



# Information guide

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\* SkillsCompetition Wales is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF) and administered by the Welsh Assembly Government and acts as a feeder competition to WorldSkills UK competitions.

ISBN: 978 0 7504 5091 1

WorldSkills UK provides around 70 quality assured skills competitions. Run annually, these competitions aim to encourage young people and adults across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales to excel in their vocational skill area.

Get involved...



## What is WorldSkills UK?

WorldSkills UK is the name for the UK's premier set of skills competitions for young people and adults. They are run every year in around 70 skills competitions within five main sectors:

- Built Environment
- Cultural and Creative Arts
- Engineering
- Information Technology and Business Administration
- Professional, Social, Public and Hospitality Services

WorldSkills UK competitions are run both regionally and nationally each year in the UK and aim to help lift standards of training and performance by promoting world-class skills and international competitiveness.

Outstanding WorldSkills UK national finalists may be considered for potential inclusion in a shortlist for the team that goes on to represent the UK at a WorldSkills International Competition.

The next WorldSkills competition takes place in Calgary, Canada in 2009, prior to it coming to London in 2011.

WorldSkills UK is an integral part of the legacy being developed by UK Skills and the Welsh Assembly Government, as part of their work for WorldSkills London 2011, an international competition being hosted by the UK.

WorldSkills London 2011 will take place in ExCeL, Docklands from 6 – 9 October 2011.

[www.worldskillslondon2011.com](http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com)

## SkillsCompetition Wales

In an effort to further develop skills competitions within Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government is working in partnership with colleges, sector skills councils, work-based learning providers and employers to organise and run skills competitions. Many of these competitions are run to WorldSkills UK criteria and assuming competitors do well enough, could lead through to WorldSkills UK finals.

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## Who runs WorldSkills UK?

WorldSkills UK is led by UK Skills, a not-for-profit organisation that champions vocational skills and learning for work through competitions and awards.

All skills competitions carrying the WorldSkills UK label are quality assured by UK Skills, which is responsible for developing a framework of skills competitions at all main levels of vocational attainment.

Individual competitions may be organised by a variety of organisations including colleges, Sector Skills Councils, UK Skills and industry organisations, among others.

UK Skills is also responsible for the UK's participation in international competitions.

*In Wales, UK Skills works in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government.*





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## Who is it for?

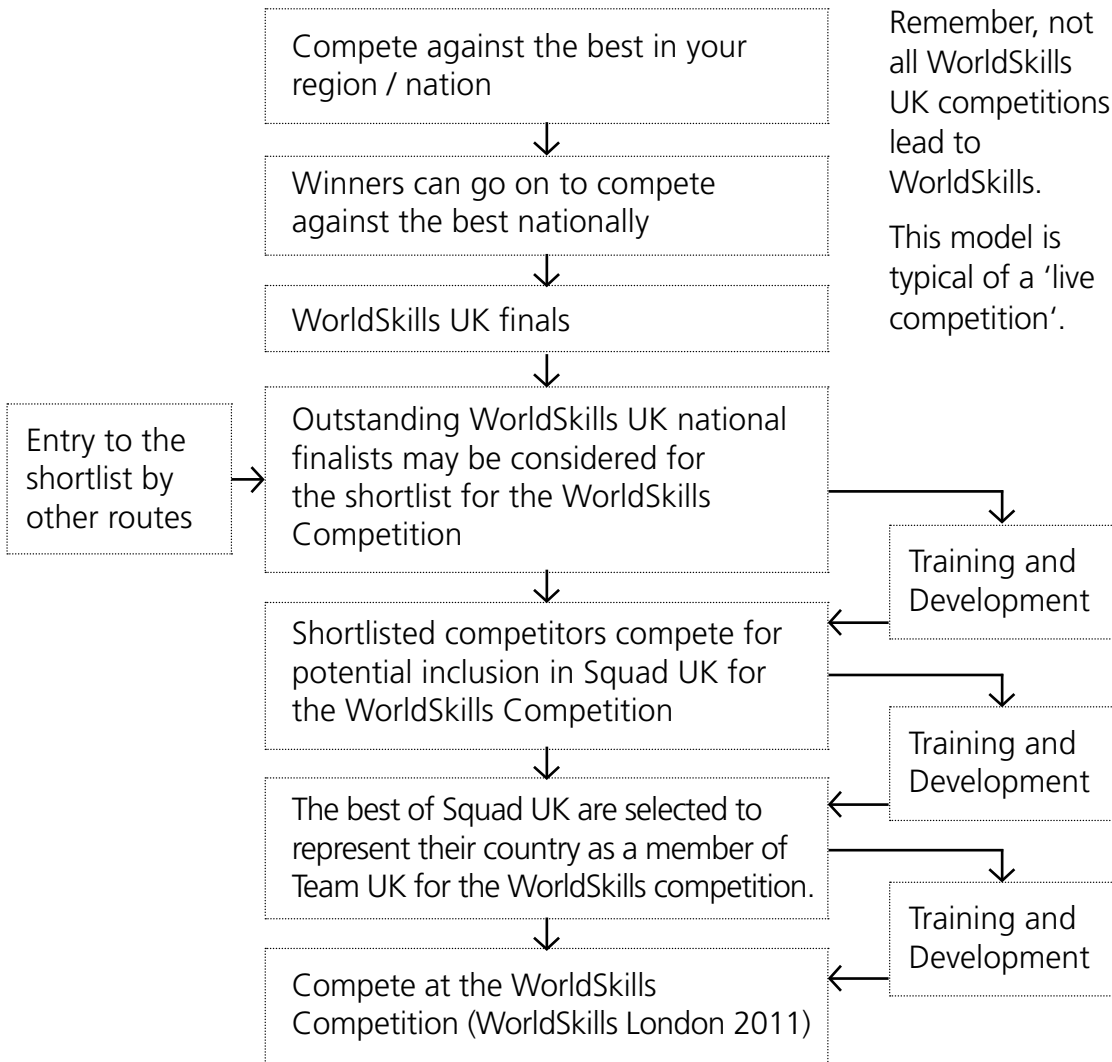
WorldSkills UK and SkillsCompetition Wales are open to young people and adults who have gained or are working towards vocational skills.

