## [The UK’s National Skills Strategy: the policy, tools and mechanisms the UK has used to transform its TVET system](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-skillsforemployability-uk-national-skills-strategy.htm)

# Introduction

This four day seminar will help delegates to understand the political, economic and social drivers for the reform of the UK’s demand-led TVET system, and will provide an overview of the main organisations involved. Quality, relevance and the role of industry and employers will be key themes running through the seminar. With some focus on the system in Wales, where the event takes place, the seminar will combine workshops and briefings from key organisations, with visits to leading institutions and employer sites. The system in Wales is clearly aligned with national drivers so is very relevant to this seminar; however there will be UK-wide input throughout the programme.

There will be time to network with experts who are looking forward to sharing knowledge and practice with our international stakeholders.

The seminar will take place in Cardiff, a thriving international city, and the base for most national cultural and sporting institutions, the Welsh national media, and the seat of the National Assembly for Wales. Our partner for the seminar is [Colleges Wales](http://www.collegeswales.ac.uk/) which is the national organisation representing all further education colleges and institutions in Wales.

This is a high profile event and we already have strong interest from senior policy makers globally, including a Vice Minister for Education. The seminar will receive some media attention and will be opened by relevant VIPs.

# The objectives

* To identify the key principles, tools and mechanisms that the UK has used to develop a demand-led system, driven by UK Government’s strategy
* To understand the key components of a demand-led competency-based TVET system and how these could be applied more widely
* To analyse the role of skills development in improving productivity and competitiveness, and to understand the key role employers play in the UK system
* To understand employer engagement and apprenticeship strategies and mechanisms
* To understand the rationale for qualification reform in the UK and the benefits of ﬂexible qualifications frameworks
* To identify how funding and regulatory mechanisms can be used to continuously improve the supply and quality of provision
* To discuss the role of careers education and guidance within national skills strategies
* To review recent innovations in UK TVET provision
* To explore how approaches discussed during the seminar could provide useful models for delegates’ national plans

# Participant profile

Senior government officials, including Ministers (from Ministries of Education, Labour/Employment or specific industries), policy and decision makers, Quality Assurance agencies, National Qualification Framework agencies, and donor agencies. This will be most beneficial to those who have an in-depth knowledge of their national system, and will be able to implement the lessons learned, at a strategic/policy level.

# Programme Director

Ann Evans has been a freelance consultant since 2012 and has a significant background in education, training and lifelong learning. Ann is passionate about education and training and ways in which strategy can be linked to high quality delivery. Before becoming a consultant, Ann had a number of high profile strategic posts, most recently as Chief Executive within Careers Wales. Prior to this, Ann was a senior civil servant in the Welsh Government, leading on all aspects of qualifications, regulation and development. She has also been Assistant Chief Executive (at the Qualifications Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales), with responsibility for Vocational Qualifications and Lifelong Learning. For the first 20 years of her professional life, Ann was a science teacher, a lecturer, a manager and finally an Assistant Principal in Further Education. Ann was born and raised in South Wales and studied at Aberystwyth and Cardiff Universities, gaining a BSc, PGCE and an MSc (Econ).

# provisional Programme

(subject to change)

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| Monday 12 | Welcome, introduction and seminar overviewOpening reception The contribution that TVET makes to economic development and regeneration in Wales |
| Tuesday 13 | **Employers and Learning Providers working together*** The role of Further Education Colleges in providing TVET
* Linking employment and skills
* Visit to a Further Education College – a learning provider and employer working together:
	+ Linking college provision and employers
	+ The learner’s view of the TVET system
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| Wednesday 14  | **Supporting individuals to access appropriate TVET opportunities*** Careers guidance and the importance of guidance and advice in supporting access to TVET
* The role of Government funding in TVET, Apprenticeships and Traineeships
* Visit to a Further Education College – Providing skills development for adults and young people
* The role of apprenticeships and training and links with learning providers
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| Thursday 15 | **Standards, qualifications and the importance of high quality TVET provision*** Setting standards in sectors and the role of the Sector Skills Councils
* Vocational Qualifications: their role in supporting TVET
* The importance of high quality provision in TVET
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# Cost

The cost of the seminar is £550 per person**.**

What is included:

* All sessions and visits to the colleges
* Facilitation by a leading Education Consultant
* Transport to college visits
* Catering during the seminar
* Light supper on Monday evening

What is not included:

* Accommodation
* Flight to London and visa to enter the UK
* Dinners

# What next?

Registration is now open. Please send the [Registration Link](http://survey.britishcouncil.org/wix/p1840247733.aspx) to your selected delegates (<http://survey.britishcouncil.org/wix/p1840247733.aspx>).

If you wish to reserve a place or have any questions about the registration process of payment, please contact Mark Hopkins mark.hopkins@britishcouncil.org

Joining instructions and a copy of the programme will be sent to those who have registered.