

FAB Training Courses

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

- [Introduction to developing vocational qualifications](#)
10:15 – 16:30, 07.02.2019
- [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.

- [Further Education Initial Teacher Education Qualifications Event](#)
10:00 – 12:30, 14.01.2019
- [Apprenticeship Group](#)
14:00 – 16:15, 30.01.2019

External Events

- [WFP: Priorities for improving the quality of apprenticeships in England](#)
09:00 – 13:00, 17.01.2019
- [WFP: The future for LEPs: boosting performance, increasing accountability and developing Local Industrial Strategies](#)
09:00 – 13:00, 29.01.2019
- [WFP: Latest developments in improving educational attainment and social mobility](#)
09:00 – 13:00, 14.02.2019

In this Update: 11 January 2019

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Happy New Year!

FAB would like to wish all our members a very happy 2019. We hope you had a relaxing Christmas break and are ready for what will no doubt be a busy 2019. We look forward to working with you all throughout the year.

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.

- [Grading of Vocational and Technical Assessments](#)
10:15 – 11:15, 18.01.2019

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](#)

The National Flagship Assessors and End Point Assessment Conference – 13 June 2019

After nearly 6 years since England's major apprenticeship reforms were announced, we're reaching a critical point in the relentless focus on quality. With this in mind, the Federation of Awarding Bodies and the Federation for Industry Sector Skills and Standards, via The Assessors Guild, will be holding the national flagship Assessors and End Point Assessment Conference on 13 June 2019 at the Marriot Hotel, Leicester.

This conference presents an unparalleled opportunity for all of those involved in assessment to come together to network and be informed and updated on the apprenticeship journey from readiness to end point assessment. It will cover quality assurance, formative assessment and planning for assessment and is for End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAOs), External Quality Assurance Organisations (EQAOs), Employer providers, Trailblazers, Individual assessors and Internal Quality Assurers (IQAs).

Further information can be found here: [The National Flagship Assessors and End Point Assessment Conference](#).

New Year's Honours list 2019

The full New Year Honours List for 2019 recognises the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the United Kingdom, including those in the FE and skills sector. The full list can be found here: [New Year's honours 2019](#) and a summary of the honours for those in the FE and Skills sector can be found in FE Week here: [Who got What in FE and Skills?](#)

Tom talks to.....

In November 2018, FAB CEO Tom Bewick led a UK trade delegation to Washington D.C. and Missouri and recorded a series of interviews for Skills World around how UK apprenticeship providers can get more involved in the USA expansion effort.

The interviews were all recorded in Washington D.C. during American National Apprenticeship Week.

In Episode 1 Tom talks to Dr Robert Lerman, apprenticeship expert at the D.C. based think tank, the Urban Institute.

In Episode 2 Tom talks to Mardy Leathers, Director of Workforce Development, State of Missouri; and Susannah Lawson, Director and Co-founder of OneFile Ltd.

In Episode 3 Tom talks to Paul Champion, President, Tranzed Apprenticeship Services, Maryland.

The interviews can be accessed here: [USA Apprenticeships](#).

Qualification Wales – letter regarding developing a GCSE and GCE AS/A level in Digital Technology

Qualifications Wales has sent a letter to responsible officers seeking expressions of interest from awarding bodies that would consider developing a GCSE and GCE AS/A level in Digital Technology. Expressions of interest, should be sent to development@qualificationswales.org by Monday 28 January 2019.

The letter can be found here: [developing a GCSE and GCE AS/A level in Digital Technology](#).

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Head of Learning Partnerships**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Head of Regulation - Professional Development**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Senior Product Development Manager**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Product Development Manager**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Relationship Manager - Learning Partnerships**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Learning Partnerships Co-ordinator**
The Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply
Closes 11.01.19
- **Exams & Assessment Quality Leader**
EAL
Closes 11.01.19
- **Product Coordinator**
EAL
Closes 11.01.19
- **Exams and Assessments Quality Leader**
EAL
Closes 11.01.19
- **ESOL Skills for Life Materials Writer**
English Speaking Board (International) Ltd.
Closes 14.01.19
- **Centre Support and Compliance Coordinator**
1st4Sport Awarding Organisation
Closes 14.01.19

Federation of Awarding Bodies – response to the Welsh Government consultation on the Qualifications Wales (monetary penalties) Regulations

The final response to the Welsh Government's consultation on the Qualifications Wales (monetary penalties) Regulations can be found here: [FAB response to the Welsh Government consultation on the Qualifications Wales \(monetary penalties\) Regulations](#). Many thanks to those members who took part in a tele-conference to shape the draft response and to those who submitted feedback on the draft response. Overall, the feedback focused on the disproportionate nature of the consultation proposals which suggested that Qualifications Wales' financial penalty cap should be set at 10% of an awarding body's annual UK turnover.

Flex for Success? – Employers' perspectives on the apprenticeship levy

City & Guilds and ILM have published a report based on a research survey of 765 people with decision making responsibility for apprenticeships who were working within businesses in England that pay the apprenticeship levy. The research aimed to gauge their experience of using the apprenticeship system to date and provide input about what could be done to improve it in the future.

