personally).
- Influence the ability to conduct a tasks with others.
 - Harder to measure



Activity 1:

Sort the below list of skills into hard and soft for the profession of 'Geospatial consultant':

- Computing / Office software (Powerpoint, word)
- Time management
- Initiative
- Problem solving
- ArcGIS or QGIS
- Communication skills
- Budgeting
- Teamwork
- Active listening
- Cartography
- Geography / environmental sciences

**Activity 2:**

Find a job specifications for a role you would be interested in and determine which are the hard and soft skills.



It is useful to regularly evaluate your current skill set.

This allows you to identify:

- current strengths, and to promote these
- what skills require further development
- which skills you may need to start developing for future career opportunities / professional development.

Jobs often require you to evaluate your skillset and determine what your current levels are, and where you wish to enhance these going forward for career progression.

This is called Continuing Professional Development (CPD), and can be undertaken at varying review frequencies, including annual or more frequently.

Even if an employer does not require an annual CPD review, it is a good idea to do this yourself – it shows willingness to learn.



Having identified which skills have currently, will need in the future, and need advancing, you can then develop a Personal Development Plan (PDP)

A PDP is relevant only to you, and allows you to set out which areas you wish to address, how, and when.

A PDP is effectively the plan to which you set your development goals. While employers can guide you on this, you should also have a say on what you care about, and what you want to improve, as well as what is good for your current or planned role.

Once you have completed learning / development outcomes, these can then be recorded in a CPD log.

This is a great way of advertising to employers your on-going commitment to self enhancement.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

LOG TEMPLATE

Please provide the following information for each learning activity, until you reach 35 hours of CPD (of which 20 hours must be participatory). For examples of the types of CPD activities you could undertake, and the types of evidence you could retain, please refer to Guidance sheet 3 in How to validate with the NMC.

Guide to completing CPD record log

Examples of learning method

- Online learning
- Course attendance
- Independent learning

What was the topic?

Please give a brief outline of the key points of the learning activity, how it is linked to your scope of practice, what you learnt, and how you have applied what you learnt to your practice.

Link to Code

Please identify the part or parts of the Code relevant to the CPD.

- Prioritise people
- Practise effectively
- Preserve safety
- Promote professionalism and trust

Dates:	Method Please describe the methods you used for the activity:	Topic(s):	Link to Code:	Number of hours:	Number of participatory hours:
				Total:	Total:

(Please add rows as necessary)

"I have a very particular set of...

It is worthwhile to spend time thinking about, and recording, your current skill set and competency level.

Activity:

Take a few minutes to reflect on your current skill levels across the following areas:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| | Leadership and Management | Team Building | Organizational |
| Analytical | • Advising | • Collaboration | • Coordinating |
| • Critical thinking | • Coaching | • Communication | • Goal setting |
| • Data analysis | • Conflict resolution | • Flexibility | • Meeting deadlines |
| • Numeracy | • Decision making | • Listening | • Multi-tasking |
| • Reporting | • Delegating | • Observation | • Prioritizing |
| • Research | • Diplomacy | • Participation | • Project management |
| • Troubleshooting | • People management | • Respect | • Scheduling |
| | • Problem solving | • Sharing | • Strategic planning |
| | • Strategic thinking | | • Time management |
| | | Professionalism | |
| | | • Dedication | |
| | | • Honesty | |
| | | • Integrity | |
| | | • Maturity | |
| | | • Patience | |
| | | • Reliability | |
| | | • Self confidence | |

...combined abilities and knowledge which I can readily execute with aptitude..."

"I have a very particular set of...

It can be useful to visit websites with quizzes that can guide your skills evaluation.

National Careers Service
Explore careers Skills assessment Find a course Contact us Action plans Careers advice

BETA Complete an independent survey to [give us feedback](#) about our website.

Seasonal work: advice for finding work this Christmas

Skills assessment

Find out about careers that might be right for you by taking one of our assessments.