Many skills have several competitions, each of which has specific entry requirements to do with age, extent of work experience and/or level. In this way the competitions cover work roles from junior operative through to managerial, specialist and professional roles.

In keeping with the main routes into employment, most competitors will be:

- apprentices
- college students
- university students
- trainees
- employees

# The competition journey





## How do WorldSkills UK competitions fit into the WorldSkills Competition?

To select competitors for WorldSkills and other international competitions, UK Skills invites the most promising national competitors who meet the eligibility criteria to compete to join a shortlist of competitors. There they are joined by other eligible young people who have been identified by other methods.

Those selected for the shortlist are trained and then compete for potential inclusion in Squad UK. Squad members undergo a rigorous programme of training, support and appraisal. They then compete at a selection event to decide who wins a place in Team UK.

Team UK is then selected and continues its programme of training in the lead up to the WorldSkills Competition. The final team is announced around two months before the relevant WorldSkills Competition. Team UK and Squad UK are supported by Edge.

*Please note: UK Skills makes the final decision on any issues regarding the team, team members and performance at any stage of the competition journey and selection process.*

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## Competitions operating throughout the UK

Depending upon the type of competition and the number of competitors that enter, each competition will have either heats leading to a national competition, or just a UK final competition.

Training providers, colleges, universities and employers are encouraged to run in-house and local heats to identify their strongest performers for entry to a heat or UK final.

Sector leads and WorldSkills UK champions will encourage competition activity across the UK to enable many young people and adults to test themselves against the best and show what they can do.



# Benefits of competitions



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We believe that skills competitions offer significant benefits to all those who enter and support them.

## **For competitors and their trainers / tutors:**

Competitors and their trainers and tutors experience the most immediate positive impact of competitions:

- They have a common worthwhile goal that takes them beyond the normal expectation of education and training programmes
- They are able to share a love of mastery in their skill
- They experience the excitement of competing with all its highs and lows
- Together they get inside their skill and gain or rediscover a deeper understanding of quality than they would normally share
- They grow in mutual respect by pursuing a valuable shared purpose

For the competitor there's also the prospect of recognition for their exceptional skills, while for the trainer or tutor there's professional pride and evidence of continuing professional development.

## **For training providers:**

For colleges, universities and work-based learning providers the benefits are great too. Competitions:

- inject dynamism and excitement into training activities
- spur trainees and apprentices to show what they can do
- test and prove the quality of training programmes
- demonstrate a confidence in the quality of processes and output
- generate material for training, assessment and evidence of performance

Ofsted inspection reports often pick out involvement in skills competitions as evidence of striving for excellence.

Involvement in competitions can help raise the profile of all training providers. Whether hosting, sponsoring or indeed having a winning competitor at a regional, national or international level, getting involved in competitions is a great way to associate an educational institution with excellence and success.

