



**AELP Webinar:** Delivering Higher level and Degree Apprenticeships

**Date:** 15 March 2016

**Webinar Chair:** Mike Cox, AELP

**Guest speakers:**

Dan Simons, Apprenticeships Learner Policy Manager, Skills Funding Agency

Richard Marsh, Operations Director at Capita Talent Partnerships

Alison Cox, Head of Apprenticeships, Chartered Management Institute

Please note that AELP are running a Special Interest Group covering Higher Level Skills. The half day event is complimentary event for all Members of AELP to attend and aims to create a forum in which members can consider the opportunities available to providers wishing to develop a portfolio of provision at higher or degree level. The meetings will also capture the views and common interest of members already involved in the development and delivery of provision at this level that can help to inform AELP's view on key policy issues.

You can book a place at this event by following this link:

<http://www.aelpmemberevents.org.uk/ehome/index.php?eventid=168992&>

**Funding**

**Q: Where we can find the funding details for the higher apps?**

A: All of the funding rules can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/sfa-funding-rules-2016-to-2017> please note that the rules should not be read in isolation but in conjunction with the Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules 2016 to 2017, the Apprenticeship: common funding rules 2016 to 2017 and the 2016 to 2017 ILR Guidance.

**Q: Is Eligibility for funding the same as Intermediate and Advanced Level Apprenticeships?**

A: Section 3 of the funding guidance gives details on eligibility.

**Q: I would be grateful if you could clarify the funding mechanism for degree apprenticeships which I understand are being developed under the new Standards. Whilst the funding for the new Standards is £1 employer: £2 government, does this apply to Degree Apprenticeships? How will the cost of the degree element be met?**

A: **SFA** - The standards funding model applies equally to degree apprenticeship standards, including the degree element. See standard funding rules 15/16 and 16/17.

**AC** - The current funding model for Trailblazer degree level apprenticeship standards is the £1 employer: £2 government model. The level of funding that is applied will depend on the cap that is allocated to the standard. In respect of the Chartered Manager Degree Apprenticeship this is the highest cap (now Cap 6). The cost of the degree is incorporated into the funding for the standard – as the degree is embedded within it.

**Q: Any idea of the cost of a 2 yr typical level 4 trailblazer to an employer for 1 student not eligible for funding?**

A: **SFA** - Employers would need to negotiate a price with a provider. Price will vary depending on the standard and the needs of the apprentice.

**Q: We would also like to know the cost of a 2 year typical level 4 or 5 trailblazer to an employer for 1 student not eligible for funding.**

A: This funding cap slide will give you an idea.

The current funding model is based on the existing Trailblazer model.

		Cap 1	Cap 2	Cap 3	Cap 4	Cap 5	Cap 6
Maximum core government contribution (£2 for every £1 from employer)		£2,000	£3,000	£6,000	£8,000	£13,000	£18,000
Employer contribution if the cap maximum is required		£1,000	£1,500	£3,000	£4,000	£6,500	£9,000
Co-payment for training and assessment if the cap maximum is required		£3,000	£4,500	£9,000	£12,000	£19,500	£27,000
Additional incentive payments	Recruiting a 16 to 18-year-old	£600	£900	£1,800	£2,400	£3,900	£5,400
	For a small business (<50)	£500	£500	£900	£1,200	£1,950	£2,700
	For successful completion	£500	£500	£900	£1,200	£1,950	£2,700
Maximum total government contribution		£3,600	£4,900	£9,600	£12,800	£20,800	£28,800

**Q: Employer contribution - how does this come to the provider?**

A: **SFA** - Under the current standard funding rules, the provider will need to invoice and collect payment from the employer. See standard funding rules 15/16 and 16/17.

**AC** – the employer will pay their contribution to the provider, who will, once this has been received, draw down the funding. The employer contribution must be financial – it cannot be

in kind.

**Q: Are degree apps coming out of our apprenticeship income line while this is still available?**

A: SFA – Yes, including employer incentive payments.

**Q: How likely will employers receive incentive payments?**

A: SFA – employers will receive incentive payments if they are eligible.

### **Policy**

**Q: The Government is heavily promoting Higher Level and Degree Apprenticeships but with a still limited number of frameworks/standards available and still less local delivery available to employers locally via providers is there a danger that demand will outstrip supply?**

A: SFA – We would hope providers will develop provision to meet demand.

**Q: Quality - comes under QAA for HEIs what about FECs?**

A: SFA- Ofsted are responsible for inspecting FE colleges.

**Q: Is the 16-18 definition as in FEC?**

A: SFA – yes.

**Q: Can a degree apprenticeship be a HNC, then HND followed by a top-up degree?**

A: SFA – you would need to refer to the particular requirements for the individual standard.