A skills assessment can be helpful at any stage of your career, like when you:

- start your career
- return to work
- progress your career

Transferable skills are a set of skills that you're good at. You can build them up over time, through work, volunteering, education and life. You can apply these skills to a range of jobs.

You may want to take an assessment to help you:

- find out what interests and motivates you
- identify your skills
- find out what you can do with the skills you have

Speak to an adviser
You can call [0800 100 900](tel:0800100900) or [use webchat](#) to speak to an adviser.
We're open:
• **8am to 8pm** Monday to Friday
• **10am to 5pm** Saturdays and [bank holidays](#)
We're closed on Sundays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/skills-assessment>



<https://greennewcareers.org/quiz/>



QUIZ: Love the environment? Take the quiz to find your green career match!

If you are considering a career related to sustainability or that supports the environment, take our green careers quiz to help you decide.

From sustainability focused careers to environmental science jobs, once you answer this short, 10-question quiz we'll reveal the career options that suit you most.

<https://www.grandshake.co/post/environment-green-career-quiz>

These quizzes can help you to identify your strengths, as well as your current skill gaps.

Advice: Skill gaps are not necessarily weaknesses. If you have identified them, and can demonstrate you are working towards them, employers will see the benefits, as opposed to simply trying to hide this.

...combined abilities and knowledge which I can readily execute with aptitude..."

The Top 10 Soft Skills



Communication



Self-motivation



Leadership



Responsibility



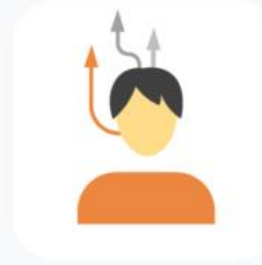
Teamwork



Problem solving



Decisiveness

Ability to Work
Under Pressure
and Time Management

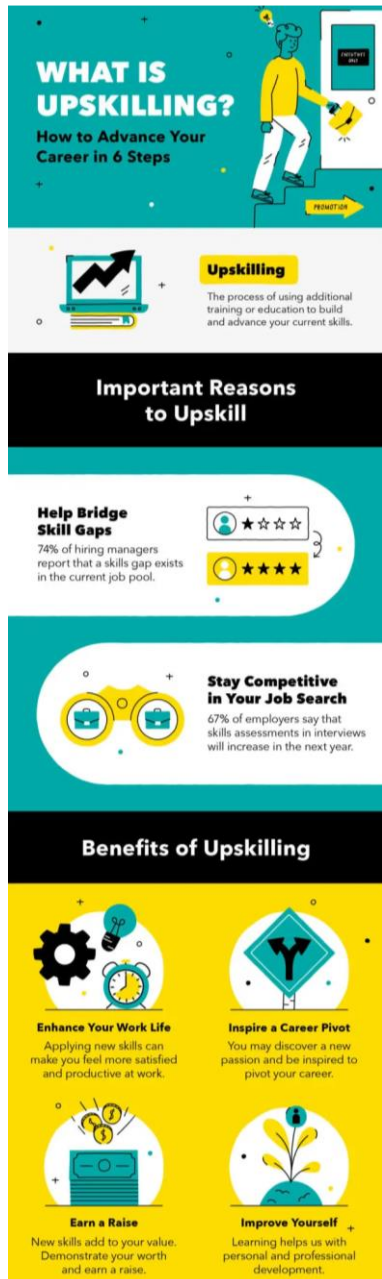
Flexibility

Negotiation
and Conflict Resolution

Activity:

- Find an example of a soft skills assessment online
- Share your example with your group
- Complete a short soft skills assessment

Free competency test | Discover your soft skills ([jobpersonality.co.uk](https://www.jobpersonality.co.uk))



