The Data Lab is an innovation centre focused on helping Scottish industry to capitalise on a growing market opportunity in data science & artificial intelligence. We enable industry, public sector and world-class university researchers to innovate and develop new data science capabilities in a collaborative environment. Our work creates significant opportunities for the Scottish economy, including the creation of over one hundred new jobs to date, with a further 316 new high-value jobs predicted following 64 innovative collaboration projects. Projects range from work with some of Scotland’s largest companies such as Aggreko, to start-ups like Brainwave.

Scotland’s big data opportunity is estimated at £20bn over the five years from 2015 to 2020 based on analysis of “The Value of Big Data and the Internet of Things to the UK Economy” by The Centre for Economic and Business Research. Vast amounts of data are being generated by social media, mobile applications, sensor networks and machine-to-machine communications. The challenge is managing, securing, processing and making sense of it.

That’s where data professionals come in. It’s not surprising that data is one of the hottest skillsets around. But there is a lack of people with the right skills and experience.

The Data Lab aims to make Scotland the best place to learn Data Science or get a job as a data scientist, analyst or engineer in Europe. With between 30-40% of all of the Data Science courses in the UK, based in Scotland – we think we are well on the way to achieving this.

DATA SKILLS PROGRAMME

Our MSc programme is a collaborative effort with 11 Scottish Universities and The Data Lab, with the aim of developing the next generation of Data Science talent. With funding from the Scottish Funding Council & the European Social Fund, The Data Lab will have supported over 400 MSc students by the end of 2019. The Data Lab MSc students also undertake a 3-month paid industrial placement with a Scottish-based company.

INDUSTRY / ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

By enabling collaboration between Scotland’s impressive network of academic institutions with the entrepreneurial aspirations of a fast-growing network of start-ups, The Data Lab kick-starts projects which generate social and economic value to Scotland.

DATAFEST18

Running from 19th to 23rd March, DataFest18, Scotland’s largest international data science conference, will be running for its second year.

DataFest18 is bigger and bolder; with over 50 events from industry, public sector & academia being delivered across the country, from Edinburgh to Inverness. Data Talent Scotland aims to attract 300+ MSc & PhD graduate data scientists and organisations looking to recruit in Scotland, as well as, Data Summit our two-day international conference which will showcase Scotland’s leading companies and researchers in data science.