

# Digital Skills Newsletter - 22

## Keep-in-Touch

### City & Guilds as EPAO

#### Apprenticeship Standards update

**Digital Support Technician** apprenticeship EPAs are starting to take place, with the first apprentice receiving a Distinction. The IEPA was extremely impressed and sent us this comment:

*“the candidate was fantastic and I have awarded a Distinction grade subject to Quality Assurance.”*

This is testament to the hard work that you as training providers are putting in to give your apprentices the best opportunity to achieve those higher grades.

#### Federation of Awarding Bodies (FAB) Awards

We are pleased to tell you that at this year's FAB Conference, City & Guilds were voted EPAO of the Year.

While the last year our EPA business has focussed on ensuring all learners, no matter who they are or where they are can continue to progress in spite of the limitations placed upon them by the ongoing pandemic. Something that resonates with our purpose: *Helping people, organisations and economies develop skills for growth.*

We have a simple: progression for all not the few: *Every learner, every standard, every location.*

This could not be achieved without your involvement and working with our advice a guidance, providing us with feedback to improve our service and with the apprentices producing their best

FAB 2021 Awards Winners: [https://awarding.org.uk/fab-2021-awards-winners-announced/?dm\\_i=1UVL,7MA7K,BEJIFE,V106Y,1](https://awarding.org.uk/fab-2021-awards-winners-announced/?dm_i=1UVL,7MA7K,BEJIFE,V106Y,1)

#### Support material

Apprenticeship Standard	Current Status
<b>Digital Support Technician</b>	<b>available in SmartScreen</b>
<b>IT Technical Salesperson</b>	<b>available in SmartScreen</b>
<b>Network Engineer</b>	In development
<b>Data Analyst</b>	In development
<b>Information Communication Technician</b>	In development
<b>Software Developer</b>	Commissioned

Please contact your City & Guilds Account Manager for details on how to purchase.

#### Standards in development

We have begun the work on the new version of the Cyber Security Technologist, the consultants are in place, and we have the Chair of the Employer Group and colleagues lined up to review our work. There may be the possibility of sign posting to some internationally recognised learning

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materials for those employers that already use a particular product, we are about to discuss this with that company.

You can, of course, start learners on the programme and put them on your ILR in preparation for registering with us next April once the product is available on EPA Pro and Walled Garden.

## Statistics

	Overall Pass %	Distinction rate %	Highest achievement
Female	99	45	Software Developer 100% Distinction
Male	97	31	Unified Comms 55.3% Distinction

We felt it would be good to share your success, but please note that these figures are averaged across all the Digital Standards we offer – some may see lower pass rates.

## VRQ qualification news

### IT Professional qualifications

As part of our qualifications review, we have mentioned that we were cleaning out old, retired Vendor units from a several qualifications, making sure they align properly and adding in information security/cyber units.

The work on 7540 (Level 2 and 3), 7630 (Level 4) and 4520 (Levels 2 to 4) is under way and the full qualification route products we are aiming to have published during February 2022 and the Unit Route products (7540 and 7630 only) to be ready for the end of March.

This is what it means for you:

**England:** wider options for work in traineeships or adult education, with cyber options to develop short programmes as required  
generic programming units will allow you to deliver any application language that fits in with *object oriented, procedural or event driven*.

**Wales:** Similar to above PLUS  
more options for delivery as part of apprenticeships, combined with the Vendor Alike units this allows for programmes that cover software, hardware, infrastructure, web development and cyber security

**Norther Ireland:** Similar to above PLUS  
more options for delivery as part of apprenticeships, combined with the Vendor Alike units this allows for programmes that cover software, hardware, infrastructure, web development and cyber security

**Ireland:** Similar to above PLUS  
more options for delivery as part of apprenticeships, combined with the Vendor Alike units this allows for programmes that cover software, hardware, infrastructure, web development and cyber security

The Vendor alike units are unique to City & Guilds and we will be the only Awarding Body to provide the cyber products within a single qualification that our centres are already approved to deliver.