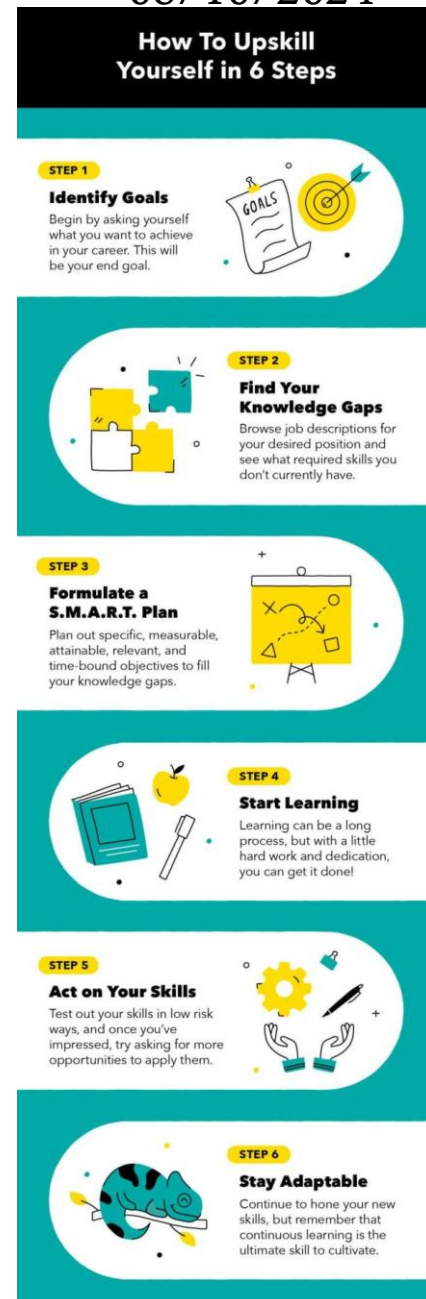
Knowing what your skill gaps provides a great opportunity to demonstrate commitment to self-development.

Upskilling is a key process to consider, before, and during, employment.

As a student, you are already upskilling, as you have chosen to learn new things.

However, there are various additional, easy (and often free!) steps you can take:

- Identify new skills / training via free online resources (MOOCs).
- Volunteer at relevant organisations
- Develop your subject awareness





Improve or acquire
new professional
skills.



Build your resume by
adding your MOOC
certificates.



Take the courses
delivered by the best
schools/universities.



Learn at any time,
anywhere.



Work at your own
pace whenever you
want.

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC):

- Free online courses
- Available at any time
- Often self-paced
- Large variety of providers and content
- Often provide a certificate of completion (not accredited)
- No entry requirement – anyone can join

While they are easily accessible, there are some key points to consider:

- Quality of the resource – is the provider established / accredited?
- Which courses are most relevant to you? Target your selection
- They can demonstrate personal interests, and willingness to learn, to prospective employers, but do not count as official additional qualifications.
- [What is a MOOC and how do they work? - Save the Student](https://www.savesthestudent.org/extra-guides/a-no-nonsense-guide-to-moocs.html)
(<https://www.savesthestudent.org/extra-guides/a-no-nonsense-guide-to-moocs.html>)



OpenLearn

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Free courses

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Why study a free course on OpenLearn?

Advantages of enrolling on a free course

Badged courses

Frequently asked questions

Study with The Open University

Create your free OpenLearn profile

Anyone can learn for free on OpenLearn, but signing-up will give you access to your personal learning profile and record of achievements that you earn while you study.

Sign up now for free

Take your learning further

Making the decision to study can be a big step, which is why you'll want a trusted University. We've pioneered distance learning for over 50 years, bringing university to you wherever you are so you can fit study around your life.

All our free courses

You can search by course title. You can also search for OpenLearn courses associated with an Open University course by searching for the course code.

