

# South Midlands The Labour Market

July 2024

The  
South Midlands  
Authorities



HM Government

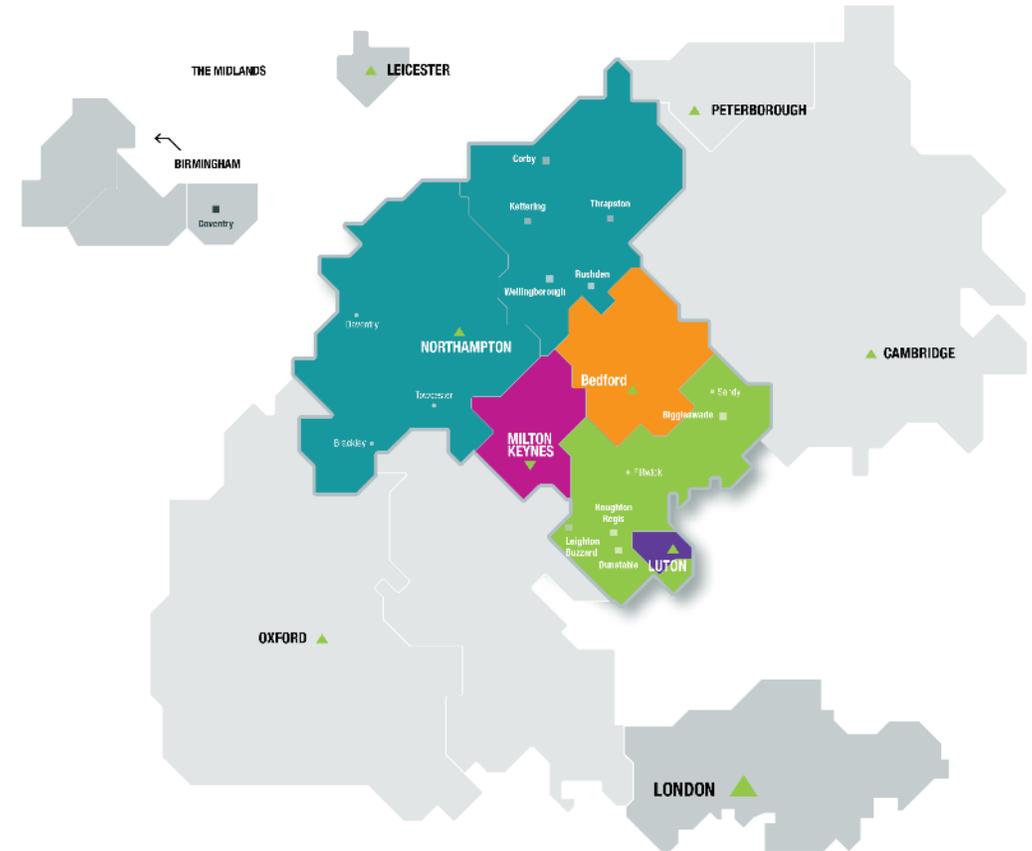


# Introduction

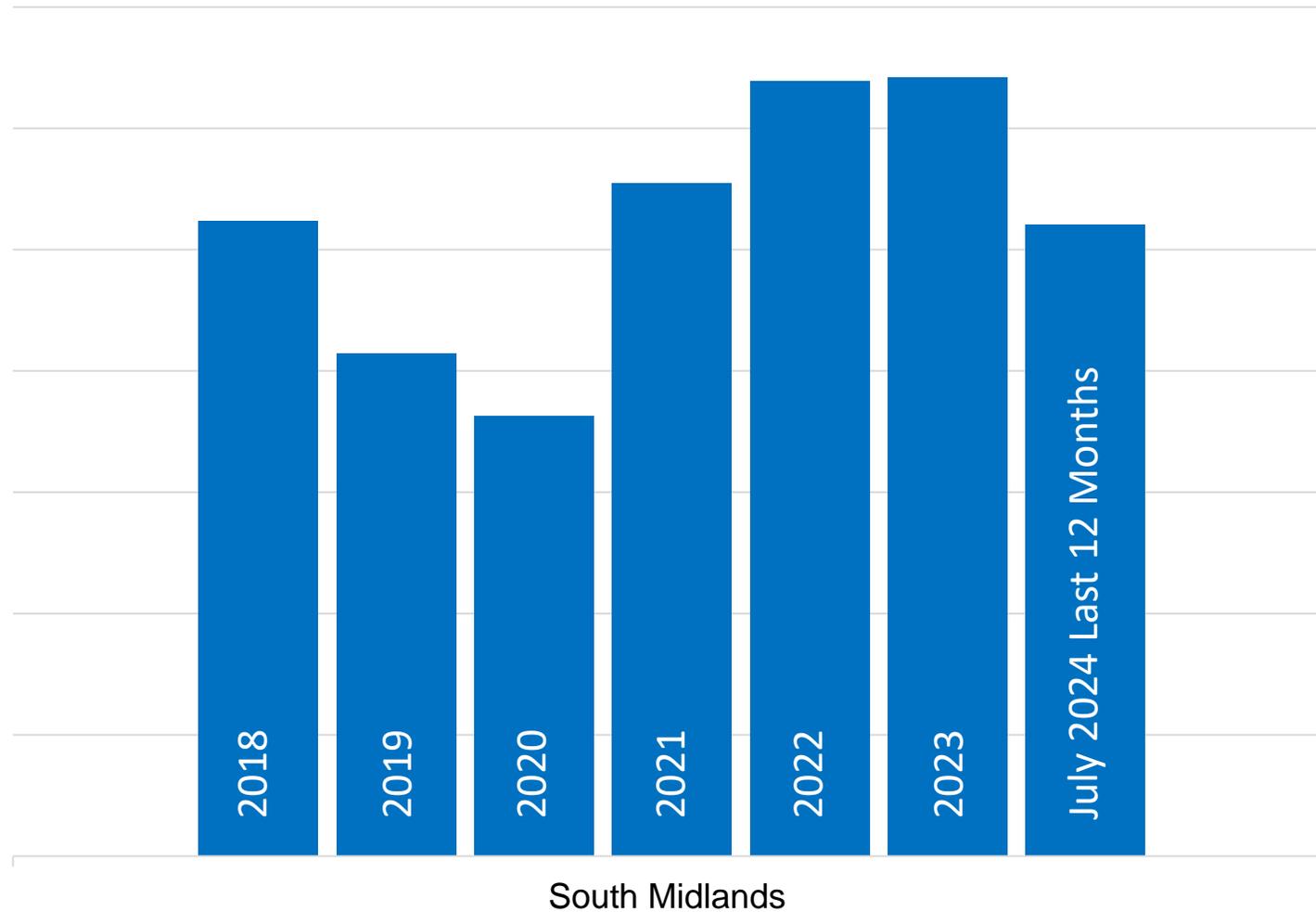
## South Midlands comprises:

- Bedfordshire
- Luton
- Milton Keynes
- Northamptonshire

Our role is to help economic growth thrive across the South Midlands by supporting job creation, a pipeline of talented people and skills development for the future prosperity of the local communities.



# Job Vacancies Trends



## Facts

Job vacancies are the  
higher than pre pandemic

# Top occupational groups in demand now

Job Postings Last 12 Months - Occupational Routes and Pathways



# “Employability Skills”

## Attitudes & Behaviours

- Work ethic
- Detail orientated
- Willingness to learn
- Enthusiasm
- Self-motivation
- Independent working
- Flexibility/Adaptability
- Honesty
- Reliability
- Politeness
- Humility
- Empathy
- Curiosity

## Core Transferable Skills

- Expressing yourself/Active listening
- Organisation
- Digital literacy/Interaction with computers
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Decision making
- Creativity/Innovation
- Leadership/Developing Teams
- Time management
- Analysing/Evaluating
- Teamwork
- Collaboration
- Resilience

## Technical & Vocational

- Job specific
- Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM)
- Specialist digital skills
- Education
- Commercial acumen
- Financial awareness
- Customer service
- Sales
- Management
- Working with hands
- Driving

