

About the Career Development Institute



The Career Development Institute (CDI) is the UK's professional body for all aspects of career development, supporting our members to work to the highest standards and championing the profession.

Our role includes:

- ✓ Setting professional standards: We establish best practices, including the CDI Code of Ethics, which is recognised by the government.
- ✓ Regulation & qualifications: The CDI manages the UK Register of Career Development Professionals and oversees the Qualification in Career Development (QCD).
- ✓ Training & development: Through the CDI Academy, we offer training opportunities for both new and experienced professionals.
- ✓ Research and resources: We provide a wealth of resources to help practitioners build on their knowledge and develop.

We are proud to collaborate with NICEC on The Journal and host research-focused events twice a year for members across the UK. CDI members can access The Journal via our website.

Website: thecdi.net

Professional recognition

The CDI has a critical role to play in setting standards and articulating what quality looks like for the sector. Importantly we are an awarding body, managing the Qualification in Career Development (QCD) and the UK Register for Career Development Professionals, which is pivotal to our ongoing quality agenda and is fast becoming recognised as the sector's equivalent to chartered status.

Becoming professionally qualified: thecdi.net/professional-qualified

The Register: thecdi.net/professional-register

Valuing Careers campaign

The Valuing Careers Campaign highlights the essential role of career development in empowering individuals, strengthening the economy, and addressing workforce challenges.

Our campaign advocates for:

- ✓ Greater access to high-quality career development support at all career stages.
- ✓ Stronger collaboration between educators, employers, policymakers, and career development professionals.

- ✓ Policy recognition and increased investment in career development as a driver of economic growth, workforce resilience, and social mobility.

Valuing Careers campaign: [theCDI.net/valuingcareers](https://the CDI.net/valuingcareers)

Championing the profession within government

Career development is critical to individual success, economic growth, and social mobility—which is why we continue to advocate for it at policy level.

Through our partnerships with the Career Development Policy Group, the Skills Federation and other stakeholders, we ensure career development remains a national priority.

Career Development Policy Group: careerDpg.co.uk

Raising the profession's profile

We are committed to increasing awareness of the importance of career development through extensive media engagement. Our efforts include:

- Publishing articles in leading educational news outlets and providing expert commentary.
- Strengthening our social media presence to share press activity and contribute to themed awareness campaigns.

Search for 'Career Development Institute' on [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com)

A commitment to research

The CDI Research Directory provides curated, high-quality evidence to support careers guidance and inform best practice. Our aim is to ensure that policymakers and practitioners can access the best available research, and we will continue to grow this resource with new contributions.

theCDI.net/resources/research-directory

The Technical Education Resource Library offers career development professionals in England a single, convenient hub for information and resources designed to raise awareness of technical education pathways and the latest qualification reforms.

theCDI.net/resources/technical-education-resource-hub

We also undertake ongoing and ad-hoc research into the profession, including the Big Listen survey and other projects designed to explore key issues affecting career development practice.

Further CDI reports and briefings are available in the members-only Resources Library.

theCDI.net/resources/cpd-resource-library

CDI training, CPD and events

We offer a comprehensive range of initial and progression qualifications, as well as an annual CPD programme that provides members with access to free and discounted support to meet all their key professional development needs.

For the full training and events programme, including expert training sessions, conferences, webinars, CDI Academy courses and more, please visit the CDI.net/training-and-events.

NEW: AI in Careers Lightning Conference

Join careers professionals, educators, policy leaders and digital innovators for our new AI in Careers Lightning Conference. This fast-paced, discussion-led online session brings together high-impact insights and focused deep-dive conversations to help you build understanding, confidence and practical ideas you can apply in your own setting.

This event takes place Wednesday 29 April and is delivered in partnership with CareerChat UK and the University of Warwick Institute for Employment Research.

the CDI.net/LightningConference

The National Careers Leaders' Conference

The National Careers Leaders' Conference (NCLC) is a key professional development event for Careers Leaders, Advisers, Hub Leads, and Enterprise Coordinators working across primary, secondary, SEND schools, and colleges. Organised by the CDI and iCeGS, it supports the development of best practice and tools to enhance careers programmes in response to evolving education policies and the changing world of work.

the CDI.net/NCLC

UK Career Development Awards

The annual UK Career Development Awards (UKCDAs) celebrate excellence and innovation across the career development sector in the UK and internationally. The event honours individuals and organisations making a significant impact through career guidance, education, and support services. With categories ranging from outstanding professionals and programmes to innovative resources and lifetime achievements, the awards highlight the dedication and creativity of those shaping futures.

the CDI.net/UKCDA

The CDI National Conference

The CDI National Conference is the flagship annual event for all professionals across the career development sector. It brings together practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and educators to explore the latest trends, challenges, and innovations in career development. It covers a wide range of topics relevant to career guidance for young people and adults and is designed to support continuous improvement and collaboration across the sector.

the CDI.net/national-conference

The National Research Conference

The National Research Conference, hosted by the Career Development Institute in partnership with iCeGS, AGCAS, and NICEC, is an annual event dedicated to showcasing and supporting practitioner-led research in the careers sector. It provides a platform for careers professionals from all settings to share their work, engage with evidence-informed practice, and build confidence in conducting and applying research.

thecdi.net/research-conference

