

The National Flagship Assessors and EPA Conference

13 June 2019,
Marriott Hotel, Leicester

FAB Training Courses

Please click [here](#) to access the full list of training courses and to register.

- [Introduction to the awarding sector](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 05.03.2019
- [Introduction to malpractice investigation management \(Day 1\)](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 03.04.2019
- [Handling enquiries, complaints and appeals](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 30.04.2019
- [Multiple Choice Question Writing](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 21.05.2019
- [Malpractice investigation interviewing and management \(Day 2\)](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 12.06.2019

FAB Meetings/Events

Please click [here](#) to access the full list of meetings and events and to register.

- [Expressions of interest – Event on Grading of Vocational and Technical Assessments](#)
Time tbc, 27.02.2019
- [Food Safety AO Forum](#)
11:00 – 15.30, 14.03.2019

External Events

Please click [here](#) to access the full list of external events and to register.

- [WFP: Latest developments in improving educational attainment and social mobility](#)
09:00 – 13:00, 14.02.2019
- [Implementing the T-Level programme - content, regulation and assessment](#)
09:00 – 13:00, 29.04.2019

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FAB Webinars

Information/training on topics related to vocational education and training. Free for staff from FAB member organisations and £100 (ex VAT) non-members, unless otherwise indicated.

- *TBC*

Watch it again

Please click the links below to view recordings of past FAB webinars. Membership login details will be required:

- **Public procurement: the essentials**
29 August 2018
(10:15 – 11:00)
- **Safeguarding in AOs**
27 June 2018
(10:15 – 11:00)
- **Fake certificates and 'borrowed' qualification content**
23 May 2018
(10:15 – 11:00)
- **Qualifications and Copyright**
17 January 2018
(10:15 – 11:15)
- **Ensuring a fit for purpose complaints process**
29 November 2017
(10:15 – 11:15)

For recordings of more past webinars click [here](#).

FAB Consultant and Supplier List

Looking for a supplier or consultant? **Search** [here](#).

FAB Legal Support Package

Looking for legal services? **Click** [here](#).

FAB Business Support Services

In partnership with QDOS
HR, tax, health & safety and legal advice.

Click [here](#)

Awarding organisations: scope of recognition

Ofqual has published and updated table of the types of qualifications awarding organisations can offer under their Ofqual recognition. This is a useful document for members who wish to check their current scope of recognition. Further information can be found here: [Scope of recognition](#).

Monetary Penalties in Wales

In last week's Update, we provided members with links to articles in FE News regarding the Welsh Government's proposals for a cap on monetary penalties that can be applied by Qualifications Wales. The proposal is that the cap should be set at 10% of UK annual turnover.

Tom Bewick, CEO of the Federation and Philip Blaker, CEO of Qualifications Wales have been in constructive dialogue about the impact of the proposals and members may find it useful to read [Tom's letter of 20 December](#) which emphasises key concerns members have identified in relation to the proposals. [Philip Blaker's response of 11 January](#) emphasises that it is 'very unlikely that we would seek to impose a monetary penalty where Ofqual had already done so'.

Qualifications Wales – Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy sector

Qualifications Wales has written to Responsible Officers to say it is conducting a sector review of qualifications and the qualifications system in the Engineering, Advanced Manufacturing and Energy sector.

This is the fourth sector review and as part of it, Qualifications Wales will soon be conducting a technical review of qualifications in the sector that are offered by recognised awarding bodies in Wales.

The technical review will focus on qualifications that are awarded in the greatest numbers in secondary schools, further education colleges and work-based learning providers in Wales. Qualifications Wales will be contacting awarding bodies who offer these qualifications between March and April 2019 to request the necessary evidence for the technical review.

The letter can be found here: [Engineering, Advanced manufacturing and Energy sector](#).

Regulated Qualifications in current L2 and L3 Frameworks in Northern Ireland Update

CCEA Regulation is working with the NI Department for the Economy (DfE) and employers in Northern Ireland to develop new L2 Traineeship and L3 Apprenticeship frameworks. DfE policy is committed to regulated qualifications based on National Occupational Standards (NOS) as an integral part of these new traineeships and apprenticeships. As CCEA Regulation reported in June 2018 to FAB members, this work is at an early stage and until the existing frameworks have been reviewed and new ones developed for each occupation, CCEA Regulation is requiring AOs to continue to make their current regulated qualifications within existing frameworks available to centres in Northern Ireland. CCEA Regulation is writing to each AO on an individual basis detailing the qualifications concerned.