**Q: Is there a need of a particular approval from a higher education authority to deliver the higher degree apprenticeships.**

A: SFA – providers will need to be on the SFA Register of Training Organisations.

**Q: Do training providers need to be approved by a specific education authority to be able to deliver Degree Apprenticeships?**

A: SFA – providers will need to be on the SFA Register of Training Organisations.

**Q: Are you able to advise if a Higher or Degree apprenticeship requires completion of a degree course e.g. foundation degree, as well as the work based learning aspects, how is the course funded? Is the degree aspect through HEFCE and the work based learning part through the SFA or does the SFA fund the whole apprenticeship? Does the whole course receive the two-thirds government contribution (degree and work based learning parts)?**

A: SFA – See answers above.

**AC** – A degree apprenticeship will require the completion of a degree either as part of the on-programme delivery or at the end point assessment. The degree will be funded through the apprenticeship i.e. via SFA funding. Under the current funding model, it will be funded on the two-thirds government contribution.

## Progression

**Q: Can someone with a degree do a funded higher apprenticeship?**

A: [SFA](#) – See eligibility section of funding rules

**Q: Can you do a higher apprenticeship if you have a university degree?**

A: [SFA](#) – See eligibility section of funding rules.

**Q: Could a learner with a level 4 qualification do a higher apprenticeships?**

A: [SFA](#) – See eligibility section of funding rules.

**Q: Do they have to be qualified at Level 3 before progressing?**

A: [SFA](#) - Entry requirements will be determined by the employer and provider.

**Q: Would a Foundation Degree Program be an element of Degree Apprenticeship?**

A: [SFA](#) – It would depend on the requirements of the individual apprenticeship standard.

**Q: This might be a basic question for Alison; but once the learners complete this apprenticeship do they have to do any further work to get a degree?**

A: [SFA](#) – It would depend on the requirements of the individual apprenticeship standard.

**AC** – in the Chartered Management Degree Apprenticeship the achievement of the degree is a pre-requisite to the end point assessment, therefore has to be completed as part of the apprenticeship for the candidate to successfully pass their apprenticeship. Therefore there will be no further work required.

**Q: Can we have clarification on what level a learner that has a degree can start at if an employer wishes to take on a higher apprentice? Is it Level 4 or 5 upwards?**

A: [SFA](#) – See eligibility section of funding rules.

## Quality

**Q: What makes the difference between a higher apprenticeship with a degree qualifications and a degree apprenticeship? The difference in labelling is confusing employers and applicants.**

A: [SFA](#) - Degree Apprenticeships include a full bachelor's or master's degree; apprenticeships at levels 4-7 that do not contain a full bachelor's or master's degree are termed higher apprenticeships.

**Q: If there is no Licence to practice, how important are the professions when developing & delivering the HA/DA? a) Quality - comes under QAA for HEIs what about FECs?**

A: [SFA](#) - Apprenticeship standards are designed to align with professional recognition where it applies.

**AC** – Professional Bodies can provide guidance on best practice within the profession which enhances the apprenticeship standard, opportunities to link in to professional registration to

support apprentices, and ongoing CPD and career development opportunities through on-going membership (should the individual choose to remain a member). The links with Professional Bodies are valued by employers.

#### **Other**

**Q: Will faa pull through any higher apprentice vacancies or will they need to be entered separately?**

A: Yes all apprenticeships vacancies will appear.

**Q: How well are the trailblazers accepted overseas by industry eg aviation sector ground handlind: Emirates Airlines (dnata). As a previous training manager in dnata we looked for international standards in competence and capability. Currently the Australian standards and apprenticeship scheme was a better option.**

A: Discussed on live webinar.

**Q: How do you think that employers will use higher to replace graduate entry, or L7 to put graduates through chartership?**

A: **AC** – It is early days for the CMDA, and we are seeing different employers taking different approaches. Some are using it to replace or enhance their graduate recruitment strategies, seeing great benefit in combining the business management degree, Chartered Manager status and work place learning.

**Q: Question for Richard - in delivery have you used a blended approach to deliver i.e. webinars?**

A: **RM** - Yes we do use webinars and other e-learning to produce blended learning programmes.

**Q: What are CMI's plans for roll out in regions? I understand that they have been introduced through Universities and we are a FEC with HEI status and a CMI accredited centre.**

A: **AC** – It is early days for the CMDA, and we are seeing different employers taking different approaches. Some are using it to replace or enhance their graduate recruitment strategies, seeing great benefit in combining the business management degree, Chartered Manager status and work place learning.

#### **Comment**

**We are hearing the same from our clients, a dip in '16 until there is detail on the Levy.**

**Student knowledge from our experience can be significantly supported by good use of ICT i.e webinars, FaceTime/ Skype tutor support / email and of course telephone. We have supported successfully 850 higher learners using this extensively.**