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UK Electronics  
Skills Foundation

# Semiconductor Talent Award Impact 2025-2026

“This award has really increased my confidence and skills to work in the semiconductor industry.

It has been incredibly useful to have guidance from experts in the field through the webinars, and the bursaries have allowed me to attend professional events and increase my skills further.”

Award holder studying at Imperial College London



**The Semiconductor Talent Award is designed to support first-year Electrical and Electronics Engineering undergraduates to learn more about the UK Semiconductor Sector, and improve their relevant knowledge, skills and confidence to pursue a career in the industry upon graduation.**

In 2025, 299 undergraduates from 35 different universities across the UK participated in the programme. They benefited from monthly learning and development sessions delivered by expert industry speakers, bursaries to support them to pursue semiconductor related activities, and opportunities to build their supportive network.



99% reported increased sector awareness



91% reported that they would be likely to look to work in the Semiconductor sector



97% reported increased preparedness and confidence

There is a shortage of capable graduates entering the UK Semiconductor Sector, and it is estimated that the sector could require more than double the current level of employment inflows to meet future demand” (Semiconductor Workforce Study 2025). The Semiconductor Talent Award aims to help address underrepresentation and improve social mobility by removing barriers to participation, and providing opportunities for young people to develop their sector-specific skills.

“The award has been a highlight of my year and has given me a great foundation to shape my career and education, it has opened many opportunities for me to explore as well as paths I may have not considered before.”  
Award holder studying at the University of Strathclyde



# The Programme

## Induction Events

The UKESF held four regional Induction Events, in Birmingham, Cambridge, Glasgow, and Bristol.

The events provided a valuable introduction to the semiconductor sector, and participants had the opportunity to meet representatives from industry.

**Over 30 companies from across the industry supported the events through speaking, exhibiting or attending:**



## Mentoring and Development Sessions

The UKESF coordinated six online webinars, which gave the Award-holders the opportunity hear unique insight from a several industry experts. Sessions included:

- Zooming in on chip technology & Knowing yourself and others, Steward Edmondson, UKESF
- The Semiconductor Industry, Sean Redmond, Silicon Catalyst and Neil Dickins, IC Resources
- Learning and Development, Danielle Thomas, CSA Catapult
- Critical thinking for Engineers, Dr Neil Beattie, Northumbria University
- IET membership & Professional registration, Steve Smith, IET
- What's next? Advice for work placements, Neil Hooper, Former CTO

## Bursaries

Award-holders received a financial bursary of £4,000 to allow them to focus on their studies through their first year of university. They also received a Learning and Development bursary of up to £3,000 to enable them to pursue semiconductor-related activities, such as attending conferences, training or purchasing the equipment to run technical projects.



## Impact

### About the Semiconductor Talent Award-holders

- Studying at 35 different universities across the UK
- 20% of Award-holders are female
- 81% attended a state school
- 34% are the first generation in their family to attend university
- 21% were eligible for free school meals



“This Award has been phenomenal, and has made a huge difference in my first year at University. Beyond financial support, the exposure to the industry and professional development opportunities have provided me with a clearer pathway into the electronics industry.”

Award holder studying at the University of Leeds

“This Award has been crucial to my development as an engineer. It has allowed me to pursue projects that I wouldn't have otherwise undertaken and the knowledge that I have gained from the webinars and resources has been invaluable. I am truly grateful to UKESF for this opportunity, it has transformed my first year at university, completely for the better.”

Award holder studying at the University of Nottingham

“This Award has meant a great deal to me. It has improved my confidence in going into one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK, while still providing me with skills that are applicable across all engineering roles, such as the webinar on the IET. The Learning & Development plan in particular has been amazing for discovering opportunities to develop my skills as an engineer.”

Award holder studying at Imperial College London



“The award has been fantastic, learning more about the industry from professionals, and learning about opportunities such as IET student membership has made me significantly more prepared than I would be otherwise. Also, financially the award has helped as I can spend less time working and more time on projects, funded from the L&D budget.”

Award holder studying at the University of Edinburgh

## Feedback

- 100% of respondents found the Award valuable
- 99% of respondents reported increased sector awareness
- 99% of participants rated their induction event ‘good’ or ‘excellent’
- 98% of respondents found the webinars useful
- 97% of respondents reported increased preparedness/confidence for a career in the semiconductor sector