Search free courses

Health, Sports & Psychology

Education & Development

History & The Arts

Languages

Money & Business

Nature & Environment

Course title	OU module	Hours	Level
Animals at the extremes: hibernation and torpor	S324	14	Intermediate
Animals at the extremes: polar biology	S324	14	Intermediate
Animals at the extremes: the desert environment	S324	14	Intermediate
Aquatic mammals	S182	5	Introductory
Biofuels	S173	5	Introductory
Can renewable energy sources power the world?		24	Introductory
Changing cities	D837	15	Advanced

Examples of MOOC's that you may find useful include:

- LinkedIn Learning
 - Available for free as a UWTSD student
- OpenLearn
 - Offered by Open University

in Learning

What do you want to learn today?

Notifications

Me

EN

Home

Browse

Business

Creative

Technology

University of Wales Trinity Saint David

My Learning

My Library

My Goals

Certifications

Office Hours

Learning Path

New to LinkedIn

3h 31m

Learning Path

Research skills

44m

Learning Path

Microsoft Office Specialist Excel courses

8h 45m

Learning Path

Developing your res...

Collections from University of Wales Trinity Saint David

Show All

Collection

Office 365 Essentials for staff and students

8 items

Collection

Leadership and Management Training

34 items

Collection

Academic Skills: Academic Writing

6 items

Collection

IT Service Desk Custom...

Lecture 2: Skills and Opportunities in Environment

Free educational resources from the world's leading experts on sustainable development

All Courses ▾  All Goals ▾ All Experts ▾

SELF PACED



4 Equity Inclusion 10 Gender Equality

Any Time

Equity And Inclusion In Education

Learn about the ten core aspects of equitable education, why they are important, and what can be done to

MORE →

INSTRUCTOR PACED



8 Decent Work And Economic Growth

Start Date: Oct 3, 2023

Decent Work And Economic Growth: Achieving SDG 8

In the pursuit of decent work and economic growth it is essential to understand the drivers of informality and structural

MORE →

INSTRUCTOR PACED



3 Good Health And Well-being 15 Life On Land

Any Time

One Health In Practice: Solutions For Healthy People

Learn about the frameworks used to visualize ecosystem resilience solutions under the One Health approach.

MORE →

SELF PACED



11 Sustainable Cities And Communities

Any Time

Shaping Urban Futures

Learn how to study, analyze and shape the future of the urbanization

MORE →

SELF PACED



1 People Without Poverty 10 Reduced Inequalities

Any Time

Making Universal Social Protection A Reality

What is social protection? Why it is important in confronting the major

MORE →

SELF PACED



17 SDG

Any Time

Using The SDGs For Government Action

A microcourse for public servants and policymakers.

MORE →

Lecture 2: Skills and Opportunities in Environment

Examples of MOOC's that you may find useful include:

- Subject specific
 - Tailored courses related to a particular subject area
- University specific
 - Various university's offer free MOOCs

Google

 **University of York**
<https://www.york.ac.uk/study/moocs>

Free online courses - Study at York

Designed by York academics, our Massive Open Online Courses (**MOOCs**) are free and open to everyone. Engage with **university-level** study, explore a new subject ...

 **The University of Manchester**
<https://www.manchester.ac.uk/online-blended-learning>

Massive open online courses (MOOCs)

Our massive open online courses – or **MOOCs** – bring The **University** of Manchester's teaching to a global audience. All you need to undertake a **MOOC** is an internet ...

 **University of Birmingham**
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/courses/moocs>

Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs)

A **MOOC** is a free, open, online course designed to offer a taste of higher education to learners from across the **UK** and the world. The **University** of ...

You visited this page on 11/09/2023.

 **University of Glasgow**
<https://www.gla.ac.uk/study/mooc>

Study - MOOCs at Glasgow

The **University** of Glasgow is currently offering **MOOCs** via the FutureLearn and ... medical students to understand the importance of breastfeeding in the **UK**.

 **University of London**
<https://www.london.ac.uk/study/free-short-courses>

Free short courses

The **University** of London offers a range of free Massive Open Online Courses (**MOOCs**). We also offer a number of online degrees, and individual courses and ...



