The motivation behind the LifeSkills programme is to inspire millions of young people and equip them with the skills they need to move forward into the 21st century workplace. LifeSkills brings together educators, businesses, young people and parents to achieve this, supporting young people to succeed in a changing job landscape by helping them to develop essential 21st century skills, like problem solving, creativity, communication and proactivity, which employers are looking for now and in the future.

The most desired workplace skills of the future are:

- Strategic thinking
- Leadership skills
- Creative problem solving
- Communication skills

Welcome to LifeSkills

The world of work has changed dramatically in recent years. Various economic, societal and technological forces have led to more global collaboration, agile working and automation, meaning young people today need to be able to demonstrate 21st century skills, like leadership and resilience, as they adapt to this ever changing landscape.

We launched LifeSkills in 2013 to help young people negotiate the difficult transition from education to work. Since then, we’ve supported over 3 million young people to develop the skills they need for a better future, but with 11.7% of 16-24 year olds in the UK not in education, employment or training*, there’s still work to be done.

We’re as committed as ever to preparing young people for their futures and are continuing to develop innovative new tools and resources that will help build the essential skills needed for career success.

LifeSkills is an integral part of Barclays Shared Growth Ambition, enhancing access to employment in the community where we live and work.

Use this guide to find out more about the tailored support LifeSkills offers young people, educators, parents and businesses.

Kirstie Mackey
Director of LifeSkills

*Source: Statistical Bulletin: Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: Aug 2016, ONS
LifeSkills at a glance

LifeSkills offers lesson plans and teaching guides for educators, interactive content for young people, tips for parents, guidance for businesses, access to work experience and so much more, all to help young people get ready for the 21st century workplace. Explore everything from writing a CV to shining in an interview, boosting leadership skills, developing confidence and learning to manage money on the LifeSkills website: barclayslifeskills.com
LifeSkills: the impact

LifeSkills is having an increasingly positive impact on those who engage with it. There are more educators using LifeSkills than ever before and young people are actively applying what they learn through the programme to create positive changes in their lives.

3,300+ lessons delivered by Barclays volunteers and our charity partners to 370,000+ young people

33,800 educators registered

3.1 million young people participated in LifeSkills

The Work Foundation discovered young people have taken positive action because of engagement with LifeSkills:

- 84% are more confident in interviews
- 55% took up volunteering or work experience
- 77% created a CV

Educators actively using the programme:

- 60% UK FE and agricultural colleges
- 33% UK universities
- 72% UK secondary and 6th form colleges

Source: The Work Foundation, October 2016
LifeSkills for young people

LifeSkills provides online tools, tips and resources to help young people build the skills they need for the world of work. Young people can access content specifically tailored to them by searching what life stage they’re at and what they need help with; for example, they could be at college or just left education and looking for help with applying for jobs or preparing for an interview.

- I want an insight into how the world of work is changing
  - Build 21st century skills

- I want to build my confidence and be more assertive
  - Boost confidence

- I want to use my online presence to get ahead
  - Build a strong CV

- I want virtual work experience
  - Experience a real-life workplace

- I want to prepare for an interview
  - Perfect interview technique

- I want to get to grips with money and my payslip
  - Get money savvy
“I’m 18 years old and have just completed 14 years of full-time education. I should be on the cusp of getting a job right now, equipped with all the skills I need for the world of work. But I’m not sure I have them. That’s why programmes like LifeSkills are so essential for young people like me, to help us gain these important workplace skills which we might not get taught in school or elsewhere.”

Ciara Brodie, 18, Liverpool
LifeSkills has recently launched a new suite of virtual tools, developed to give every young person insight into the workplace, unlimited interview practice opportunities, and the information they need to succeed at the range of different assessments used in job recruitment.

Our brand new Virtual Interview Practice tool helps young people practise and prepare for real-life interviews. Watch a selection of interview questions that candidates could expect to face in a real-life interview scenario and then watch model answers for inspiration. Young people can also use a laptop or PC webcam to record and playback personal responses to critique their performance.

Try out the rest of our interactive interview range, including practice online assessment tests, getting to know different types of interview and finding out what to expect during an assessment centre day.
Our Virtual Work Experience tool lets young people take a virtual journey into the world of work, moving through different departments of a real-life organisation with the ability to ask and answer questions to gain an understanding of how the business works. They’ll practise the real-world application of skills like communication and productivity and how these are used in the 21st century workplace.

