



**UK Electronics
Skills Foundation**

Impact Report 2025-2026

Building the future Electronics
and semiconductor workforce



The UK Electronics sector underpins almost every aspect of modern life, from healthcare and renewable energy to transport, defence and artificial intelligence. Yet employers across the sector continue to face significant skills shortages at every stage of the talent pipeline.

For more than 15 years, the UK Electronics Skills Foundation (UKESF) has been working in partnership with industry, education and government to inspire young people, develop future talent and strengthen the UK's Electronics and semiconductor workforce.

2025/26 has been a significant year for the UKESF and this report highlights the difference our work is making. Rather than measuring success simply by the number of activities delivered, we focus on the people whose confidence, aspirations and opportunities have changed because of them.



I am immensely proud of the impact that we have made during 2025/26. During the year, Government funding was secured to successfully deliver a large-scale semiconductor skills programme (Semiconductor: STEP). Overall, we have expanded our reach, providing more students with opportunities to explore careers in Electronics, learn about semiconductors and support them during their studies. Our aim is to equip them with the skills, confidence and industry insight needed to thrive in our sector. This year, more than ever, has demonstrated the importance of collaboration. The achievements highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the hard work of our UKESF team and the support of our industry partners, university stakeholders and volunteers.

Stewart Edmondson
CEO, UK Electronics Skills Foundation



At UKESF, our mission is to ensure that the deep tech industry has access to the talented Electronics engineers and technologists it needs to thrive. This report highlights the impact of our programmes during 2025/26, demonstrating how partnerships between industry, universities and students are building a robust skills pipeline which is fit-for-purpose in a dynamically evolving sector. The achievements showcased in these pages are a testament to tireless work of our CEO, Stewart Edmondson, and the talented team around him, which grew significantly in 2025/26. We are grateful for our university partners, volunteers, sponsors and DBSIT colleagues, whose collective commitment enables us to inspire, support and develop the next generation of talented and dedicated UK Electronics professionals.

Neil Dickins
Chairman, UK Electronics Skills Foundation

Leading skills development across the UK Electronics sector

The UK's skills challenge cannot be solved by isolated interventions. Instead, the UKESF aims to provide a coherent journey into Electronics.

Young people need opportunities to discover Electronics at school, develop their skills through further and higher education, connect with employers and build successful careers within the sector.

By bringing together educators, industry partners, universities and government, UKESF creates a connected talent pipeline that supports learners throughout their journey while helping employers build the workforce they need.



EXPOSURE

When young people experience Electronics hands-on, they begin to see themselves as capable problem-solvers.



ENCOURAGEMENT

"Real" models (as opposed to role models) and mentoring build confidence and show that STEM is open to everyone.



EMPOWERMENT

Continued support through school and university unlocks life-changing opportunities and future careers.

We believe that by inspiring young minds, we help shape those who will contribute to solving society's biggest challenges, including climate change, healthcare innovation, and digital inclusion.



Inspiring the next generation of Electronics Engineers

More young people should have the opportunity to discover Electronics, understand its importance and see themselves as part of its future.

UKESF schools programmes

Primary Electronics

Primary Electronics introduces engineering concepts at an early age, helping children develop curiosity, creativity and problem-solving skills before career stereotypes become established.

By making engineering accessible, practical and fun, the programme gives children an early opportunity to see themselves as problem-solvers and creators.

196

Primary classes
supported 25/26



“The children loved the activity, and the PowerPoint slides made it easy to follow and child-friendly. It was easy to pick up and, having not worked with these kinds of resources before, I found it easy to follow the steps to succeed.”

Heronsgate School



UKESF schools programmes

Girls into Electronics

Girls into Electronics is helping tackle the gender imbalance across the Electronics sector by increasing confidence, challenging perceptions and introducing young people to inspiring female "real" models.

These one-day events, which take place nationwide, give participants the opportunity to explore what a career in Electronics really looks like, meet people working in the sector and experience practical activities that bring the subject to life.

Since Girls into Electronics was launched in 2022, more than 2,000 female students from approximately 352 different schools have engaged in the programme.

586

Pupils booked

15

Universities held events

Girls into Electronics: Impact

59%

of participants could see themselves studying Electronics or a related subject

99%

said the event helped them understand Electronics and its real-world uses

78%

reported increased interest in technology, engineering or Electronics after the day



"An exceptionally enriching experience, this event is designed to broaden your horizons. Even if engineering isn't in your future, the insights you'll gain will empower you to make more confident, informed choices."

Girls into Electronics participant at University of Cambridge



UKESF schools programmes

Supporting teachers to create memorable experiences

Our wide range of schools programmes and initiatives are designed to inspire more young people and strengthen their understanding of Electronics, engineering and semiconductors.

Together, these initiatives extended our reach and helped create a more connected journey from first experiences of Electronics through to future study and careers.