While paid professionals often support and encourage professional skills development, personal skills development is harder to gain without practical exposure and experience of work environments

Before your first official job, it will be hard to gauge your personal skills e.g.

- How well will you manage conflict in work?
- How well will you adapt to a new setting or scenario?
- What strengths do you bring to a team environment

Volunteering provides you a safe, and free, environment to discover and identify these personal traits.

They also allow you to gain knowledge of the workplace and your professional are of interest.



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE TALK AND DISCUSSION TUE 15TH OCT 2PM

SUSTAINABLE CSA-FARMING PRACTICES,
TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IQ-BUILDING ROOM 305



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT A.FLATLEY@UWTSO.AC.UK

Funded by UK Government  Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU



FIELD TRIP TO CAE TAN CSA

**WEDNESDAY 23RD OCTOBER
10AM TO 4PM**

A DAY OF PRACTICAL VOLUNTEERING.
LEARN ABOUT SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE
AND LOCALLY GROWN FOOD.



FREE TRANSPORTATION FROM IQ-BUILDING

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL: A.FLATLEY@UWTSO.AC.UK

Funded by UK Government  Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU

Opportunities in and around Swansea:



Visit What we do Holidays Get involved Shop Membership

Find a volunteering opportunity

Home > Get involved > Volunteer > Find an opportunity

Why volunteer

Ways to volunteer

Find an opportunity

Notice!

When using the search feature please press 'Enter' or select the 'Search' button instead of one of the suggested search terms on the drop-down list as this causes an error message.

We are working with our supplier to resolve this. Thank you for your understanding.

Search for an opportunity

How does this feature work?

Enter a National Trust site, postcode, city, town or county

Swansea, UK

Search

☐ or could be done at home or at various locations

☐ or show results from anywhere

2 opportunities within 20 miles of National Trust - Swansea

Refine your search

Switch to map view

Dinefwr

Number of opportunities: 2

Carmarthenshire

18.3 miles

Music Volunteer - Dinefwr
A six month project starting in June, help us to bring Newton House to life with music! Help us co-ordinate pianists to play weekly in the Dining Room and assist with the delivery of our programmed music events.
[More details](#)

Visitor Experience Volunteer
Our House Experience Volunteers add the sparkle to any visit – giving everyone a warm welcome, bringing stories from Dinefwr to life and helping people get the best out of their day. Mondays & Wednesday.
[More details](#)



The Environment Centre

Become part of our volunteer community!

Providing opportunities to volunteer is at the heart of what we do. It's a great way to meet new people, to gain or share skills, to have new experiences and make a difference.



Green Shop and Cafe

Get to know our community via our shop of ethical and local produce, plastic free solutions and refill options. Your help keeps our customers informed and our doors open to the public.



Green Volunteering

Want to share your passion for the environment? You could write a blog, help with a campaign or one of our projects, or bring your own experience and ideas to help develop what we do and who we reach.

Share





West Glamorgan team volunteer days

Location: West Glamorgan, South Wales

Volunteer with our practical work parties on the nature reserves around West Glamorgan.

Position details

Frequency

Weekly

Opportunity type

Outdoor Conservation

Work Party

Contact details

If you want to find out more, please get in touch with [Paul Thornton](#).

If you start volunteering with us, you will be required to fill out a volunteer registration form.

Our volunteer days happen on most Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The group deliver a variety of habitat and estate management work across our

Lecture 2: Skills and Opportunities in Environment

While you may have a passion / interest for a particular career / subject area, it is useful to demonstrate this.

There are some easy tips to do this.

1. Subscribe to a subject / sector specific news feed, podcast, journal, or website, that provides current stories / articles about contemporary issues in your field of interest.
2. Become a member of a professional institute / organisation / charity associated with your field of interest.
3. Create a personal blog / vlog to communicate your interests, thoughts, critical analysis, and personal views on a subject matter. Make it publicly available.