We are also looking at including the units from the new cabling qualifications, in line with what has been done previously between the two products.

Please email us to discuss further.

You will be aware that we have been bringing our 3667 product up-to-date to create a new Level 2 and Level 3 products that will bear the number 3668. This is being done in conjunction with industry practitioners, major cabling employers and the relevant industry bodies (JIB and FIA)

These are going through the final approval stages before being published and we have been speaking with JIB to ensure that learners completing these qualifications are still able to claim the relevant ECS card to allow them on site to do their work.

### Level 3 consultation

The Government continues its drive to review qualifications and their relevance to the market – this is predominantly about **England** – as usual Digital/ICT is the first into the arena. There are a number of strands to what they are asking to be done, but the main two are:

- Do you have something that maps to a Standard? Now seen in England as Occupational Standards.
- Do you have products that might gap fill for a T-Levels? Offering breadth and/or depth in a subject that the

We will be looking at these and working to provide clear links between our products and the Standards, as well as how this might affect our Level 2 (possible transition to T-Levels) and Level 4 (HTQ) offer.

### Other news

#### Kick starting IT careers in Northern Ireland

Local IT companies are partnering with Derry/Londonderry Council and the North West Regional College to boost employment opportunities within the software industry through a special fast track course beginning in the New Year.

Participants will benefit from specialist training to enable them to successfully apply for IT software roles. The full-time course will begin on January 10th and offers students a placement of at least four weeks with a local software company and a guaranteed job interview at the end with participating companies.

Successful students will gain qualifications in ISTQB Foundation Certificate in Software Testing, a **City and Guilds Diploma for Software Developers** and a **City and Guilds Certificate of Unit Credit in relation to SQL module**.

"The local software industry is a growing one, particularly in the current climate, and the successful completion of this course can leave candidates strongly equipped to successfully gain employment and thrive in it."

#### Importance of Lifelong Learning

With careers likely to span 50 years or more, it's now more important than ever to ensure that people reskill and retrain constantly throughout their lives, so that they stay relevant in this fast-paced environment.

This is evidenced in our **Skills Index** report which found that **61%** of working age adults in the UK were not confident they had the skills they needed for the workplace over the next five years, and **23%** of people had not received any training for at least a decade.

**Skills Index report:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCMML-1/c.aspx>

City & Guilds had a presence at the CIPD Annual Conference last week, with a chance to speak to the HR and L&D community on their skills and talent strategies.

We led a spotlight session to reflect on the challenges and opportunities for organisations when considering best practice in Diversity and Inclusion within Early Talent strategies.

Catch up with the <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCMMN-1/c.aspx>

## Leadership and Management

We recognise that there a number of core careers/job roles that feature across all industry sectors. Clearly, digital is one providing the infrastructure and applications necessary to run an organisation, but it also includes business administration/customer service and leadership/management.

Leadership can drastically change company culture, showing how the values inform it and ensure that it becomes embedded. ILM have spoken with seven (7) to talk about how company values were an integral part of their leadership model, and how values ultimately play an essential role in organisational performance. Making sure that embedding the right culture is achieved, can lead to increased staff engagement, and produce positive business results.

To demonstrate how we, at City & Guilds, lead through values, we created a new video to help kickstart the discussion:

**Download the video:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCMMO-1/c.aspx>

**Download the report:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCOEV-1/c.aspx>

You can also join the conversation, and learning more about [#leadingthroughvalues](#) and how your organisation could benefit:

12 January at 9.00 - 10.00 (GMT)

**Reserve your place today:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCU4Y-1/c.aspx>

We'll be taking a deeper dive into the **Leading Through Values report**, where you can learn about how to build our research findings into your delivery programmes. There will also be an opportunity for a Q&A.

## Supporting English, maths and ESOL

Certainly, for those delivering apprenticeships, you need to ensure that they have the level of English and maths relevant to the programme. This is not just in England, but in Northern Ireland and Wales.

