DIGITAL SKILLS AFRICA

PARTNERSHIP GUIDE 2026

Partner with us to reignite hope through digital empowerment

Digital Skills Africa gives disadvantaged communities free access to accredited technical certifications. This guide explains who we are, what we have achieved and the ways your organisation can take part.

NPC 2020/914091/08 PBO 930081802 digitalskillsafrica.org

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What is Digital Skills Africa?

Digital Skills Africa is a non-profit company (NPC) established to reignite hope and address socio economic transformation through digital empowerment.

Our purpose is to educate students and unemployed youth with relevant technical skills, by giving them access to technical certifications at no cost. We partner with schools in disadvantaged communities and seek funding so each school can have at least 20 digital devices. Our service provider partners bring internet to those schools at no additional cost.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

By contributing to Digital Skills Africa you help us open more academies across Africa and give back to marginalised communities. There are several ways for your business to take part, and they are set out in this guide.

11,396+ active learners since we started	**917+** industry certificates earned
12,351 course enrolments to date	**5** DSA academies, four in person and one online

Source: Digital Skills Africa Impact Report, financial year 2025/26 (1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026).

ABOUT US

Why we exist and what drives us

Our key mandate is to empower all disadvantaged people with career possibilities through digital skills aligned to digital transformation.

We partner with global industry leading technology companies to bring world class, accredited and certified digital training content to local communities, and we align our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to transform Africa.

The founding members of Digital Skills Africa grew up with the struggle of inequality. They stayed the course, built successful careers in the technology industry and decided it was time to give back.

Our work rests on three pillars of human development: moral reasoning (SQ), intellectual ability (IQ) and emotional intelligence (EQ).

Reduce poverty

Aligned to the SDGs and South Africa's Vision 2030 (NDP), addressing the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequality by providing platforms to access digital skills for the previously disadvantaged.

Reduce unemployment

South Africa's total unemployment is estimated at around 30%, and 59% for the youth. Factor in the economically inactive population and the number is higher.

Mentorship

Mentors dial in to our hybrid academies to run mentorship sessions with learners.

Industry partnerships

We partner with the technology industry to build digital training labs, innovation centres and incubation labs, and give disadvantaged community members a technical certification that opens the door to a meaningful job.

OUR MANDATE

Vision and mission

Vision

To be a leading digital skills non-profit learning movement in Africa, catalysing the Africa 2030 Digital Strategy.

Mission

To reignite hope and address socio economic transformation through digital empowerment.

EQUALITY | ACCESSIBILITY | CREDIBILITY | INNOVATION

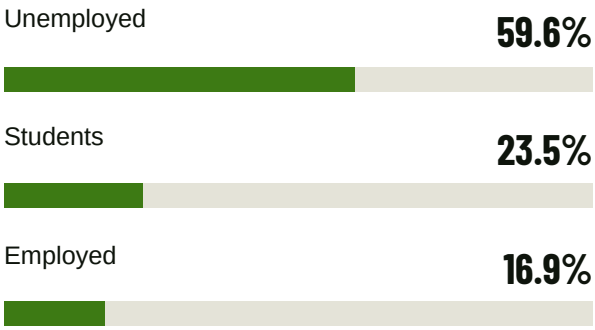
OUR IMPACT

What your support has already made possible

Our programs are free to the people who register with us, because sponsors cover the cost. Here is the last financial year, 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026.

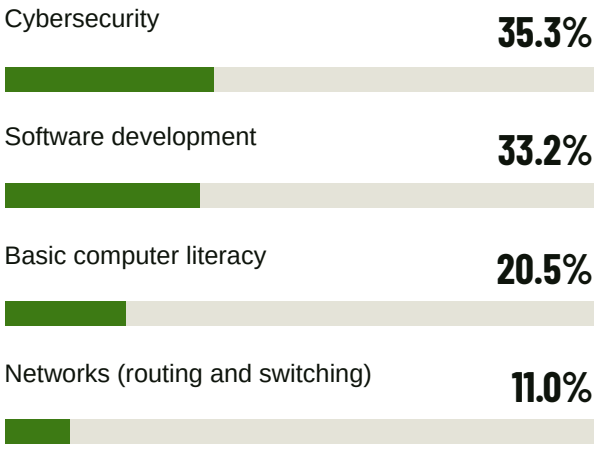
1,396 new registrations, the largest intake in our history	**2,819** course enrolments across 81 active courses	**382** certifications awarded in networking, cloud and soft skills	**59.6%** of registrants were unemployed when they joined (832 of 1,396)

Who we train



Registrations were 50.6% male and 49.3% female. 91.0% of registrants were African.

What they study



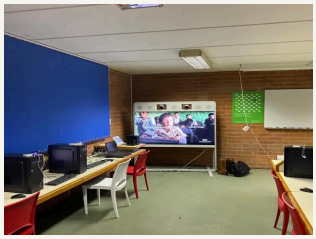
Percentages are shares of the 1,396 registrations in financial year 2025/26, as published in the Impact Report.

HOW WE DELIVER

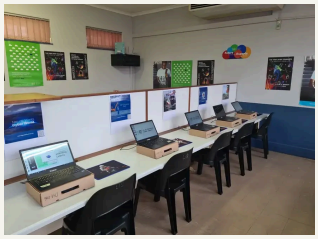
Academies, instructors and global content

Our four in-person academies are hybrid. Learners attend on site and mentors dial in to run mentorship sessions. Our online academy reaches learners who cannot get to a physical lab.