Through our **Award for Inspirational Electronics Educators**, we celebrated educators making a lasting difference in the classroom. Our International Women's Day campaign, '**Ground breakers and future-makers**' showcased diverse 'real' models and challenged perceptions of who belongs in the sector.

Semiconductor Skills in Schools Programme connected students and teachers with industry, helping them understand the opportunities available across Electronics and semiconductors. Meanwhile, Careers Forums gave students direct access to employers and higher education providers, helping them better understand potential routes into the sector.



Semiconductor Skills in Schools: Impact

7,800+
pupils engaged

432
teachers engaged

100%
of teachers said the
resources were
excellent

Developing the future semiconductor workforce

Building a resilient Electronics sector requires more than inspiring interest. Young people also need clear pathways into education, industry and long-term careers.

UKESF works closely with employers to provide real-world experiences, mentoring, scholarships and professional development opportunities that help students prepare for successful careers – while giving employers access to diverse, highly skilled future talent.

UKESF skills programmes

UKESF Scholarship Scheme

Our Scholarship Scheme connects talented students with leading employers, combining financial support with valuable industry experience.

UKESF Scholarships create opportunities to develop professional networks, gain insight into industry and understand how their academic skills translate into real-world careers.

65

UKESF Scholarships
awarded 25/26

36

Companies
participated 25/26

981

Total Scholarships
Awarded to date





"The Scholarship has helped me with industry experience, through my sponsoring company, and has also supported me with electronics outreach. Both of these have been rewarding and valuable additions to my education. Electronics engineering is an exciting field to be part of, as it is one of the main disciplines at the forefront of modern technology."

Samuel Kennedy, 2025 Scholar of the Year



Semiconductor Talent Award

The Semiconductor Talent Award is a Government funded initiative to address underrepresentation and improve social mobility in the UK Semiconductor Industry, to ensure that more capable and motivated students have the opportunity to enter this exciting and growing field.

307
Awards

94%
found the
experience highly
valuable

99%
increased
awareness of the
semiconductor
sector

»» "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,
University of Leeds**

»» "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 not have considered before."

**Award holder,
University of Strathclyde**



Semiconductor Skills Development Programme

The semiconductor industry needs graduates with the specialist skills to turn knowledge into innovation. Through the Semiconductor Skills Development Programme, UKESF is helping to bridge the gap between academic learning and the practical demands of the semiconductor industry.

Working closely with industry partners, we delivered a combination of online and intensive in-person technical training, giving undergraduates the opportunity to develop practical semiconductor design skills and gain insight into the technologies and processes shaping the future of the sector.

The programme provides participants with valuable technical knowledge, hands-on experience and greater confidence in applying their skills to real-world challenges – helping to prepare the next generation of semiconductor talent for careers in a rapidly evolving industry.

96

Participants completed the online chip design course

40

Participants completed in-person chip design residential course



“This course has been an essential bridge between my AI research and the practical realities of semiconductor design.

Personally, it has given me greater confidence navigating technical conversations and identifying the skills gaps that exist within the workforce.

Professionally, it will enable me to design more relevant, industry-informed models and interventions that support skills development and career pathways in chip design and verification roles.”

Female PhD student, King's College London

UKESF skills programmes

Creating connections and opening doors

Alongside our core talent development programmes, we created opportunities for students to broaden their horizons, develop professional networks and gain first-hand experience of the global Electronics industry.

Through **Scholars in Taiwan**, participants experienced one of the world's leading semiconductor ecosystems, deepening their understanding of the sector while building valuable international connections.

Our **Women in Electronics Webinar** initiative with Cadence showcased inspiring female 'real' models from industry, helping to challenge stereotypes and encourage more women to consider careers in Electronics.



Industry mentoring and **placement opportunities** further strengthened the transition from education into employment, giving students practical experience, professional guidance and the confidence to take their next steps.

Together, these opportunities complement our core programmes by connecting education with the real-world experiences, networks and skills that help students progress towards successful careers.

Leading skills development across the UK Electronics sector

No single organisation can solve the UK's Electronics skills challenge alone.

UKESF brings together employers, educators, universities, government and professional bodies to create lasting change across the sector.

Through collaboration, advocacy and shared leadership, we help strengthen the UK's skills ecosystem and ensure that the impact of our work extends beyond individual participants.

