The conversation about the future of jobs and skills is one of the most important in education.

A student entering formal education today will be making decisions about their career by 2030.

But wait, we already know about the future of jobs. The robots are taking them, right?

Let's take a step back.

Anxiety about workers being replaced is rampant.

But fear of automation is nothing new.

Fears of technologically-driven unemployment have arisen throughout the centuries, usually provoked by a disruption, like the Industrial Revolution.

But historically, technology creates more jobs than it destroys.

Of course, we don't know if it will be different this time.

But we do know that automation is only one part of the story.

Equally important are other interacting trends including: changing demographics, urbanization, globalization, inequality, political uncertainty, and climate change.

What do we mean by interacting? Consider for a moment, the following:

Urbanization and globalization are trends that are interacting with, and component parts of, climate change, all of which are driving the green sector.

Currently the green economy is creating new jobs faster than jobs are disappearing in the polluting sectors.

But in the face of increasing inequality, the high consumer cost of green energy could slow demand and job growth.

In addition, investments in green technologies are deeply intertwined with government policy, making prospects even more uncertain.

Understanding how these trends interact is clearly complex.

It is also critical to understanding the jobs and skills needed in the future.

That' why Pearson teamed up with researchers from Nesta and the Oxford Martin School to move the conversation past automation.

Our forward-looking research combines the best of human expertise with the power of machine learning to understand the trends and make more nuanced forecasts than previously possible.

What did we find?

The future of work is brighter than you might think.

And what's the best way to prepare for the future?

We invite you to explore the the Future of Skills: Employment in 2030.