## Developing a cross sector ICT and Telecommunications Foundation Degree via an academic and employer consortia

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Information Communications Technology (ICT) and Telecommunications underpin virtually every successful business operating in the world today. With the rapidly changing and sophistication of this domain ICT and Telecommunications practitioners struggle to keep their skills up-to-date and as a result many employers report varying level of skills shortages within the sector. Foundation degrees have been developed through academic and industrial partnerships to address these skills gaps with some success. Such programmes provide vocational qualifications often delivered within the workplace, but do not provide a government validated and employer approved cross-sector qualification. The current status of a project to develop a cross-sector ICT and Telecommunications Foundation Degree with a consortia consisting of employers across the sector and University partners is reported.

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