

## Unlocking Success: A Student's Guide to Upskilling and Reskilling

Upskilling is the process of training to build upon skills you already have, while reskilling is focused on learning new skills. Improving your skill set can help you both be more employable and keep up with changes in industry. Here are some tips on how you can accomplish this:

### Identify Skills:

The first step you should undertake is to identify your current skills, your strengths and weaknesses, and any new skills you want to learn. By identifying where your weaknesses are, you can focus on upskilling those areas. Use Skills Checker, a self-assessment available on Careers Zone 24/7 (log in via the [Student Futures website](#)) which provides you with a clear picture of the areas you excel in and those that need improvement. This programme then offers advice on how to improve your skills. If there is a new skill you want to gain to improve your CV, or think it would improve your current job role, start by researching ways that would help you learn this skill.

### Resources in Your Current Job:

One way for you to start your upskilling or reskilling research is to enquire with your current organisation. Often companies will offer resources that allow employees to go through the process of upskilling/reskilling. They might have conferences you can attend, internal e-learning programmes, webinars, or they may even sponsor you to attend a course. Employees' upskilling is beneficial to companies, so it is worth asking your manager and co-workers about the opportunities available within the workplace. You could also research the skills that are in demand in your industry and specifically focus on them.

### Online Courses:

Online courses, seminars, and conferences are some of the best ways to enhance your skills and develop new ones. The [National Careers Service](#) offers more information on different courses available in the UK, but below are some websites for both paid and free courses available to help with upskilling and reskilling. These platforms provide flexibility, allowing you to learn at your own pace and choose topic specific courses.

<https://www.linkedin.com> – free trial and paid courses.

<https://freecoursesinengland.co.uk/> - entirely free courses funded by HM Government.

<https://www.learndirect.com/> - paid courses, qualifications, and training.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/> - short courses and micro-credentials (many offered for free), as well as degrees and ExpertTracks (aimed at people wanting to upskill in the workplace).

<https://www.coursera.org/> - both paid and free courses provided by universities across the world.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/> - free courses on a range of subjects.

### Volunteer Work and Internships:

One of the most important things you can do to upskill and reskill is to take part in a volunteering role or internship in a field that you are interested in. This can be extremely valuable in the long-term due to the new experience of applying knowledge to real-life scenarios. You have the chance to develop both hard skills and soft skills in a professional setting. Not only do these experiences

provide you with the opportunity to network with like-minded people and experts, but it also grants an insight into the work available, and the skills needed.