The research identified that there was a very strong desire amongst respondents for greater flexibility in the way that they are able to spend their levy. Only 8% stated that they wouldn't want to see greater flexibility in the apprenticeship levy. Of the 92% of respondents who wanted greater flexibility the results showed that they would still like to invest 55% in apprenticeship training with 45% to be spent on non-apprenticeship training.

The report sets out 12 recommendations for Government to address the barriers to the take up of apprenticeships including:

- Government should provide more clarity about the amount of levy that has been spent and the amount that will be taken out in April 2019 so that everyone involved in delivering apprenticeships and benefitting from them is able to plan effectively.
- Government should reward organisations that invest in apprenticeships with the option to use levy funding to provide recognised qualifications that support progression in the workplace, helping to plug current and future skills gaps.
- Government should support employers in accessing advice and funding to help with recruitment and development that is not currently funded through the levy e.g. the Adult Education Budget, adult learner loans and the National Retraining Scheme.
- The Institute for Apprenticeships must introduce and/or approve End Point Assessments (EPA) as a matter of urgency for all live apprenticeship standards.
- Government should introduce a further extension to the amount (currently 10% rising to 25% in April 2019) of levy that employers can invest in their supply chain and make it clear to all employers that this money can be spent with any SME.
- Government should create an independent skills body that is able to hold Government to account on its skills policy, tracking the success measures of each skills intervention against pre-agreed objectives.

The full report can be found here: [Flex for Success?](#)

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **End Point Assessment Manager**
1st4Sport Awarding Organisation
Closes 14.01.19
- **Qualification Development Manager**
ATHE Ltd
Closes 14.01.19
- **Quality & Assessment Manager**
ATHE Ltd
Closes 14.01.19
- **Product Development Manager (Construction)**
NOCN
Closes 18.01.19
- **Administrators (Qualifications Division)- one permanent and one 12 month fixed term contract**
AAT
Closes 18.01.19
- **Customer Support Advisors**
AAT
Closes 21.01.19
- **Sales Team Members- Two permanent and one 12 month fixed term contract**
AAT
Closes 21.01.19
- **Assistant Product Manager (Accounting Qualifications)**
AAT
Closes 21.01.19
- **Executive Assistant to Chief Executive Officer**
Gateway Qualifications
Closes 21.01.19
- **Project manager**
National Council for the Training of Journalists
Closes 21.01.19
- **Becoming a Member of APM's Senior Examiner Team**
APM
Closes 25.01.19
- **Question writers and reviewers - Hospitality**
Innovate Awarding
Closes 28.01.19

ESFA Apprenticeship Levy survey

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) Business Update (issue 40, 09 January) includes information on its intention to survey employers and providers on the apprenticeship levy.

Members may remember that in 2018, the government announced plans to engage with business and providers on the long-term operation of the levy.

ESFA has confirmed that in the coming weeks, it will be sending out a short survey to apprenticeship employers and providers. This will offer an opportunity to comment on how employers have responded to the introduction of the levy, and how ESFA can help develop demand for, and provision of, apprenticeships.

In the meantime, ESFA has set up an additional mailbox to encourage employers to share their thoughts and feedback apprenticeships.feedback@education.gov.uk.

Further information can be found here: [ESFA Apprenticeship Levy survey](#).

The Baker Clause one year on

IPPR has published research that concludes 'a year on from its introduction, compliance with the Baker clause remains very poor'. Just two in five schools are complying with the requirements of the legislation and most vocational providers say it has made no difference.

Since January 2018, secondary schools across England have been required by law to allow other education and training providers access to their pupils to inform them of technical and vocational qualifications. This regulation is known as the Baker clause after its author, Lord Baker.

The report recommends that Government should take action to enforce compliance and introduce further reforms to ensure young people can choose the right paths and suggests that Ofsted should be responsible for assessing compliance with the Baker clause as part of an increased focus on careers information, advice and guidance.

The full report can be found here: [The Baker Clause one year on](#).

Review of end of year 16 to 19 study programmes data for 2016 to 2017

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published information on actions and clarifications for institutions delivering 16 to 19 provision. The information include advance notice of some changes to the funding guidance which include this planned change:

Advance notification of change to the funding guidance: students with prior attainment in English and maths at grade 4 or above - We are aiming to include in the 2019 to 2020 Funding Guidance that students with prior attainment in English and maths at Grade 4 or above that are undertaking a vocational qualification are not expected to be on an Entry Level or Level 1 core aim, even if they have no previous experience in the vocational area – they should undertake a core aim at L2 or above, except in exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances will not be on the basis of previous experience in the vocational area in question and should be fully documented for audit purposes.

Further information can be found here: [Review of end of year 16 to 19 study programmes data for 2016 to 2017](#).

