

ESF High Level Skills Programme

Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs

GRADS for D2N2



European Union

European
Social Fund

in
partnership
with
 Department
for Work &
Pensions

As an SME, are you experiencing skills shortages or skills gaps in your organisation?

ESF High Level Skills is the only programme in D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) dedicated to addressing high-level skills needs in small or medium-sized businesses. It will help you grow your business by creating a more diverse, creative and productive workforce through two complementary projects: Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs and GRADS for D2N2.

The programme involves two complementary projects:

- **Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs** Upskill your existing workforce
- **GRADS for D2N2** Recruit and retain your future workforce

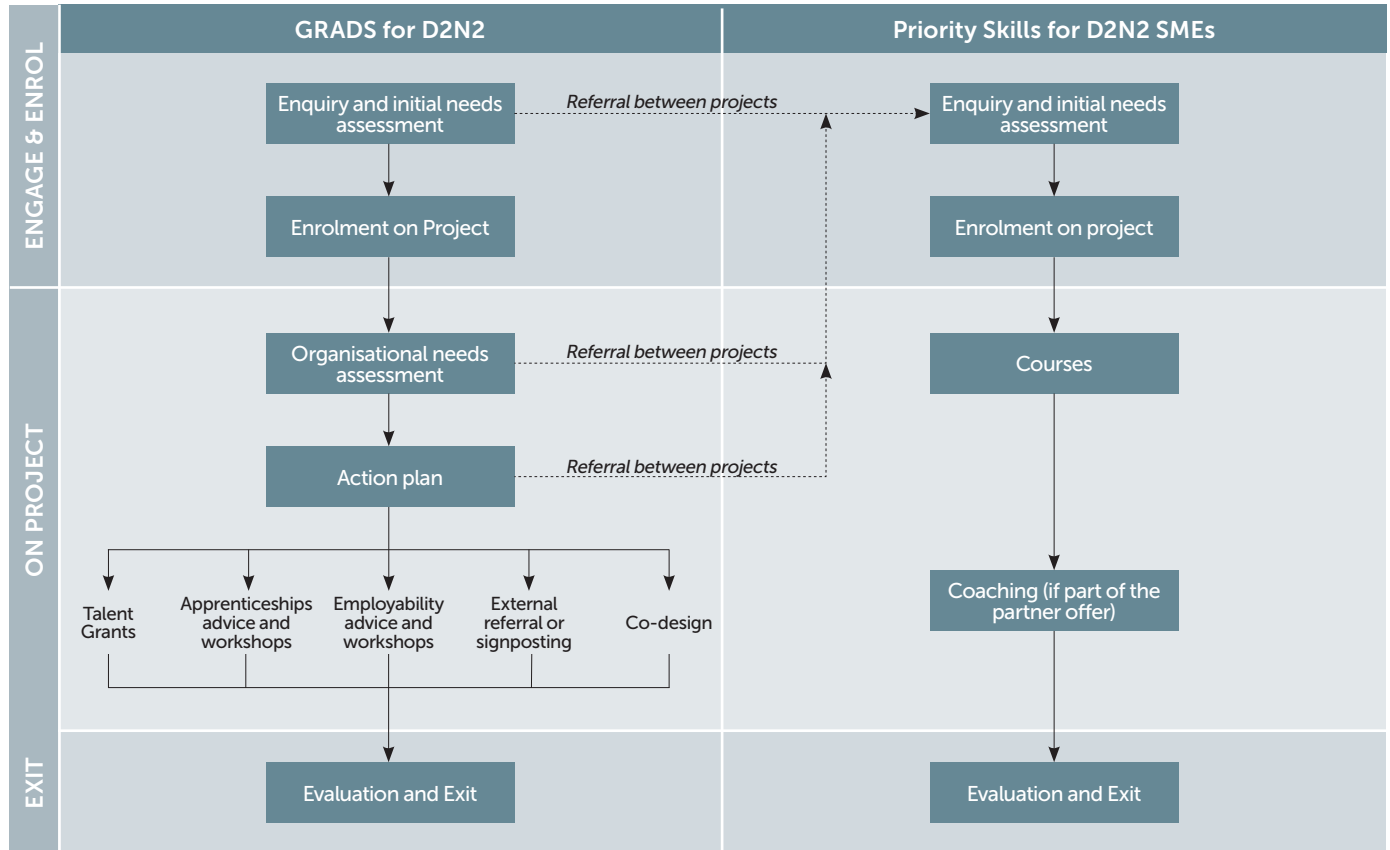
The Consortium

A consortium of higher education, further education and local authority organisations are working together to deliver this groundbreaking programme, which is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).

This is the first time universities and colleges in the region have worked together on such a large scale to develop learning and training in collaboration with small to medium-sized businesses.



