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Apprentice winner: Britain beats Germany in international skills showdown



Kaiya Swain, who won gold for Britain in the WorldSkills competition CREDIT: ELLIS O'BRIEN

By Alan Tovey, INDUSTRY EDITOR
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Britain has struck gold in the "skills olympics" with young people from the UK putting in a string of medal-winning performances in a global competition showcasing vocational training.

Apprentices from Britain claimed one gold, three silver and three bronze medals in the WorldSkills event in Abu Dhabi which pits them against peers from around the world.

As well as the seven-medal haul, the 34-strong UK team also claimed 13 medallions of excellence, putting Britain 10th overall in the medal table – ahead of Germany whose apprenticeship scheme is held up as an example of best practice globally.

The event, which saw 1,200 young people from 77 nations competing in 51 disciplines, revealed Britain has the world's best young beautician, with Kaiya Swain taking gold in the category.

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Kaiya Swain competing in the beautician category at the WorldSkills competition CREDIT: ELLIS O'BRIEN

"It was an absolute honour to represent my country," said the 22-year-old from East Sussex. "It's a dream come true, I never expected to come out on top."

Britain's strong showing in the event to promote the value of vocational training will fuel the

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