

Digital Skills Newsletter - 20

Keep-in-Touch

REMINDER: Apprenticeship Standards offer

While the new and revised apprenticeships are now in operation and all new apprentices should be registered on your ILR for these products, City & Guilds will keep open the older versions of these products and those that have been replaced until we receive no more registrations for EPA. We envisage that this will be between 12 months and 2 years, depending on the Standard that your apprentices started on.

Products open on the ILR

This list is original Standards that are still active and the new/revised Standards:

Standard title	Standard/AP revision	CG Number
Information Communication Technician (new)	ST0973/AP01	9602-12 / 13 / 14
Data Analyst (revised)	ST0118/AP03	9770-12
Network Engineer (revised)	ST0127/AP04	9601-12
Software Developer (revised)	ST0116/AP05	9600-12
Digital Marketer (original)	ST0122/AP02	9648-74
IT Technical Salesperson (original)	ST0115/AP02	9705-12
Digital Support Technician	ST0120/AP01	9700-12 / 13

Products closed on ILR

Standard title	Standard/AP revision	CG Number
Infrastructure Technician	ST0125/AP02	9648-73 / 75
Unified Communications Technician	ST0130/AP01	9790-71
Network Engineer (original)	ST0127/AP03	9648-72 / 77
Software Developer (original)	ST0116/AP04	9648-71 / 76
Cyber Security Technologist (original)*	ST0124/AP02	9660-12 / 13

Getting the Portfolio right for apprenticeships

We are seeing some areas starting to miss evidence for Outcomes in the Summative Portfolio it is extremely important that for the original Standards that you meet the requirements of the Assessment Plan (not the Occupational Brief) and that states that ALL Outcomes must be met.

A small/simple piece of evidence can be sufficient to meet this rule and we have been told by our External Quality Assurance Organisation that we need to enforce this. Also, you need to make it clear what has been covered with a document (can be a spreadsheet grid) that shows where the Outcomes have been met in the documents submitted.

We are not looking for mapping to the paragraph level, just a note of the section in the document where the relevant evidence can be found.

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One of the main Standards we have seen this happening is Digital Marketer, so please make sure all DM Apprentices cover ALL Outcomes.

For the new/revised Standards, it is worth noting that there are specific Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours attached to the Assessment Method *Professional Discussion underpinned by a Portfolio*. While the Portfolio will not be assessed, it is imperative that the set of KSBs for the Assessment Method are covered in the Portfolio to aid the Professional Discussion, or this could lead to apprentices failing this assessment as part of the EPA.

Entry Level and Level 1 IT user qualification funding

As of September 2021 the full qualification for Entry Level and Level 1 IT user are no longer funded, as the Government has look to replace them with Essential Digital Skills Qualifications (see update below). While we know that the EDSQs are do not offer the same breadth and depth as the IT user (iTQ) products, it is important that you plan you funding of full qualifications accordingly.

However, almost without exception all the units of the Entry Level 3 product (our 4249 Start IT) and Level 1 (7574) are funded as individual items. This would enable you to continue to offer programmes using the individual units that would gain Unit Certification and – if the Rules of Combination were met – you could still claim a full qualification from us.

These full products also have Digital Credentials and would certainly enhance someone CV that is looking to get a job or change careers.

Essential Digital Skills Qualifications

City & Guilds is expecting its EDSQ offer to be available to centres later this year and are currently going through the technical evaluation stage with Ofqual. Once we have confirmation of what our qualifications and assessments will look like, we will run webinars to introduce City & Guilds EDSQs to centres.

As mentioned above, you may be interested to know that some units from our 4249 E3 and 7574 L1 IT User qualifications remain funded and are available via the 4249-51 and 7574-90 unit/top-up routes.