Standards and Frameworks tender opportunity

Skills Development Scotland wants to establish a multi supplier framework to provide development of Standards and Frameworks. The scope of tendered services covers provision of development and review of:

- National Occupational Standards(NOS) including cleansing of NOS

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Qualifications Support Officer**
ACCA
Closes 04.02.19
- **Head of Awarding, Research and Development**
Skills and Education Group
Closes 04.02.19
- **Standards and Frameworks Project Manager**
Lantra
Closes 04.02.19
- **Centre Support Administrative Assistant**
Skills and Education Group
Closes 04.02.19
- **Development Manager**
City and Guilds
Closes 06.02.19
- **Product Specialist**
EAL
Closes 07.02.19
- **Administrative Officer**
The Pensions Management Institute
Closes 08.02.19
- **Membership Account Executive of The Assessors Guild**
The Assessors Guild
Closes 08.02.19
- **Product Development Manager**
Ascentis
Closes 08.02.19
- **Quality Assurance and Enhancement Officer**
University of Arts London
Closes 08.02.19
- **Digital Marketing Officer**
OCN London
Closes 10.02.19
- **Business Support Assistant**
OCN London
Closes 10.02.19
- **Executive Assistant**
OCN London
Closes 10.02.19

- Welsh Translation for NOS where required
- Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs) or alternative competency-based qualifications (CBQs) for use in apprenticeship frameworks
- Apprenticeship Frameworks in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The deadline for applications is 20 February 2019.

Further information can be found here: [Standards and Frameworks](#).

Reminder – Expressions of interest for Round Table Event with the Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Education

Following a successful round table event in December 2018 with Jon Yates, Special Advisor to Damian Hinds, we are pleased to be able to confirm another event has been confirmed for 24 May 2019 (2-3.30pm) in London.

The event will provide members with an opportunity to share their views on a range of technical education issues with Jon. We will develop the agenda nearer the time.

We anticipate interest in this event will outnumber the places available, so members are invited to express their interest in attending the event, in the first instance, by **8 February 2019**, here: [Expressions of interest – Round Table Event with special advisor to the Secretary of State for Education](#).

Places will be allocated to ensure all membership bands are represented (3 per band) which will include a maximum of two FAB Board directors. Any remaining places will be assigned on a first come first served basis. We are currently confirming the number of places with DfE but we anticipate being able to offer approximately 15 places to members.

We will contact you shortly after 08 February to confirm if we are able to offer you a place or not. If you previously applied for a place at the December event, please do apply again for the May event.

Message from ESFA regarding 3aaa Apprentices

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has provided a message for awarding organisations regarding 3aaa apprentices to provide advanced notice that there may be an increase in learner queries regarding certificates.

“Awarding Organisations will be aware that apprenticeship provider 3aaa has recently gone into administration. We have been supporting apprentices affected and have now issued all qualification certificates received from 3aaa to learners. However, there remain a number of learners where there are outstanding queries about certification. These may be learners seeking replacement certificates or learners who believe they have completed a qualification and querying whether a certificate has been issued. We are advising these learners to contact the relevant awarding organisation directly, so these queries can be resolved and, where appropriate, outstanding certificates issued or duplicate certificates issued (in accordance with individual awarding organisations protocols). Therefore, if you are an awarding organisation where 3aaa had centre approval and/or delivering your qualifications you may experience an increase in learner queries. We hope you will be able to deal with these queries and resolve where appropriate.

If you have any queries at all about the impact of this on you please contact us at: Qualifications.ESFA@education.gov.uk”.

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Customer Learning and Development Manager**
NOCN
Closes 10.02.19
- **HR Project Officer**
NOCN
Closes 11.02.19
- **Assignment Assessor**
Chartered Institute of Credit Management
Closes 15.02.19
- **Assignment Assessor - Money & Debt Advice Qualifications**
Chartered Institute of Credit Management
Closes 15.02.19
- **Principal Examiner - Design and Technology: Design Engineering**
OCR
Closes 15.02.19
- **Principal Examiner - Design and Technology: Fashion and Textiles**
OCR
Closes 15.02.19
- **Assessment Associates: Writers and Reviewers Level 2 Early Years Education and Childcare**
CACHE
Closes 18.02.19
- **Assessment Associates: Writers and Reviewers Level 3 Early Years Education and Childcare**
CACHE
Closes 18.02.19
- **Qualifications Product Developer - Science**
Pearson
Closes 20.02.19
- **Governing Body Non-Executive Directors**
Safety Training Awards
Closes 22.02.19
- **Appeal Committee Panel Members**
Safety Training Awards
Closes 22.02.19

2020 performance tables: qualification amendment process

The Department for Education (DfE) has written directly to the relevant awarding organisations to advise on the process for submitting proposed minor amendments to qualifications that are approved for inclusion in the 2020 Technical and Applied performance tables. All proposed changes to qualifications need to be submitted to the DfE by 28 February.