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **Regional Account Manager (London North)**
AAT
Closes 28.01.19
- **Assessment Manager**
PropertyMark
Qualifications
Closes 28.01.19
- **Examiner and Assessment Writers**
ICB
Closes 31.01.19
- **External Quality Assurer (South East)**
NOCN
Closes 31.01.19
- **External Quality Assurer (Youth Work)**
NOCN
Closes 31.01.19
- **Principal Examiner Opportunities - Business Economics**
NCC Education
Closes 31.01.19
- **Functional Skills Maths Level 1 and 2 Writer / Reviewer**
Skillsfirst Awards Ltd
Closes 31.01.19
- **Examiner, Lead Examiner and Chief Examiner Roles**
NCFE
Closes 31.01.19
- **Head of Awarding, Research and Development**
Skills and Education Group
Closes 04.02.19
- **Administrative Officer**
The Pensions Management Institute
Closes 08.02.19
- **Membership Account Executive of The Assessors Guild**
The Assessors Guild
Closes 08.02.19
- **Independent End-point Assessor - Investment City & Guilds**
City & Guilds
Closes 28.02.19

Government Response to the Education Select Committee report: Value for Money in Higher Education

The Department for Education (DfE) has published the Government Response to the Education Select Committee report: Value for Money in Higher Education, which was published in November 2018.

The response clarifies the responsibilities of the Office for Students (OfS) and the Institute of Apprenticeships in respect of the issues raised. It also reflects that the government is continuing to develop policy in these areas alongside the Review of Post 18 Education and Funding, which will conclude in 2019.

Page 8 of the response includes a section on Skills and the government responses to recommendations relating to degree apprenticeships. Page 11, point 14 provides the government response to the recommendation on T levels and UCAS tariff points and confirms that the government is working with UCAS to agree the detail of this.

Further information can be found here: [Government Response to the Education Select Committee report: Value for Money in Higher Education](#).

How ESFA handles allegations of suspected fraud or financial irregularity

The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published information about how to report instances of suspected fraud or financial irregularity. The published Guide explains how to make an allegation of fraud or financial irregularity within an ESFA-funded educational providers including:

- academy trusts and schools including free schools and university technical colleges (UTCs)
- further education colleges
- training organisations

Further information can be found here: [allegations of suspected fraud or financial irregularity](#).

Updated publications

The following publications have been updated:

- **Register of end-point assessment organisations –pre application guidance** -This provides information for employers looking for an independent end-point assessment organisation and potential applicants to the register of apprentice assessment organisations.
- **Apprenticeship funding bands** – this document sets out the funding bands that will apply for existing apprenticeship frameworks and apprenticeship standards.
- **Further education and skills data** – this provides information on learners, learning programmes and learner achievement. The Department for Education (DfE) has uploaded a new version of 'FE and skills aims by delivery in each local authority district by provider and level: 2017 to 2018'
- **Submitting data to Ofqual** – this provides guidance on formats and timings for submitting data to Ofqual. It includes updated reporting schedules for general and vocational qualifications.
- **16 to 18 minimum standards** – the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has published the 16 to 18 minimum standards for 2018. This document sets out the minimum standard measure applied to all schools and colleges for 16- to 18-year-olds for 2018.

Jobs at

www.awarding.org.uk

- **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
- **Freelance Independent End-Point Assessors**
Skillsfirst Assess
Closes 28.06.19

Register of External Quality Assurance Providers

The Institute for Apprenticeships (IfA) has published an updated external quality assurance (EQA) register which lists 17 EQA organisations and the standards that they are responsible for. This includes a full list of the standards that IfA and Ofqual are responsible for.

The full list can be found here: [Register of EQA Providers](#).

Centenary Commission Launched

Earlier this week, the Centenary Commission was launched to consider the challenges England faces in educating people throughout their lives.

The Commission will be chaired the master of Oxford University's Balliol College, Dame Helen Ghosh, and will aim to stimulate a national debate about the role of adult education, and to "rebalance and enhance provision for adults".

Further information can be found in the TES article here: [Commission marks centenary of landmark report](#)

ETF Tender Opportunity

The Education Training Foundation (ETF) has published information on a tender opportunity - T level support strand 3: top tips for technical teachers. The opportunity was published on 02 January and the deadline is 17 January.

Further information can be found here: [T level support strand 3: top tips for technical teachers](#).

Member to member

A member who currently uses British Council to assist with undertaking quality assurance activity for international centres, e.g. EQA visits, has been advised that the British Council intends to withdraw their services in this respect. Consequently, the AO is currently exploring other options and would welcome information from other members if they are aware of any other organisations that offer these types of services.

Information can be sent to ailin.ocathain@awarding.org.uk in the first instance.

17th annual e-Assessment Question Conference and Exhibition - "Transformation, Change and Evolution"

The 17th e- Assessment Question Conference and Exhibition will take place in London on 10/11 April 2019.

The conference will consider:

- the way that e-Assessment is effecting learning and assessment processes in education, training and development to the benefit of learners, employees and institutions, and
- the manner in which e-Assessment as a process is changing and growing and advancing.

Further information, including details of confirmed speakers and how to book can be found here:

www.e-assessment-question.com . An early booking discount applies until 17 January 2019.

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 \(Post-11\)](#)