

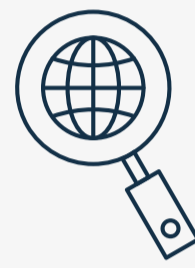
Dismantling the digital divide

Many people across the UK do not have the basic digital skills to help them stay safe online, find jobs and demonstrate many of the skills needed in all workplaces. This has created a digital divide that we need to dismantle to ensure we all can progress.

Why do we need Essential Digital Skills?

Without digital inclusion, many people are at an unfair disadvantage and we risk missing out on great talent.

11.3 million people lack the full basic digital skills



4.3 million have no basic digital skills at all



5.4 million working adults are without basic digital skills

28% of those aged **60+** are offline

(2019 Lloyds Consumer Digital Index)



people with a **registered disability** are 4 times as likely to be offline

What are Essential Digital Skills?

Essential Digital Skills qualifications are the new national standard for basic digital literacy. They are funded by the ESFA as part of the Adult Education Budget (AEB) and are for learners with none or little digital skills.

Guided learning hours:

Essential Digital Skills qualifications will be between 30 and 50 GLH.

[\(Department for Education consultation decision\)](#)

What topics will be covered?



Using and handling devices



Communicating



Being safe and responsible online



Creating and editing



Transacting

To find out more about our [new Essential Digital Skills initial assessment](#), contact EDS@skillsforward.co.uk.