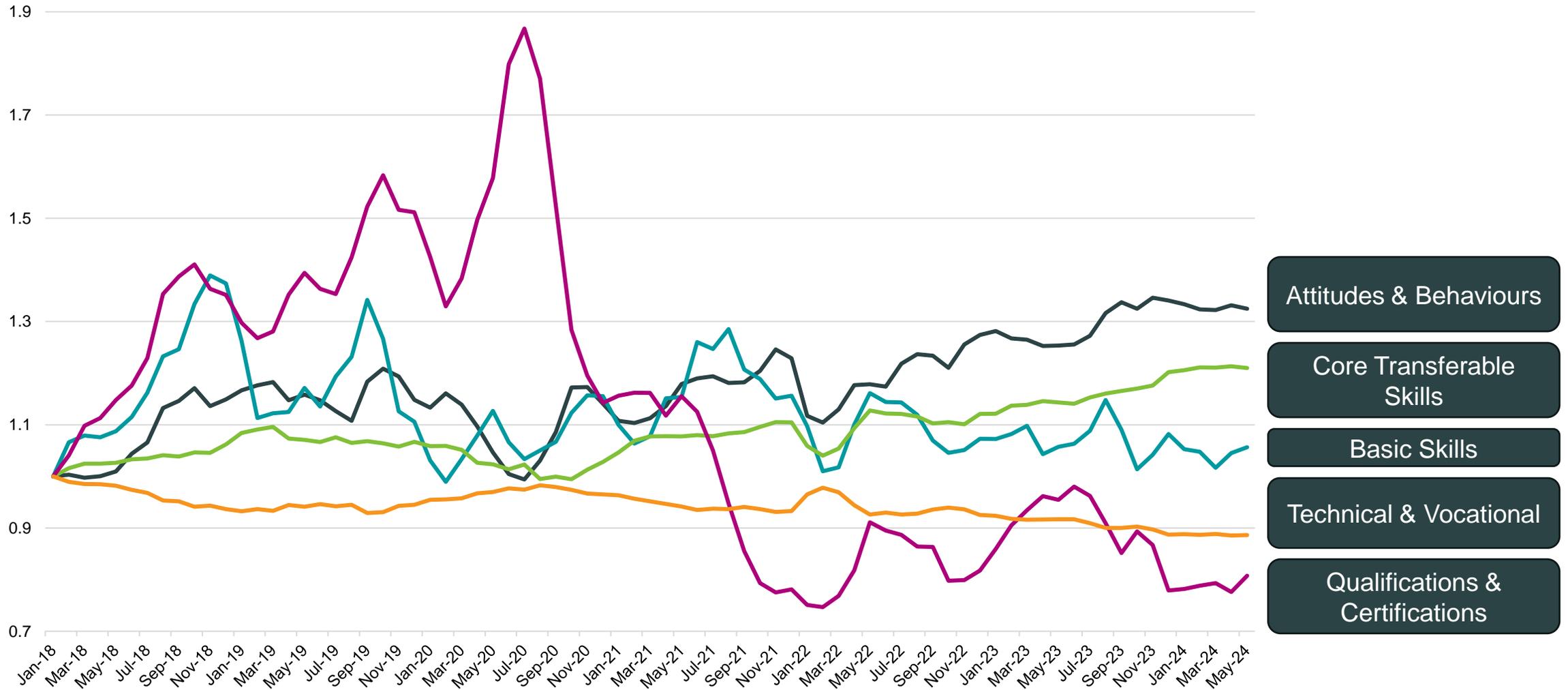
## Basic Skills

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- English
- Basic digital

## Qualifications & Certifications

- Technical Qualifications
- Academic Qualifications
- Technical Certification
- Vocational Certification

# Employability Skills Trends



# Digital Skills

## Increase in demand for digital literacy

Software	Vs 2020
Microsoft Excel	++
Microsoft Office	++
Microsoft Outlook	++
Microsoft PowerPoint	=
Microsoft Azure	=
Microsoft Word	=
Power BI	++

