



Olton Bridge, 245 Warwick Road  
Solihull, West Midlands B92 7AH  
**Telephone** 0121 707 0077  
**Email** [skills@thefis.org](mailto:skills@thefis.org)  
**Website** [www.thefis.org](http://www.thefis.org)

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## **Launch of FIS Skills Partnership and Approved Training Provider Network**

FIS Skills, the specialist skills delivery capability of Finishes and Interiors Sector Ltd (FIS) are pleased to announce the launch of our Partnership and Approved Training Provider Network Programme – Phase 2. This exciting new development builds on the current strong body of Approved Training Providers (ATP's) that already work with us. Our aim is to provide full nationwide coverage of FE colleges and ATP's across England, Wales and Scotland. Partnership status will also include multiple stakeholders such as schools and national career services.

The development of this network is an important part of FIS Skills' strategic objectives of attracting 1500 new entrants into the sector per annum. Building this network enables us to provide guaranteed quality training provision that allows a consistent quality new entrant pathway across all interior systems trades ensuring a qualified workforce within the sector.

Fit-out Futures Programme has an inclusive approach to building solutions by bringing together and working with all parties including FIS members, manufacturers, contractors, higher education colleges, training providers, new entrants and ensuring that the rest of the industry can be included. By taking a comprehensive sector approach to development and delivery, we are attacking the skills gap by delivering solutions to the problems, speaking with one strong voice for the sector.

Amanda Scott, FIS Skills sector engagement manager, said "at FIS Skills, we have our finger on the sector pulse when reporting on the demand needs of new entrants and the skills needed within the sector. We do this by completing the Training Needs Analysis research that allows us to analyse the current qualifications held within the workforce and up-skill them to industry standards. To achieve this, FIS Skills must be able to fill that demand with a strong supply chain and a preferred supply list".

We are proud to open the Phase 2 FIS Skills Partnership and ATP Network to all suitable organisations who share our vision for sector development, to join this network and collaborate with us by completing the applications for Partnership Status. The application form is available to download from our website landing page.

Helen Yeulet, FIS Skills delivery director, said: "the only way to close the skills gap we have is through strong collaboration and partnership. This approach provides the partnership to join the dots across employers, educators and potential new entrants".

For more information about Partnership and Approved Training Provider Network email: [skills@thefis.org](mailto:skills@thefis.org) or visit our landing page on: <https://www.thefis.org/skills-hub/coursesight/training-providers/become-approved-training-provider/>

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**Notes to editors:**

1. FIS Skills logos are available on request.
2. FIS Skills are the specialist skills delivery capability of FIS Ltd. They are responsible for delivering on the Fit-out Futures Programme designed to attract 1500 new entrants per annum to the sector to 2020 by devising innovative and workable solutions for the sector' problems.
3. Finishes and Interiors Sector Ltd (FIS) represents almost 450 companies involved in the manufacture, supply and installation of all aspects of finishes, interior fit-outs and refurbishment. We speak with one strong voice for the finishes and interiors sector. We work on behalf of our membership to raise awareness and increase the influence of the sector. We help members to make the most of opportunities through advice, training, technical support and dialogue with government and other bodies.
4. For more information about the Partnership and Approved Training Provider Network email : [skills@thefis.org](mailto:skills@thefis.org) or visit our landing page on: <https://www.thefis.org/skills-hub/coursesight/training-providers/become-approved-training-provider/>

**For more information contact:**

Amanda Scott, FIS Skills - sector engagement manager

Email: [amandascott@thefis.org](mailto:amandascott@thefis.org) tel: 0121 707 0077