The letter provides information on the evidence that needs to be provided and the anticipated timescale for processing the information and decision making (6-8 weeks).

The letter also reconfirms the moratorium that is now in place on performance tables – this will apply for a minimum of two years whilst the review of qualifications at level 3 and below is underway. During this time no new qualifications will be considered for inclusion and the approved lists will not be supplemented.

Institute for Apprenticeships takes on responsibility for Technical Qualifications

The Institute for Apprenticeships has announced that from the 31 January 2019 the it will officially become the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (the Institute).

This change represents the Institute's formal assumption of key parts of the T Levels programme.

From 31 January 2019, the Institute will become responsible for Technical Qualifications, which is the main, classroom-based element of the T Level. It will also be responsible for awarding contracts to Authorising Organisations (AOs) who will then be required to deliver these qualifications.

CBI Publication - Getting apprenticeships right: Next steps

CBI has published a report which is designed to shape how the additional funding given to the Institute for Apprenticeships in the Budget should be used ensure the Institute is a credible, independent body with the teeth to effect changes. The report sets out how to make this vision a reality, focusing on four priorities for the Institute:

- Improving quality provision as an independent market regulator;
- Making the standards development process more efficient;
- Ensuring greater transparency in funding decisions; and
- Assuming responsibility for T-levels.

The report makes a number of recommendations for the Institute, including that it should:

- Raise its profile with employers and ensure that it is properly accessible, by improving information, such as the availability of standards, signposting to other bodies in the skills system if queries do not relate to its specific functions.
- Develop more detailed guidance for the external quality assurance of all end-point assessments by a range of providers.
- Ensure Institute staff adopt a consistent approach to the standards approval and assessment plan processes.
- Broaden the scope of future funding reviews, allow a wider range of stakeholders to be engaged, as well as the use of wider-ranging data to support conclusions.

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Managing Director**
SIAS
Closes 22.02.19
- **Qualifications Product Manager - FTC**
Pearson
Closes 27.02.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Investment**
City & Guilds
Closes 28.02.19
- **Independent End Point Assessors**
BIIAB
Closes 28.02.19
- **Compliance and Risk Manager**
ABE
Closes 22.02.19
- **Assessment Associate: Writers and Reviewers - Functional Skills Mathematics**
NCFE
Closes 01.03.19
- **Client and Business Support Administrator**
Portico Consulting Ltd.
Closes 01.03.19
- **Examination markers and Assessors**
The Pensions Management Institute
Closes 04.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Commis Chef**
City & Guilds
Closes 30.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Healthcare**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Operational Delivery**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Property Maintenance**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19

- Provide full transparency over funding decisions, including the financial models used. The reasons and process by which a decision is taken must be published on the Institute's website, including the view of the ESFA.
- Clarify the full implementation timetable with DfE for the transfer of responsibility for T-levels

The report also makes recommendations for government, including that it should:

- Give the Institute an advisory role on any future changes to the Levy rate.
- Reconsider the apprenticeship regulatory landscape, including the range of different bodies currently overseeing apprenticeships and technical education, including the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), DfE, Ofsted, Ofqual, and Office for Students (OfS). The Government should therefore set out publicly its long term vision, ensuring clarity on the Institute as the primary body for technical education in England.
- Ensure apprenticeship funding is stable, allowing employers to take medium- and long- term decisions on their apprenticeship programmes.
- Set out a long-term vision for T-levels' role in the education and skills systems, including how T-levels, higher T-levels, and apprenticeships will interact. Specifically, how at Level 3 apprenticeships and T-levels will compete with or complement each other.

Further information can be found here: [Getting apprenticeships right: Next steps](#).

Members can read Tom Bewick's comments on the report in FE News [Sector Response to CBI's 'Getting Apprenticeships Right: Next Steps'](#).

Degree Apprenticeships: Up to Standard?