City & Guilds is committed to supporting your delivery in the best way we can.

“**Connect. Share. Network**” is a place for teachers/ tutors and co-ordinators delivering any of our City & Guilds Bite-sized maths and English qualifications, ESOL, Employability, Essential Skills (Northern Ireland) and Essential Skills (Wales); to network, share insights and reflect on their experiences.

For more information, visit our maths and English resource hub:

<https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCMMW-1/c.aspx>

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## Digital credentials – recognising learner achievement

We understand how hard learners work to achieve success in their learning, which is why City & Guilds and ILM issue digital credentials as part of our offer to individuals who have completed their learning programmes.

- Digital credentials are easily shareable, verifiable, and trackable allowing your learners to share their achievements via their social platforms.
- We provide seamless end-to-end management of issuing digital credentials using [Walled Garden](#) or [Bulk Upload tool](#) to facilitate the process.
- All you need to do is provide your learners' email addresses at registration or via our Bulk Upload tool and we will do the rest.

**City & Guilds Collection:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCVFI-1/c.aspx>

**ILM Collection:** <https://email.cityandguilds.com/1LRT-7M7CK-8SBRNF-4MCVFJ-1/c.aspx>

## Non-education deal – 6 months free internet for job seekers

Offer from TalkTalk in partnership with the Department of Works and Pensions.

- 6 months free 35mbps broadband
- At the end of the 6 months – take a contract or cancel with no fees
- Available nationwide – trailed last year in Greater Manchester and Cheshire

[www.snipca.com39639](http://www.snipca.com39639)

Other broadband providers may offer similar deals, your learners should check with their own provider.

## Entry Level and Level 1 update

As you will be aware – in England – the funding for the full-time qualifications for IT User Entry Level 3 and Level 1 was withdrawn at the end of July 2021. However, all the units from 4249 and 7574 are funded, this would allow you to continue offer programmes tailored to your local market or specific employers.

As part of our qualifications, you also have the opportunity to use the Specialist or Bespoke Software unit to meet an employer's specific application needs, as well as use come credit from another qualification where a learner is doing an IT user programme alongside another industry course.

Claim for individual units on your ILR, but you can certificate for the full qualification for those that want the full piece of paper and digital credential.

## EDSQ update

We have put these products together, but they are subject to the Ofqual process of scrutiny that includes a technical evaluation, which currently is looking at our proposed assessment method that would use a similar online platform to that used for Functional Skills. Please, note it is different from Functional Skills, but the use of the systems we have in place lend themselves to being used with EDSQ. In addition, the development of new Digital Functional Skills qualifications is due to start soon, and we will provide more information as we receive it.

Please make sure you have signed up for Email Alerts – especially the Employability messages.

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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 Keep-in-Touch webinars

7 December 2021 (09.30 – 1030) <https://bit.ly/CGDigitalKIT7Dec>

### Next Digital and IT Skills Wales Forum (online)

18 November 2021 (09.30-11.00) <https://bit.ly/CGDigiWales18Nov>

### Next Digital and IT Skills Teach Meets (online)

18 November 2021 (14.00-15.00) <https://bit.ly/CGDigitalDiscusionPortfolio18Nov>  
*Professional Discussion underpinned by Portfolio*

23 November 2021 (14.00-15.00) <https://bit.ly/CGDigitalProjectQandA23Nov>  
*Project with Q & A*

We are looking to do some specific Standard “Teach Meets” in the New Year, to be able to discuss the specific differences and requirements of each. Also, having set up the Wales Forum, we would like to explore doing similar events for Northern Ireland and Ireland, if this would be of interest please get in touch.

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

Ken Gaines [ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com](mailto:ken.gaines@cityandguilds.com)

OR

David Wackett [david.wackett@cityandguilds.com](mailto: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](http://www.cityandguilds.com/covid-19)