## For employers:

For employers the involvement of their workforce in skills competitions can:

- instill mutual pride in the job and the company
- widen the options for growth and product choice by;
- differentiate the business from its rivals
- demonstrate corporate social responsibility
- develop and retain staff
- check on performance and put benchmarks in place

- inject ambition and aspiration
- promote excellence in skills
- offer PR opportunities

“Competing in skills competitions has boosted my confidence. It has shown me that people take what I do seriously. Competing has been a great way to exchange experiences and ways of working with other people who are in the same profession as me.”

### **Julie Doig**

WorldSkills UK winner  
Restaurant Services





Not all WorldSkills UK competitions lead to the International WorldSkills Competition. Below are a list of competitions that lead to WorldSkills.

## Built Environment

- Bricklaying
- Cabinet Making
- Carpentry
- Electrical Installation
- Joinery
- Landscape Gardening
- Painting and Decorating
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Refrigeration
- Stonemasonry
- Wall and Floor Tiling

## Cultural and Creative Arts

- Fine Jewellery Making
- Floristry
- Graphic Design
- Fashion Design

## Engineering

- Aeronautical Engineering
- Autobody Repair
- Automobile Technology
- Car Painting
- CNC Milling
- CNC Turning
- Engineering Challenge
- Industrial Electronics
- Mechanical Engineering: CADD
- Mechatronics
- Mobile Robotics
- Welding

## Information Technology and Business Administration

- ICT Networking: Microsoft
- ICT Networking: Cisco
- IT Office Software Applications
- Web Design

## Personal, Social, Public and Hospitality Services

- Bakery
- Beauty Therapy
- Confectionery
- Cooking
- Hairdressing
- Restaurant Service



# The WorldSkills Competition



## **The WorldSkills Competition**

The WorldSkills Competition is the biggest international skills competition in the world. Around 50 member countries send highly trained young people to compete in around 40 different vocational skills, including Beauty Therapy, Web Design and CNC Milling and Turning.

The WorldSkills Competition happens every two years and the scale of the event is unrivalled, with over 800 competitors taking part. Young people are tested against tough international standards over the four day event, whilst their progress is watched by hundreds of thousands of visitors.

## **WorldSkills Calgary 2009**

Quick facts:

- 6 days (including opening and closing ceremony)
- 40 skill categories
- 49 member countries
- 900 competitors
- 3,000 volunteers
- 5,000 international experts, delegates and judges
- 30,000 hotel room nights
- 150,000 student and public spectators
- 800,000 square feet of competition space

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## WorldSkills London 2011

Quick facts:

- 250,000 visitors
- 1,200 competitors
- 60 countries
- 40 skills

For more information on WorldSkills London 2011, visit [www.worldskillslondon2011.com](http://www.worldskillslondon2011.com)

## WorldSkills London 2011 eligibility criteria:

The rule for the WorldSkills Competitions states that competitors are required to be under the age of 23 in the year of the competition, with the exception presently being for Mechatronics and the Engineering Challenge competitions, where competitors may be up to three years older.

This means that for WorldSkills London 2011, competitors must be born on or after 1 January 1989, and for Mechatronics and the Engineering Challenge competitors must be born on or after 1 January 1986.



# Contact us...

For all WorldSkills matters please contact The WorldSkills UK Team on 0800 612 0742 or visit [www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales](http://www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales) or [www.WorldSkillsUK.org](http://www.WorldSkillsUK.org)

For all WorldSkills activity within Wales, including skills competitions supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, please visit [www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales](http://www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales) or email [WorldSkills@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:WorldSkills@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

For all WorldSkills UK matters, please contact the WorldSkills UK team on **0800 612 0742**, email [WorldSkillsUK@ukskills.org.uk](mailto:WorldSkillsUK@ukskills.org.uk) or visit [www.WorldSkillsUK.org](http://www.WorldSkillsUK.org)

## How to register and enter

Please note that the closing date to enter most competitions is **Thursday 9 April 2009**. However, some competition closing dates vary, so please check the competition web pages carefully.

If you live or wish to enter a competition in Wales, please visit [www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales](http://www.WorldSkillsUK.org/Wales) to see if there is a skills competition taking place near you. If none currently exist, you will be directed to the WorldSkills UK site, where you are free to browse and enter a competition of your choice.

Whatever the competition or location, if you would like to enter yourself, an employee, or a colleague **you must** register. Read the competition pages online for details.

If you are experiencing difficulties registering or entering, please contact the WorldSkills UK team on **0800 612 0742**

*The Welsh Assembly Government and UK Skills are committed to working with the broadest range of people in a way which is free from discrimination and prejudice, and which encourages and helps all to achieve their full potential.*