



Employer-led  
training solutions to  
emerging green skills  
– A British Council  
Going Global South  
Africa/UK Partnership

**PETROC**

In partnership with:



As part of The International Skills Partnership supported and funded by the British Council Going Global Partnerships Programme, Petroc and South West based Skills consultants, Outsourcery Services LLP have partnered with 2 South African vocational colleges to explore best practices in employer-led green skills. The project focuses on sharing best practices in addressing current gaps and proposing pathways for improvement through innovative employer engagement, soft skills, including entrepreneurship and short course curriculum development.

The project involves collaboration with Two South African Colleges, Capricorn TVET College, Polokwane & Elangeni TVET College, Durban, but also included a visit to Northlink College in the Western Cape and Saratec (South African renewable energy technology centre, part of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology).

Reciprocal visits were undertaken between South Africa and the UK and were intended to complement Petroc's current £300k Turing Scheme for international mobility and build further links with the renewable energy partnership between Petroc and Morocco, offering a wider, broader offer to local students wishing to study renewables abroad.

Specifically, all partners wanted to understand how, as rapidly changing technologies are putting increased pressure on vocational education and training, institutions can transform from traditional teaching and learning to more innovative methods that will keep them relevant and responsive to economic growth areas such as the energy sector.

In October 2024 two colleagues from Capricorn and Elangeni colleges came to the UK with a specific focus on Skills Bootcamps (designed to increase engagement in key economic sectors) and green energy. The two delegates met with key colleagues at Petroc and participated in a major North Devon and Torridge Maritime Event which involved partners from the maritime sector in the Southwest focussing on the skills requirements for the development of Floating Offshore Wind, with particular focus on the Celtic Sea array.



**SARETEC**  
SOUTH AFRICAN RENEWABLE  
ENERGY TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

***"Petroc delivered a workshop on Skills Bootcamps, showcasing our employer-led responsive programmes – similar to the model used in South Africa. Sharing this knowledge around emerging green skills and co-curriculum development is really valuable."***

***It was also fantastic to see facilities at SARETEC – the training environment is so vast and speaking to learners wanting a career in renewables was inspiring." – Bill Blythe – Vice Principal, Petroc***





In November 2024 the Vice Principal from Petroc (Bill Blythe) along with Fiona Horrell and Lianne Coleman from Outsourcery Services visited South Africa to continue the dialogue with Capricorn and Elangeni colleges. This visit was underpinned by a mutually beneficial visit to Northlink College and Saratec - one of the leading providers of training in the renewables sector in Southern Africa. The idea was to encapsulate and understand the similarities and differences in the skills systems in the UK and South Africa but also to get hands on experience of renewables training in South Africa, meeting current learners studying to be renewables servicing and maintenance operatives.

The partnership has established that there are real opportunities for British students and educators to benefit from further reciprocal opportunities to develop an understanding of skills development in both countries and, potentially funded through the Turing scheme, student exchange with the Colleges to further enhance teaching and learning in the growing renewables sector.



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**BRITISH COUNCIL**

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