SME and participant journey





The leader for the course I went on was very knowledgeable, experienced and engaging. I would highly recommend it to anyone as it helps you focus on developing skills to be successful

Anna Fawcett, Sherwood Press
Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs course attendee

Priority Skills For D2N2 SMEs

This project supports the European Social Fund investment priority 2.1: Enhancing equal access to lifelong learning.

The Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs project will provide SMEs with fully-funded, bespoke and employer-led training, career coaching and advice to upskill your employees with high-level technical and job-specific skills.

The project will support staff that may face additional barriers to high-level skills, including:



People who missed out on traditional educational opportunities

50+

People aged 50+



Women







People with disabilities



Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people



PARTNER	OFFER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bespoke Level 2 and 3 courses, created depending on individual employer need • Courses are delivered through e-delivery and direct learning • Courses are complemented by bi-monthly employer academies that provide the opportunity for businesses to influence and inform the course content <p>www.derby-college.ac.uk/high-level-skills</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREE Level 2 or Level 3 course created to meet to your business and employee needs • The short courses are designed to upskill your employees and help them to access a higher level of learning • Participants will also benefit from embedded employability and basic skills <p>www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/employers/training/priority-skills-for-d2n2-smes</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A FREE, masters-level course - Managing and Leading People in Organisations • Three-day course for women in local SMEs who want to progress into management, senior or leadership roles • Participants will also be offered FREE career coaching sessions <p>www.ntu.ac.uk/priorityskills</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of higher level and technical skills short courses, designed with industry • Practical hands-on courses across areas as diverse as; business leadership, construction, digital marketing, engineering, and people management • They can support you to respond to new opportunities and to deal with current and future business challenges <p>www.derby.ac.uk/priority-skills</p>

GRADS

For D2N2

This project supports the European Social Fund investment priority 2.2: Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems.

The GRADS for D2N2 project offers SMEs a complete package of free and subsidised support to help them benefit from graduate talent in the region.

The project offers six specific interventions for enrolled SMEs:



Organisational needs assessment



Skills and talent action plans



Talent grants and graduate placements



Employability advice and workshops



Apprenticeships advice and workshops



Putting SME voices at the heart of course design



PARTNER

OFFER



Help local SMEs to:

- Develop career pathways for future recruitment
 - Implement higher apprenticeships in the organisation with Derby College students
 - Development of work experience placements with students currently studying at level 3 and level 4
- www.derby-college.ac.uk/high-level-skills



Nottingham College can provide local SMEs with:

- A FREE business support service
 - Impartial, practical assistance and consultative sessions
 - Help to identify the needs of your business, its infrastructure and workforce
- www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/employers/training/priority-skills-for-d2n2-smes



NTU offer local SMEs FREE specialist advice including:

- Employability and apprenticeship advice and workshops
 - Talent grants to fund graduate placements
 - The opportunity to put your voice and needs at the heart of our future course and programme development
- www.ntu.ac.uk/GRADSforD2N2



Through the University of Derby, businesses can:

- Recruit with less risk, access funding with bespoke support, and engage with specialist events and workshops
 - Access a mix of fully and part-funded initiatives to recruit and retain the most talented students and graduates to develop fresh ideas and future leaders
 - Inform skills development and employability initiatives to support high-level skills
- www.derby.ac.uk/driven



Nottingham City Council offer:

- A free recruitment, skills and workforce development service to local employers
 - High-quality account management and impartial advice to employers
 - Help navigate the complexities around apprenticeships, dispel myths and demonstrate the benefits they bring
- www.nottinghamjobs.com/create-an-apprenticeship.html



Business support is really well linked to the course content so graduates are both knowledgeable and work-ready. We'd definitely recommend taking on a graduate placement.

Hilary Campton, V Formation
Recipient of GRADS for D2N2 talent grant



Who is eligible?

Most small and medium-sized enterprises in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire are eligible for support.

Small and medium-sized enterprises are defined as having:

- Less than 250 employees
- Annual turnover under EUR 50 million or
- Annual balance sheet less than EUR 43 million

PARTNER	FOR MORE INFORMATION
	hls@dcg.ac.uk 0133 238 7424 www.derby-college.ac.uk/high-level-skills
	hls@nottinghamcollege.ac.uk 0115 910 0100 www.nottinghamcollege.ac.uk/employers/training/priority-skills-for-d2n2-smes
	wil@ntu.ac.uk (Priority Skills for D2N2 SMEs) esf@ntu.ac.uk (GRADS for D2N2) 0115 848 8899 www.ntu.ac.uk/higherskills
	businessgateway@derby.ac.uk 0800 001 5500 www.derby.ac.uk/priority-skills www.derby.ac.uk/driven
	jermaine.chisolm@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 876 4508 www.nottinghamjobs.com/create-an-apprenticeship.html



European Union
European
Social Fund

in
partnership
with

**Department
for Work &
Pensions**



The High Level Skills programme offers dedicated support, advice and funding to help SMEs in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire up-skill their employees and access the wealth of local graduate talent. It is part-funded by the European Social Fund (ESF).