



**ENHANCING
FOOD & DRINK MANUFACTURING
SKILLS IN WEST LONDON**



HRUC
HARROW, RICHMOND & UXBRIDGE COLLEGES

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The thriving Food and Drink Manufacturing (FDM) sector in West London is at a critical point of transformation. This is being driven by rapid technological advancements, evolving consumer demands, and regulatory change.

Today, these shifts present significant opportunities and challenges, making it essential to invest in workforce development and industry collaboration now to ensure long-term growth and resilience.

To meet this need, our study proposes the establishment of a new West London Institute of Technology (WLIoT) Food and Drink Innovation and Skills Hub.

Spearheaded by Harrow, Richmond, and Uxbridge Colleges (HRUC), and supported by leading Further Education (FE), Higher Education (HE) institutions, and key industry partners, National Skills Academy for Food & Drink, and Food & Drink Federation our shared ambition is for the Hub to become a centre of excellence for skills development, innovation, and cross-sector partnership.

The Hub's mission is to:

- ▶ Build strategic alliances with key stakeholders to maximise economic impact.
- ▶ Support lifelong learning and upskilling.
- ▶ Deliver sector-specific, future-facing training and qualifications.
- ▶ Cultivate a diverse, adaptable talent pipeline.





What are the key recommendations in the study?

1. Enhanced Partnerships

Enhanced partnerships strengthen collaboration between education and industry to encourage continuous improvements; co-design curricula, provide work based learning opportunities, and integrate emerging technologies and innovation driving the industry forward.

Education (IfATE), with a curriculum tailored specifically to sector needs.

2. Skills and Innovation

Continuously review and update programmes to reflect the latest technological developments and market demands, ensuring that learners acquire cutting-edge, industry-relevant skills.

4. Flexible Delivery Modes

Offer blended learning models that combine face-to-face instruction with online learning, making training more accessible to a wide range of learners, including those already employed or seeking flexible options.

3. Specialised Programmes

Develop and deliver a range of apprenticeship programmes accredited by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical

5. Addressing Age Group Diversity

Create targeted pathways and outreach strategies to engage a wider demographic, including younger learners and adult career changers who may not have previously

By implementing these recommendations, the WLIoT Food and Drink Innovation and Skills Hub will help position West London as a national leader in FDM training and education. In addition, this initiative will build a highly skilled, innovative, and adaptable workforce ready to lead the sector into the future.



“Together with our partners, this exciting new hub will equip west London’s food and drink manufacturing sector to meet future challenges by building skills, expanding apprenticeships, and fostering innovation through collaboration between education and industry.”

Jo Withers,
Chief Business Strategy, HRUC

Visit the Food and Drink Skills Hub for more details



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