

# Developing transferable skills valued by universities and employers

In recent years, universities and employers have highlighted the need for students and graduates to develop a range of transferable skills, often referred to as 'soft skills', to enable them to better meet the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work.

In fact, universities and employers consider transferable skills to be the largest skills gap overall.



**1 in 6**

employers have difficulty finding candidates with the skills they require<sup>1</sup>



**54%**

of companies say that skills shortages impact their ability to serve their customers<sup>2</sup>



**1 in 3**

skills in a job posting is a "soft skill"<sup>1</sup>



**87%**

of university professors do not think students have the research skills needed for degree-level study<sup>3</sup>

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Levels (IALs) equip students with these embedded transferable skills sought after by universities and employers. They develop core competencies, such as problem-solving, critical thinking and verbal reasoning. Transferable skills are signposted in our IAL qualifications and published teaching and learning resources so students know the skills they are developing throughout their studies.

## Prepare your learners for more than just a grade

We've provided **skills mapping and transferable skills subject definitions** documents for your subject area, so you can easily identify what skills can be developed in your day to day teaching. Find out more online by visiting your subject page and searching under the *Teaching and Learning materials* tab [qualifications.pearson.com/IAL](https://www.pearson.com/IAL)

<sup>1</sup> *Employability - Personal & Social Capability Framework report from Pearson, 2016.*

<sup>2</sup> *Employability report from PSB for Pearson, 2016.*

<sup>3</sup> *Bridging the Gap: Understanding the Differing Research Expectations of First-Year Students and Professors, Meg Raven, Mount Saint Vincent University, 2016.*