A report published by Policy Connect and the Higher Education Commission reveals that of 51 approved degree apprenticeship standards, 43% have no providers that are delivering to SMEs. 63% of degree apprenticeships have no or just one provider offering provision for non-levy payers (SMEs).

Degree Apprenticeships: Up to Standard? recommends a number of 'easy wins' for government to implement "at the stroke of a pen". These include:

- Create equal access for SMEs by permitting HE institutions already delivering degree apprenticeships to big businesses to deliver for small businesses.
- Decrease bureaucracy and costly repetitive processes for employers and providers.
- Ensure standards are approved more quickly, are fit for purpose and flexible to future needs.

Further information can be found here: [Degree Apprenticeships: Up to Standard?](#)

Apprenticeship and levy statistics: January 2019

The Department for Education (DfE) has published statistics covering apprenticeship starts, apprenticeship service registrations and commitments. The data shows that there have been 166,400 apprenticeship starts reported to date between August 2018 and November 2018 for the 2018/19 academic year. This compares to 147,200 reported in the equivalent period in 2017/18, 202,000 in 2016/17 and 194,600 in 2015/16. Of the 166,400 apprenticeship starts reported so far in 2018/19, 58.6 per cent (97,500) were on apprenticeship standards.

Further information can be found here: [Apprenticeship and levy statistics: January 2019](#).

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Public Service Operational Delivery Officer End-point Assessor**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Retailer**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Retail Team Leader**
City and Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Customer Service Specialist**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Customer Service Practitioner**
City & Guilds
Competitive
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Team Leader / Supervisor**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Insurance**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Independent End point Assessor - Hospitality & Catering**
City & Guilds
Closes 31.03.19
- **Freelance Qualification Developer**
TQUK
Closes 31.03.19
- **Home Based Panel Member**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.05.19
- **Community Activator Coach End-point Assessor**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.05.19

Are you considering becoming an End-point Assessment Organisation for apprenticeships?

If so, the Department for Education would like to hear from you. Please let them know [which apprenticeship standards you are considering](#).

The adult skills gap: is falling investment in UK adults stalling social mobility?

A report published by the Social Mobility Commission says that adult training is often only available to workers who are highly paid or skilled with those with the lowest qualifications losing out on training.

The report finds that:

- disadvantaged adults with the lowest qualifications are the least likely to access adult training despite being the group who would benefit most
- overall investment in adult skills from employers, government and individuals was around £44 billion in 2013 to 2014 - government funds just 7% of this training
- government funding for the Adult Skills Budget fell by £830 million (cash terms) between 2010 to 2011, and from £2.84 billion to £2.01 billion, equivalent to a 34% fall (real terms) between 2015 to 2016
- graduates are 3 times more likely to receive training than those with no qualifications, while professionals and managers are about twice as likely to receive training as lower-skilled workers.

Further information can be found here: [The adult skills gap: is falling investment in UK adults stalling social mobility?](#)

Further education bodies: insolvency guidance

The Department for Education (DfE) has published a document which provides technical information on the new insolvency regime for further education bodies, and general guidance on how to reduce the risk of insolvency through good financial management.

The introduction of new insolvency legislation makes it clear how colleges will be managed if they become insolvent, protecting existing learners first and foremost. It will be part of the future intervention framework, allowing colleges to exit the market when appropriate and without unnecessary disadvantage to learners, creditors and taxpayers.

The legislation is due to come into force on 31 January 2019.

Further information can be found here: [Further education bodies: insolvency guidance](#).

T Levels capital fund

The Department for Education (DfE) has published information for further education providers delivering T Levels in the academic year 2020 to 2021 on how to apply for capital funds. Further information can be found here: [T Levels capital fund](#).

Augar should knock universities off their pedestal

Tom Bewick, CEO of the Federation has written a piece for TES. In 'Augar should knock universities off their pedestal' Tom argues that parity of esteem in post-18 education will only be achieved when there is parity of resource. You can read the full article here: [Augar should knock universities off their pedestal](#).

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Community Activator
Coach End-point Assessor**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.05.19
- **Freelance Independent
End-Point Assessors**
Skillsfirst Assess
Closes 28.06.19
- **Leisure Duty Manager End-
point Assessor**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.07.19
- **Leisure Duty Manager EPA**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 31.07.19

Trends Shaping Education 2019

The OECD has published a report that argues that in our quickly changing modern world, education cannot prepare for the future using only lessons of the past. In many countries, education is still struggling to adjust to the changes of today and is not ready for those of tomorrow.

