

Skills Without Limits: Developing the Future Skills Ecosystem

Empowering Talent. Connecting Opportunity.

A Two-Day Experience to Shape the Future of Skills, Work & Digital Credentials of Skills, Work & Digital Credentials

This regional meeting brings together global thought leaders, UK-based innovators, universities, employers, government bodies, and verification partners to build a more agile, skills-centered labour market. Throughout two days at Manchester Metropolitan University, participants will explore how digital credentials, skills-based learning, and new recognition models can unlock opportunity and speed up the journey from learning to earning.

The program emphasizes collaboration, insight, and action—with sessions designed to ignite ideas, surface promising practices, and connect partners committed to designing a more inclusive and efficient skills ecosystem.



Program Highlights

1. Digital Credentials for a Connected Labour Market

Sessions will explore how digital credentials, verifiable records, interoperable systems, and trusted verification frameworks can transform how employers identify, assess, and mobilize talent.

Expect: big-picture insights, emerging global models, and forward-looking dialogue about technology, trust, and governance.

3. Recognizing Real-World Learning & Experience

How can the UK—and the world—better value learning that happens in the workplace, online, or through lived experience?

Expect: discussions on prior learning assessment, skills validation, personalized learning, lived-experience recognition, and practices that support equity and mobility.

2. Skills-Based Pathways to Rapid Employment

We'll examine how universities, training providers, employers, and community organizations are designing learning models that prioritize real skills aligned to real jobs.

Expect: conversations about microcredentials, modular learning, apprenticeships, micro-pathways, and fast-track upskilling and reskilling.

4. Partnerships That Power Skills Ecosystems

Transformation doesn't happen in isolation. These sessions focus on collaboration across sectors—universities, employers, technology partners, verification systems like Prospects HEDD, and global networks such as the GDN.

Expect: case studies, partnership models, shared problem-solving, and cross-border learning.

What to Expect Across the Two Days

Keynotes from leaders shaping the future of work, credentialing, and education

Plenary conversations unpacking the biggest issues in skills mobility

Interactive sessions that encourage dialogue and shared learning

Networking opportunities designed to spark collaboration across the UK and globally

A practical, forward-looking environment where ideas translate into momentum

All sessions are designed to align with the theme Skills Without Limits and push forward a shared commitment to connecting people with opportunity faster and more effectively.

Who This Program Is For

Government & policy leaders	Education leaders and practitioners	Skills innovators	Quality assurance and verification bodies
Employers & HR/talent executives	Workforce & employability organizations	Digital credentialing and EdTech innovators	International partners building skills-based systems

If your work touches skills, learning, employment, or credential innovation, this program was built for you.



Toward a Skills-First Future

By the end of the conference, attendees will leave with:

- New insights into global and UK-specific practices
- Practical approaches to implementing digital credentials
- Strategies to support rapid access to work
- Stronger partnerships and networks
- Momentum toward building a truly skills-centered ecosystem

Interested in Joining the GDN International Community?

Connect with a global community of governments, institutions and organizations that share expertise and best practices in learner and citizen digitization, and gain greater global recognition.

Become a GDN Signatory and Patron