Work experience opportunities
As young people work through content on the LifeSkills website, they can collect points. Once they reach **250, those aged 14-19** can get their teacher to search on the website for work experience opportunities at Barclays and other partner organisations which they can apply for.
LifeSkills for educators

We know that workload is a real problem. Trying to embed employability teaching into an already packed timetable is a struggle, compounded by recent changes within education departments and to assessment frameworks and curricula. So to help make life easier for educators, our resources can be easily lifted and dropped to create tailor made lessons and have been fully endorsed by City & Guilds. Our educator content is suitable for teachers, lecturers and tutors and is also used by youth workers, charities and within prisons and residential homes to help young people build the skills needed for work.

Curriculum-linked content
Discover curriculum-linked lesson plans for 11-19 year olds and discussion guides for those aged 19+. Search from over 60 hours of content, including CV developing, interview techniques and 21st century skills like problem solving.

Interactive tools
Our wide range of interactive tools and video content can be clicked and dropped into lessons to bring topics to life for students. Tools such as Play the Boss and Virtual Interview Practice can help prepare young people for the recruitment process.

Request a volunteer
Bring the real world into the classroom by requesting a Barclays volunteer to deliver an interactive lesson for students. Simply visit the website and provide us with a few details, and we’ll be in touch to arrange things from there.

Work experience
Search for work experience placements for students aged 14-19 at Barclays and our partner businesses, which educators can apply for once students have worked through content and collected 250 points.

barclayslifeskills.com
“LifeSkills means making sure our students are ready to face the world outside the school doors, with the skills they need to be successful in the workplace.”

Simon Beck
Assistant Headteacher, Lister Community School

63 hours of curriculum-led resources

100% educators would be happy to use LifeSkills resources again

99% educators would recommend LifeSkills resources to others

Source: Teachers surveyed October 2016, Education Employers Research
On the LifeSkills website, educators will find a dedicated support hub to help them use the programme and stay ahead of developments in the fast changing tech landscape.

Get the most out of LifeSkills
Get to grips with all that the programme has to offer and how to use it with our introductory film and useful guides.

21st century skills
Discover how the world of work is changing and the 21st century skills employers are looking for with our infographics and downloadable guide to the jobs of the future.

Digital tools for educators
Stay ahead of digital trends and understand the latest terminology with our digital guides, digital dictionary and introductions to the BBC micro:bit, iRights and coding.

Order and download resources
Order a selection of printed resources for free and access all materials in alternative formats including large print, braille, subtitled videos and audio for those young people with additional needs.
“We need to give young people the chance to take control of their future and help them succeed in the world of work.”

George Mpanga, AKA George the Poet
LifeSkills Ambassador and Chair of the LifeSkills Youth Advisory Council
LifeSkills for business

“It believe it is our role as business leaders, parents and educators to find creative ways to ensure young people are given the opportunities they need to succeed in their futures.”

Baroness Karren Brady CBE
LifeSkills Ambassador and Chair of the LifeSkills Advisory Council

It’s a challenging job market, both for young people and businesses, with many UK businesses believing they have limited access to confident young people with vital basic work skills, such as communication and teamwork*.

Not only does LifeSkills seek to improve young people’s soft skills to ready them for the workplace, it offers young people an insight into the world of work. In fact, LifeSkills has so far offered over 30,000 work experience placements within Barclays and other UK organisations.

Get involved
Go to barclayslifeskills.com/business today to discover how businesses can offer work experience placements to find promising future employees, develop tomorrow’s workforce and raise their company profile.

*Source: BCC Workforce Survey, 2014
LifeSkills for parents

We speak with so many parents who are keen to support their young person to get ready for work, but some are unsure where to start. Our dedicated parents’ section has free tools, tips and advice to help parents build young people’s confidence and unlock their potential.

Find the latest advice
Use the site to access the latest advice on how to help a young person secure work experience, write the best CV and prepare for interviews. Our interactive CV Builder is also great to work through together.

Be inspired
Follow the video diary of a parent’s LifeSkills experience with her son to gain inspiration on how best to build the skills needed for the workplace.

Get interactive
Work through interactive challenges with young people, like the Wheel of Strengths which matches strengths, interests and personality to relevant jobs, and Money Talks which makes sense of tricky financial terms.

Get involved
We’re always looking out for fresh opportunities for young people, and parents can offer work experience placements within their own businesses. Head to the parents’ zone to find out how: barclayslifeskills.com/parents