Trends Shaping Education 2019 identifies key mega-trends affecting the future of education. The top three mega-trends are:

- **Globalisation:** Within the next ten years, the majority of the world's population will consist of the middle class, a trend that is largely driven by China and India, which will make up 90% of the entrants to the middle class. This will not only increase pressure to provide better education for more people; it will also place higher expectations on education from more demanding customers. In OECD countries this is forecast to affect higher education systems initially, as they will have to work harder to attract the best students in a much more mobile and competitive market.
- **Digitalisation:** Education is already behind the digitalisation curve. It must do more to take advantage of the tools and strengths of new technologies while simultaneously addressing concerns around potential misuse, such as cyberbullying and privacy issues. In 2018 the number of stolen or hacked data records was the highest ever in one year, and the need for cyber security experts is growing. Yet education still struggles to encourage students, and especially girls and certain minorities, to take STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects.
- **Ageing:** In the last 45 years, life expectancy at birth has risen across OECD countries from an average of 70 to 80 years and the share of people aged 65 or older is expected to grow significantly. Older workers will face increasing labour market insecurity and pressure will mount for access to high-quality re-skilling and up-skilling opportunities. Yet current lifelong learning offerings in most countries seem to amplify, not moderate, deficiencies in initial education.

OECD – Envisioning the future of education and jobs

OECD has published a report which offers a glimpse of how children see their future, and the forces that, if properly understood and harnessed, will drive them forward to realise their dreams.

The report says that 'the future will be about pairing the artificial intelligence of computers with the cognitive, social and emotional capabilities of humans, so that we educate first-class humans, not second-class robots. It is our responsibility, as concerned adults, to acknowledge and understand the trends that are shaping this industrial revolution, and to impart that understanding to our children as early as possible. It is our responsibility, in other words, to help our children get ready for their future.'

Further information can be found here: [OECD – Envisioning the future of education and jobs](#).

ESFA welcomes new Management Board Chair

Irene Lucas CBE has been appointed as the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Management Board Chair. This completes the ESFA Management Board recruitment process.

The role of the Management Board is to provide crucial scrutiny, challenge, advice and oversight, to hold ESFA to account as a public body.

Further information can be found here: [ESFA welcomes new Management Board Chair](#).

Education Committee – Special Education Needs and Disabilities

On 29 January, the Education Committee heard evidence related to Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Witnesses included representatives from Mencap, Natspec, Action on Disability, the Association of Colleges' SEN Group and Northampton College.

The recording of the session can be found here: [Education Committee – Special Education Needs and Disabilities](#).

Vocational Qualification (VQ) Awards in Wales

Qualifications Wales has published information on this year's Vocational Qualification (VQ) Awards in Wales, which celebrate and reward individuals and organisations for their commitment, hard work and achievements.

Nominations can be made for four award categories: VQ Learner of the Year (Intermediate), VQ Learner of the Year (Higher), VQ Trainer of the Year and VQ Employer of the Year. The closing date is noon on March 8.

From the entries, a panel of judges will select the category finalists for a high-profile awards ceremony to be held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff on May 15 to coincide with VQ Day.

To enter the awards, which are now in their 12th consecutive year, download a nomination form at <https://www.vqday.wales> which has full details about the awards.

Erasmus+ and EU Solidarity Corps in the UK if no Brexit deal

The Department for Education has published an updated notice to provide guidance to organisations and participants on the UK's anticipated participation in the current Erasmus+ programme (2014 to 2020) and the European Solidarity Corps (ESC)(2018 to 2020) in the event of no deal.

Further information can be found here: [Erasmus+ and EU Solidarity Corps in the UK if there's no Brexit deal](#).

OCR Policy Briefing

These updates are provided courtesy of OCR. FAB would like to extend its thanks to OCR for permitting the sharing of these with members.

- [Latest from OCR Policy Briefing](#)

Pearson's Policy Watch

These updates are provided courtesy of Pearson. FAB would like to extend its thanks to Pearson for permitting the sharing of these with members.

- [Latest from Policy Watch](#)

Dysg eNewsletter

These updates are provided courtesy of Dysg, part of the Welsh Assembly Government. FAB would like to extend its thanks to Dysg for permitting the sharing of these ebulletins with members. [Latest from Dysg eNewsletter \(Post-11\)](#)