Other news

16-18 Traineeships – Delivery opportunity

ESFA are offering the opportunity for additional providers to apply to deliver 16 to 18 traineeships. The window is open until 22 October 2021. Providers can apply for a standalone traineeship contract to deliver traineeships to 16 to 18-year-olds and the new contracts are each worth up to £300,000 per provider. To be eligible, you must meet the following criteria –

- Have a current Ofsted grade 1 (outstanding) or grade 2 (good) with an ESFA contract, funding agreement or grant for the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Alternatively, ESFA will consider existing traineeship providers that have a 19 to 24 traineeship 2021 to 2022 contract without an Ofsted grade 1 or 2.
- Not be in formal intervention for minimum standards or inspection.
- Not been issued with a notice to improve, additional conditions of funding or additional contractual obligations prohibiting them from growth.
- Not be subject to an investigation for breach of contract and/or failed audit in the past 3 years.
- Not have a financial health grade of inadequate.

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An excellent opportunity for private providers to gain funding to deliver to 16-18 year olds, with traineeships being supported by Treasury and DfE as the main pre-apprenticeship programme. There will be a big marketing push for traineeships from DfE later this year with TV and radio campaigns, when competition from the DWP Kickstart Scheme ending should increase take up. The application form and further information can be found:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/16-to-18-traineeship-market-entry>

DfE – Contingency guidance for Awarding in 2022

ESFA have DfE have published guidance explaining what colleges need to know about the contingency arrangements for awarding VTQs and other general qualifications in summer 2022. It can be found:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2022?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=1d36b92c-36eb-4092-9c5d-b8ae99a3c0f5&utm_content=daily

West Midlands Combined Authority – Rail Training Centre

The centre, at City of Wolverhampton College's Wellington Road campus, will be the first in the UK to offer training on slab track technology, which is used in the construction of high-speed rail lines like HS2.

It will also provide training on traditional rail and tram lines and is equipped with installation and maintenance equipment.

The centre will deliver rail training programmes, from beginner to advanced level, in partnership with National Infrastructure Solutions, a training provider in the rail, civil engineering and utilities industries and free rail training courses for people who are registered as unemployed through a sector-based work academy programme (SWAP). Full press release:

<https://www.wmca.org.uk/news/college-s-new-rail-training-centre-gets-on-track/>

Ofsted – review of Bootcamps

Ofsted has been asked by the Government to carry out a thematic survey of how well providers are developing and delivering Skills Bootcamps programmes.

The survey will assess the effectiveness and quality of the education and training students are receiving. DfE confirmed today that skills bootcamps would only fall under the scope for routine Ofsted inspections “**if and when**” they become a rolling programme with regular funding.

This indicates that Bootcamps could be here to stay, although the inspection/survey findings are likely to influence any future arrangements, as quality of delivery and outcomes for learners and employers will play a large part in final Government decision.

Full announcement:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-to-carry-out-survey-of-effectiveness-of-skills-bootcamps?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=e08cc2fb-9846-408c-b8cf-ac719aea8d89&utm_content=immediately

Independent Assessors - Vacancies

Data Analyst : Lead Independent Endpoint Assessor and Independent Endpoint Assessor

Infrastructure Technician: Independent Endpoint Assessor

Digital Marketer : Independent Endpoint Assessor

Unified Communications Technician: Independent Endpoint Assessor

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Updates and webinars – and more

Are you still a bit unsure as to how some of the things around Apprenticeship Standards work or just want a reminder of some of the things we have discussed at events and on webinars? Then, please visit our Updates and Webinars page.

<http://bit.ly/CGDigitalUpdate>

Please check out the information held there as this may answer many of the questions you have.

Next Digital and IT Skills webinars

16 November 2021 (09.30 – 1030) <https://bit.ly/CGDigi16Nov>

If you have any specific topics, you would like discussed at these events, please forward your suggestions to:

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OR

David Wackett david.wackett@cityandguilds.com

Note from David and Ken

As always urge you to Stay Alert and Stay Safe. Please make sure you check the Covid-19 webpage. www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19