## Most requested computer programming languages

Rank	Software	Vs 2020
1	SQL	+
2	JavaScript	++
3	C#	+
4	Java	+
5	Python	+

## Other digital systems

Software	Vs 2020
SAP Applications (Business)	++
Amazon Web Services (Business/Sales)	+
AutoCAD (Design)	+

**All sectors show a demand for Microsoft Excel and Outlook**

# Future Opportunities

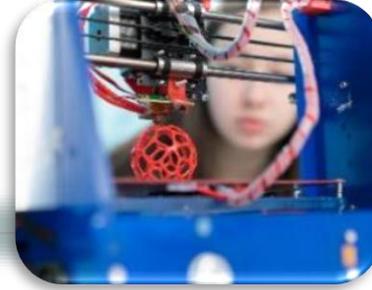
Modern Methods of  
Construction



Aerospace/Space



Manufacturing



Intelligent  
Mobility



Logistics



Green Economy  
Net Zero  
Sustainability

Artificial Intelligence  
Internet of Things  
5G  
Data Science/Analytics



Technology/Automation  
Environment/Net Zero  
Labour Costs/Globalisation  
Aging Population



Non-Carbon  
Fuelled Transport



Agri-tech



Creative



Health and Care

# Future opportunities

## New Jobs and Changes in Occupation Roles

### Automation driven service industries

- Digital
- Engineering and technology
- Education
- Health
- Care

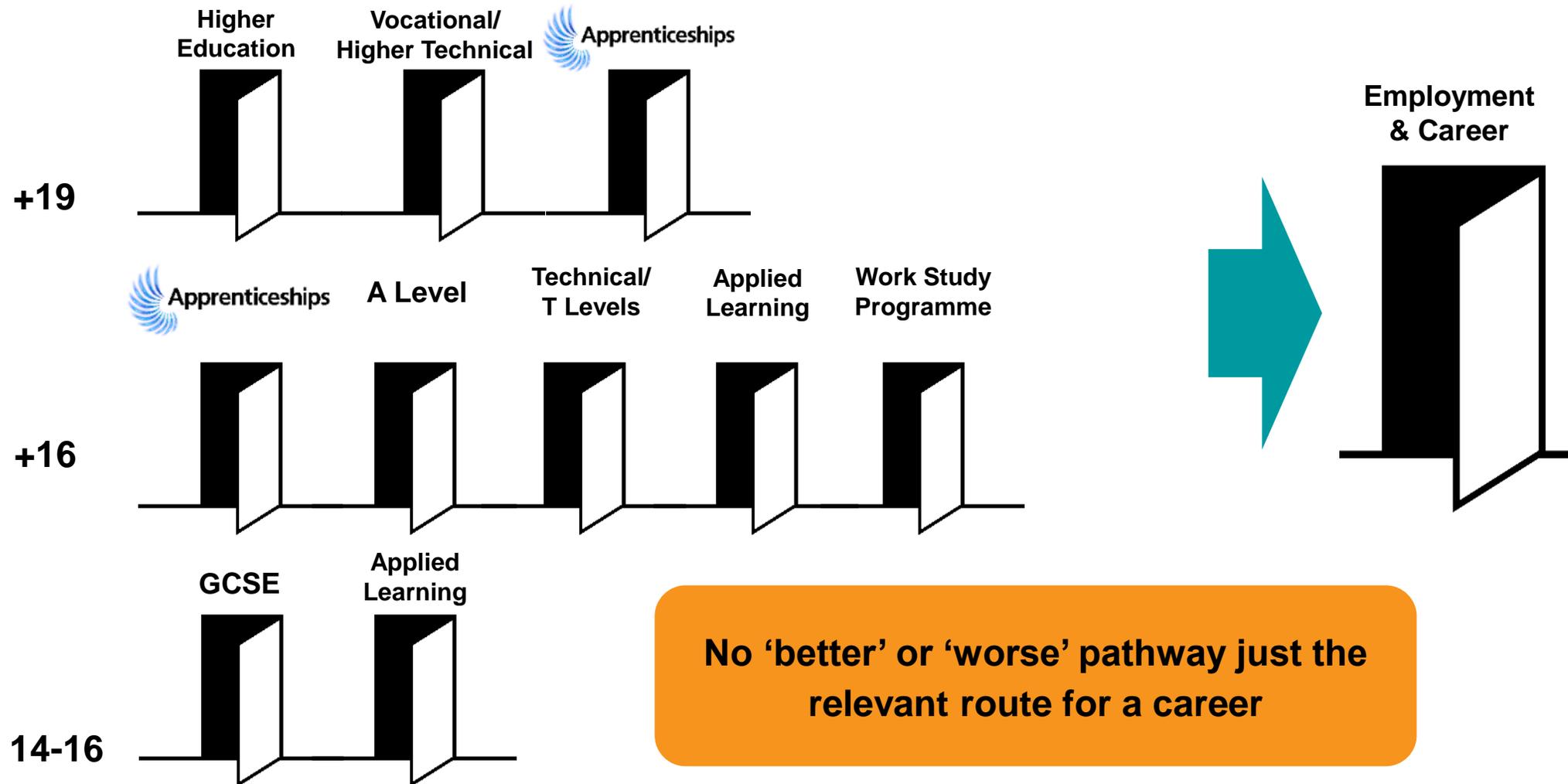
### Net Zero/Green Economy/Sustainability