Top 10 transferable skills for a career in the 21st century.

A guide to the most sought-after transferable skills by employers and how they help learners advance their careers in Thailand, Vietnam and beyond.

What are transferable skills?

Transferable skills, also known as portable skills, are developed in one setting and can be used in another. An example of this is learning how to critically think while studying a vocational qualification, and then applying that soft skill to a task in the workplace.



What are the top, in demand transferable skills employers are seeking?



DIGITAL LITERACY

Ability to make best use of available technology.



NEGOTIATION SKILLS

Ability to build relationships and influence outcomes.



DATA AND ANALYTICS PROFICIENCY

Ability to interpret data sets and information to make timely decisions.



COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Ability to collaborate effectively across cultures, borders, languages, and having strong verbal, listening and writing skills.

It is important to remember that switching roles, job types, or entire job sectors, is completely possible.

If doing so, you will need to highlight your transferable skills

Transferable skills are:

"a core set of skills and abilities, which can be applied to a wide range of different jobs and industries.

They're usually picked up over time, and can be gained from previous positions, charity or volunteer work, taking a course, your hobbies, or even just at home." (reed.com)



LEARNING AGILITY

Ability to apply learning on the go.



INNOVATIVE APPROACH

Ability to inform and adapt to change.



CRITICAL, STRATEGIC THINKING

Ability to analyse and interpret information to form judgement.



'ALWAYS LEARNING' MINDSET

Adopting a mentality to consistently upskill, add to your knowledge base and learn with a career focus.



TEAM WORK AND COLLABORATION

Ability to work effectively in a group or team setting to achieve a common goal.



TIME MANAGEMENT

Ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines in a timely fashion.



Your job is not for life, so therefore you have got to keep updating your future skills and your transferable skills to ensure you can apply it to different scenarios, and also to different roles in your existing and future career. What we're finding at Pearson is that this is highly regarded, in terms of learning with a career focus.

— Jason Gregory,
International Director,
UK BTEC & Apprenticeships at Pearson

Via The Art of Learning — The educator's playbook 2.0: The role of future skills in the new world of work and the world of work is changing. What skills do you need to be employable?



Discover the knowledge and skills you need to build a better future by linking English language learning with assessment and qualifications.

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COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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The good news about transferrable skills is, everyone already has some.

You just have to identify what they are and communicate them appropriately.

As a university student, you will already have developed a key set of transferrable skills applicable to roles outside of an academic setting:

- Report writing techniques
- Critical evaluation
- Computer literacy
- Analytical

ACTIVITY:

Can you think of any others you may have?
Imagine your ideal next role - which skills would be suitable?



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In this lecture we covered:

- The difference between hard and soft skills.
- Explored skill evaluation, for current prospecting of future roles, but also development within roles.
- Looked at methods for upskilling, including online courses, volunteering and increased awareness outside of formal learning settings.
- Determined what transferrable skills are.

INTRODUCING SOME HARD & SOFT SKILLS

[ArcGIS StoryMaps Gallery |
Examples from the StoryMaps
community](#)

[Extraordinary trees \(storymaps.com\)](#)

Activity: Using the link above, find some examples of StoryMaps with an Environmental focus. Have a think about what makes them engaging. What sections work well? What types of information have they included on their page.

Next, start to think about your own StoryMap for your chosen Environmental Topic. What sorts of information or data could you include. Does your topic have anything of interest you could map? Next, follow the tutorial to make your own story:

[Getting started with ArcGIS StoryMaps](#)



The next lecture will cover:

Volunteering and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Suggested activities:

- Undertake a skills assessment (of both soft and hard skills)
- Review your results and consider how you would approach them in a PDP profile



Any questions?

Please contact via:

Email: a.flatley@uwtsd.ac.uk

Teams: "ACNA5000_Changemakers_2024_25_GRP"



THANK YOU