ACADEMY	WHERE	PROVINCE OR REACH	OPENED	SEATS
The Marsec Digital Skills Academy	Marburg, Port Shepstone	KwaZulu-Natal	2019	20
The RA Engar Digital Skills Academy	Marburg, Port Shepstone	KwaZulu-Natal	2023	10 to 20
The Cortex Hub Digital Skills Academy	East London (KuGompo City)	Eastern Cape	2024	15
The TSIBA University Digital Skills Academy	Pinelands, Cape Town	Western Cape	2024	32
The DSA Online Academy	Online	South Africa and continental Africa	Not applicable	Not applicable



Marsec, Marburg



RA Engar, Port Shepstone



Cortex Hub, East London



TSIBA, Pinelands

Instructor Training Centre

We are an Instructor Training Centre, certifying instructors up to professional level.

Academy support

We support 12 other academies as an academy support centre.

Reach

We have learners in all nine South African provinces, and in Nigeria, Ghana and South Sudan.

Beyond South Africa

Nigeria

Futuremap Foundation. Our first formal cross-border academy partnership, opening the way to deliver our curriculum and accredited programmes in Nigeria.

Ghana

Basics International. A growing partnership that extends our presence into West Africa and the delivery of certified technology programmes.

South Sudan

Digital Rights Foundation. A partnership concluded in 2025/26, working across Africa on digital rights, safe internet access and digital inclusion.

Our partners



















CASE STUDY

Microsoft and DSA: Skills to Jobs in KwaZulu-Natal

In June 2025 Microsoft and Digital Skills Africa ran a Skills to Jobs programme across two KwaZulu-Natal academies. Demand was far higher than the places available.

395 applications in 9 days	**7.9x** oversubscribed, 395 applicants for 50 places	**50** learners awarded Microsoft-endorsed certificates	**100%** attendance and completion

- 21 May: proposal submitted to Microsoft.
- 6 to 15 June: 395 applications received.
- 17 to 30 June: 50 learners trained across two KwaZulu-Natal academies.
- 30 June: 50 Microsoft-endorsed certificates awarded.

CREDIBILITY

Who you would be partnering with

Registered and accountable

Non-profit company (NPC 2020/914091/08) and registered Public Benefit Organisation (PBO 930081802), authorised to issue Section 18A receipts for donations.

Accredited training

We deliver accredited content from global technology partners including Cisco, Microsoft, AWS and Google, and we are a Cisco Instructor Training Centre.

Led by

Preshantha Pillai, Managing Director. Non-Executive Directors Nokubonga Mashilo and Clayton Naidoo. Jezeiyn Naidoo, Head of Operations and Partnerships.

WAYS TO PARTNER

There is a place for every kind of partner

Pick the route that suits your organisation, or combine several. We will shape a partnership around what you want to achieve.

PARTNER	WHAT YOU CAN BRING	WAYS TO TAKE PART
Corporates	Funding, co-branded academies, innovation and incubation hubs	Sponsorship, CSR strategy integration, strategic partnership
Small businesses	Local technology support, employment links	Internships, pro-bono services, volunteering
Technology vendors	Training content, skills development, laptops, equipment, internet connections	Sponsorship, strategic partnership
Donors and grant funders	Funding for learners, devices and new academies	Sponsorship, employee giving
Government	Joint work to reach communities and meet national skills goals	Strategic partnership, joint campaigns and events
International partners	Training content, skills development, cross-border academies	Strategic partnership
Community	Teachers who embrace digital learning, volunteers, religious groups and sporting organisations	Volunteering, joint campaigns and events

The programmes

Sponsorship
Fund learners, a cohort or a lab, so more people can earn accredited certifications at no cost to them.

Pro-bono services
Give your professional skills, such as technology support, marketing or legal advice.

Volunteer programmes
Send staff to mentor learners, speak about careers or help at our academies.

Employee giving
Let your staff give to our work, with your organisation supporting the effort.

CSR strategy integration
Build our programmes into your corporate social responsibility strategy.

Internships
Open internships and work placements to our learners and certified graduates.

Joint campaigns and events
Run campaigns and events together to reach more communities.

Strategic partnerships
Make a long-term commitment, such as co-branded academies, innovation hubs or incubation hubs.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Where your contribution goes

Your support goes towards free certifications, digital devices for school and community labs, and new academies across Africa.

Where we are going next

345 qualified applicants waiting for the next cohort, once it is funded	**100+** AWS certifications targeted for 2026/27	**3** new provinces: Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the Northern Cape	**AI/ML** new learning tracks, alongside CCNA and CCNP advanced certifications

PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

What your organisation gets

Tax deductible giving

We are authorised to issue Section 18A receipts for donations.

A positive business footprint

Show customers, staff and investors the difference your organisation is making in communities.

Marketing opportunities

Be recognised as a partner at our academies, in our reports and in our campaigns.

Access to skilled people

Reach learners who are trained and certified in the skills the technology industry needs.

Talk to us about how your contribution can support your B-BBEE and corporate social investment goals.

GETTING STARTED

Three steps to partnering with us

01

Talk to us

Tell us about your organisation and what you would like to achieve.

02

Choose how to partner

Together we agree the programme, the budget and how your contribution will be recognised.

03

See the results

We run the programme with you and share the outcomes through our impact reporting.

CONTACT US

Let us build something together

Reach out to start a conversation about partnering with Digital Skills Africa.

PARTNERSHIPS

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GENERAL ENQUIRIES

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WEBSITE

digitalskillsafrica.org

REGISTERED OFFICE

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DIGITAL SKILLS AFRICA

Digital Skills Africa NPC. Registration No. 2020/914091/08. PBO 930081802.

Figures are from the Digital Skills Africa Impact Report for financial year 2025/26. The terms of every partnership are agreed in writing.