

What are the skills needed for innovation? (Skills for Innovation and Research)

The literature indicates that a large number of skills are required for innovation, ranging from technical skills to "soft" skills and the ability to learn. Different individuals, firms and industries may draw on different skill mixes at different times; nevertheless, many skills appear relevant across the innovation spectrum. Human capital is an essential input to innovation, but what are the skills and attributes that human capital must possess? This chapter provides some insights on skills for innovation drawn from the literature and on the mix of these skills which economies may require. It then briefly discusses emerging themes in skill requirements. A final section summarises the chapter.

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