**DATA70202 Applied Data Science**

# Project Brief – IBM Skills Build

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# Presentation of the Industry Partner

IBM is a large software and hardware vendor, with a focus on AI and Quantum. Part of IBMs strategy is to support the skilling up to 30 million people by 2030 in order to support the changing needs of industry. One of our main vehicles for this is IBM Skills Build, a platform where students and adult learners can have free access to online courses/badges. In order to ensure that Skills Build continues to be the relevant to the user base, we would a team of students to review Skills Build content, and perform an analysis if the data provided by the UK Govt Employment and Skills survey, and provide recommendations on the evolution of IBM Skills Build, esp to determine which content should be sunset, which content is relevant, and what content we should consider including.

# Brief description of the project

IBM Skills Build is IBM’s main online platform for delivering learning to both students and adult learners who are looking to transition to another role. IBM Skills Build is the avenue to achieve IBMs goal of skilling up 30 million people by 2030. In order to achieve this goal, we need to ensure that the learning material contained in IBM Skills Build meets the needs of industry, and will help learners cross the skills gap, thereby filling the skills needs of industry, both today and in the future (next 3 years).

To do this we would require a team of students to

* Become familiar with the content of IBM Skills Build (timeframe – this would take 1 day)
* Analyse the data contained in the UK Gov Skills Employment Survey
* Identify current shortfalls in needed specific skills
  + Provide an sector by sector analysis
* Predict the trend of increased skills gap (specific skills)
  + Provide a sector by sector analysis
* Use this analysis to recommend how we should evolve IBM Skills Build in terms of content we should include in order to address the current skill shortage, and the future likely skill shortages

# Main requirements from the Industry Partner

The project has the following objectives:

* Become familiar with the IBM Skills Build offering – and segment the content into specific skills
* Analyse the data contained in the UK Gov Skills Employment Survey
* Identify current shortfalls in needed specific skills
  + Provide an sector by sector analysis
* Predict the trend of increased skills gap (specific skills)
  + Provide a sector by sector analysis
* Use this analysis to recommend how we should evolve IBM Skills Build in terms of content we should include in order to address the current skill shortage, and the future likely skill shortages

# Data and data requirements

IBM Skills Build can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/PathWaytoLearning>

UK Gov Data Skills Survey: <https://explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk/find-statistics/employer-skills-survey/2022>

# Expected outcomes

Expected outcomes for this project are:

* As-Is breakdown of skills supported by learning content of IBM Skills Build
* To-Be recommendation of skills content for IBM Skills Build
  + To support todays skills shortfalls
  + To support projected skills shortfalls

# Timetable

To be defined.

# Data sharing agreement

The industry Partner and the University of Manchester have agreed in terms and conditions of their collaboration for the specific scope of the course unit PLAN70202. A data sharing agreement can be annexed to this brief.

Nuno Pinto, January 2024