UKESF skills advocacy

Skills Charter

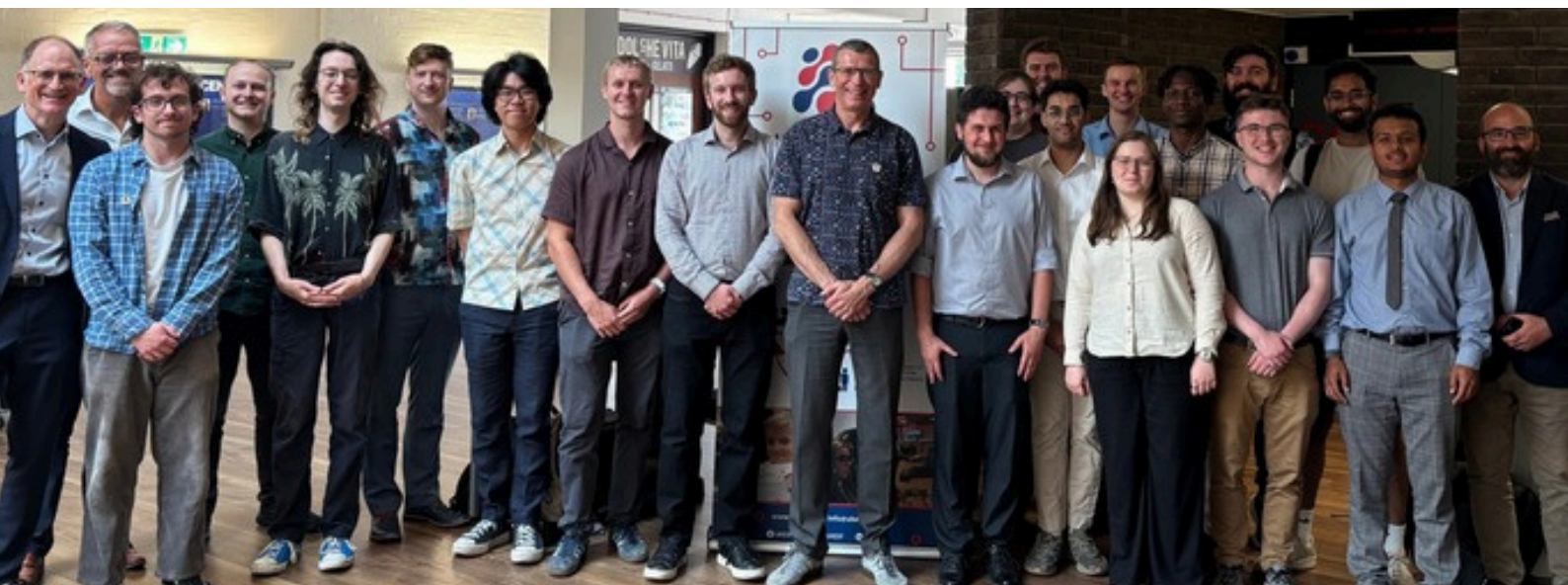
The UKESF Skills Charter demonstrates industry's collective commitment to developing future talent and strengthening the UK Electronics skills pipeline.

33
companies
awarded the UKESF
Skills Charter

UKESF skills advocacy

Verification Futures

Verification Futures brings together experts from across the Electronics community to support knowledge sharing, collaboration and professional development.



Strategic partnerships

Throughout the year, we continued to strengthen relationships with employers, trade associations, universities and government, ensuring our programmes remain closely aligned with industry needs while creating new opportunities for learners across the UK.

A key development was our engagement with the new UK Semiconductor Centre, supporting greater collaboration across the UK's growing semiconductor ecosystem and helping to connect skills development with the needs of the sector.

We also continued to raise the profile of Electronics and semiconductor skills through our contribution to major industry events and conferences. UKESF speakers shared our expertise and perspectives at Microelectronics UK, Southern Manufacturing, the CW Technology & Engineering Conference, the Silicon Carbide UK Conference and NanoFabUK, helping to bring skills and talent into wider conversations about the future of the UK Electronics industry.

Through these partnerships and sector-wide engagements, UKESF continues to connect people, organisations and opportunities, helping to build a stronger and more joined-up skills ecosystem for the UK.

Our partnerships span:

Universities | Working with higher education institutions to connect students with skills, opportunities and industry.

Industry partners | Working alongside employers to understand workforce needs and create meaningful routes into the sector.

Government collaborations | Supporting national priorities around skills, social mobility and the future semiconductor workforce.

Professional bodies | Working across the wider engineering and Electronics ecosystem to amplify impact and share expertise.



Looking ahead

Demand for Electronics and semiconductor skills continues to grow. Over the coming year, UKESF will continue to expand opportunities for young people, strengthen partnerships with industry and education, and develop innovative programmes that help ensure the UK has the skilled and diverse workforce needed for future economic growth.

The challenge is significant, but so is the opportunity. Together, we can inspire more young people, create more opportunities and build a stronger future for UK Electronics.

Thank you

None of this would be possible without the continued support of our partners, funders, universities, schools and volunteers.

Thank you to everyone who has helped us inspire young people, develop future talent and strengthen the UK's Electronics skills pipeline.





UK Electronics Skills Foundation

Find out how you can get involved in our work:

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