- Scientific research
- Engineering and technology
- Machine operators/technicians
- Agriculture
- Regulatory professionals

### Population Serving

- Health
- Care
- Education

# Pathways – Routes to Work



# Pathways – Innovative Further Education

The  
**South Midlands  
Authorities**

**Northampton  
College  
Daventry**



**Moulton College**



**Northampton College**



**Tresham College**



**The National College  
for Motorsport**



**Milton Keynes  
College**



**Bedford College**



**Shuttleworth  
College**



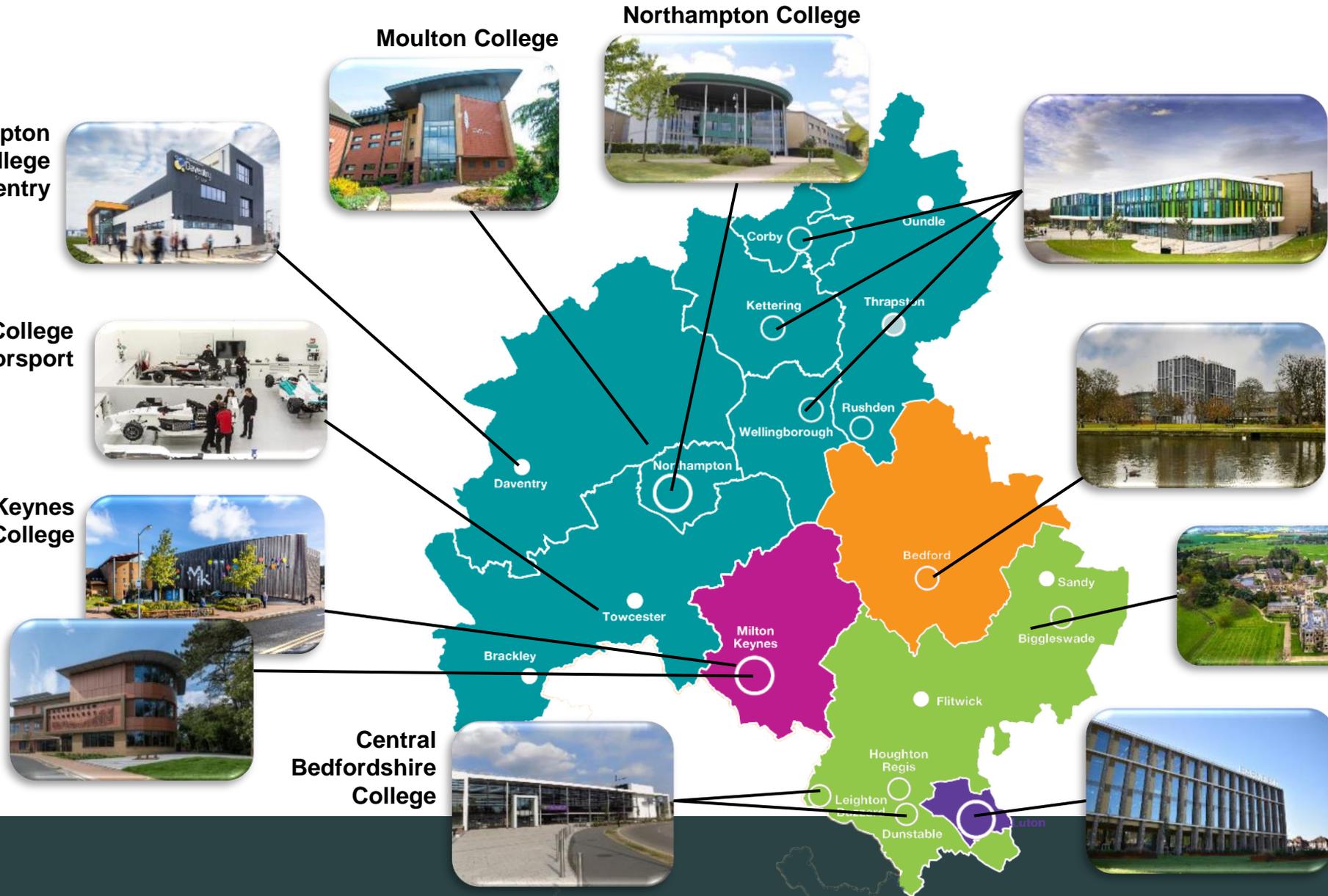
**Barnfield  
College**



**Central  
Bedfordshire  
College**



**The South  
Central Institute  
of Technology**



# Pathways – Higher Education

The South Midlands Authorities

University of Northampton



The Open University



Cranfield University

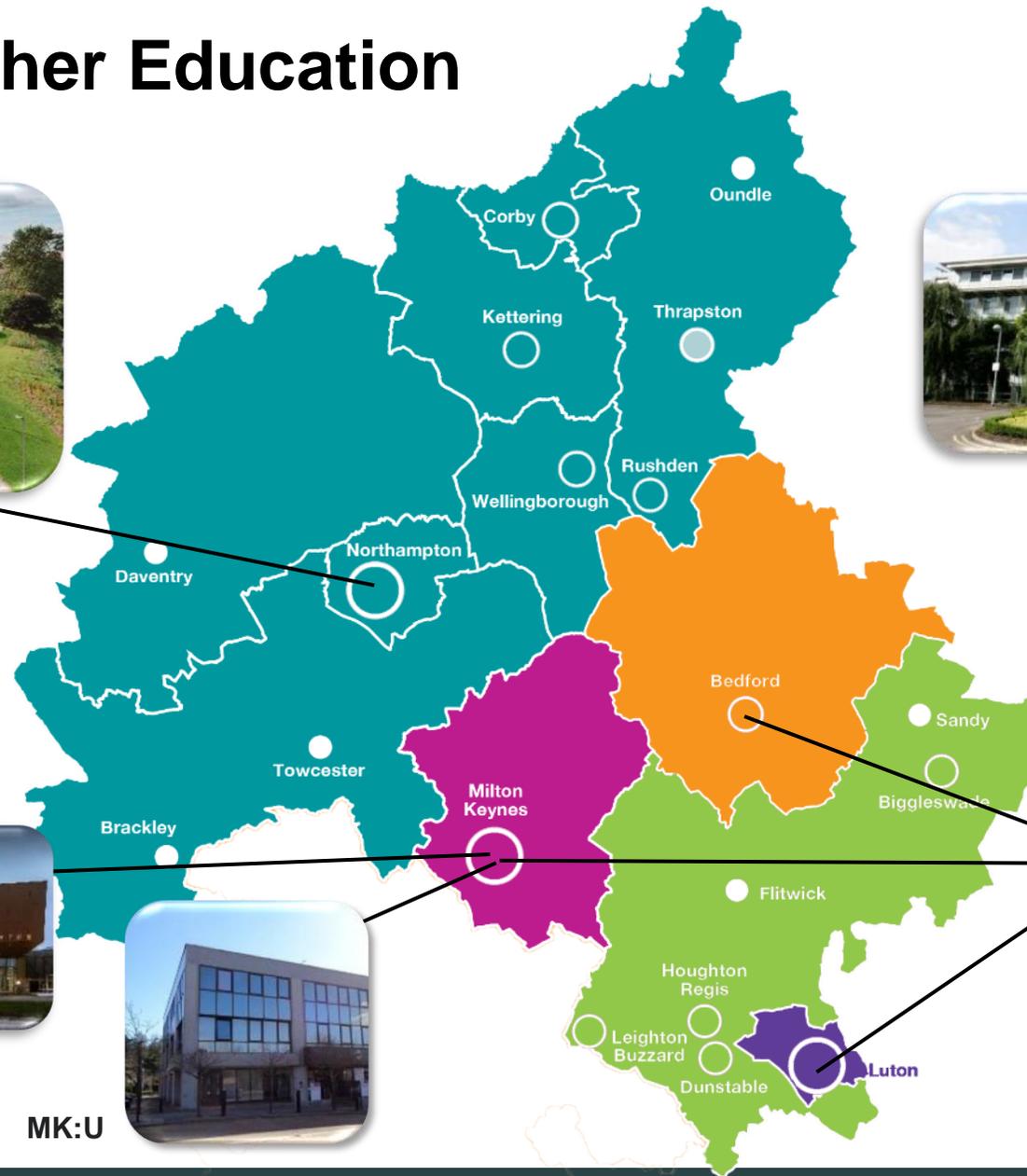
University of Bedfordshire



University of Buckingham Medical School



MK:U



# Pathways – Other

Independent training providers  
delivering training provision

Primarily for apprenticeships,  
traineeships, specialist training or  
targeted to help particular groups  
of people

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County Council

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**Business and economy**

Current business projects Funding for your business Procurement Trading Standards Sponsorship and commercial opportunities

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY  
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Funded by  
Department  
for Education

**citb**

Anyone can work in construction, and that includes you!

**Northamptonshire construction skills programme**

**Apprenticeships Available**

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# Other Sources of Information

- Explore your education and training choices at **Skills for Careers** – <https://www.skillsforcareers.education.gov.uk/pages/young-people>
- Explore careers at:
  - **National Careers Service** - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers>
  - **Prospects** – Information on jobs, work experience and pathways <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/jobs-and-work-experience/job-sectors/>
- **Youth Employment Careers** and pathways into work <https://www.youthemployment.org.uk/careers-hub/>
- **icould** – video and careers information - <https://icould.com/explore/categories/job-types/#jobtype>
- **South East Midlands Careers Hub** - [Careers Advice & Applications](#)

# Other Sources of Information

Explore occupational groups with need locally

- **Engineering** - This is Engineering - An introduction to the sector and the opportunities it offers <https://www.thisisengineering.org.uk/>
- **Construction** - GoConstruct, the construction industry guide to careers <https://www.goconstruct.org/>
- **Manufacturing** - Makeuk, what is it like to work in UK manufacturing - <https://www.makeuk.org/insights/blogs/what-is-it-like-to-work-in-uk-manufacturing>
- **Creative Industries** - Creative Industries Federation, discover creative careers <https://discovercreative.careers/#/>
- **Health** - NHS Find Your Career <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/FindYourCareer>, MK, Bedfordshire, Luton <https://work-learn-live-blmk.co.uk/jobs/>, Northamptonshire <https://bestofbothworlds.uk.net/>
- **Care** - Think Care Careers, Skills for Care <https://www.skillsforcare.org.uk/Careers-in-care/Think-Care-Careers.aspx>, **Logistics and Supply Chain** - Transport & Logistics careers - <https://generationlogistics.org/>
- **Digital** - Digital World - <https://www.digitalworld.net/industries-and-jobs>
- **Hospitality** (Food and Accommodation) - <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-categories/hospitality-and-food>

# More information:

<https://www.semlep.com/school-labour-market-information/>

