

Employment Policy and Law

3 August 2016

To: Heads of Institution, HR Directors

Attachment: HE trailblazer update

HE apprenticeship standards: update from the trailblazer group

Executive summary

A trailblazer group of English HEIs submitted a proposal to the Government in April for three new apprenticeship standards, specifically for HE. This Update provides a briefing from the trailblazer group co-Chairs, outlining the background to the project and recent developments, including financial and secretariat support for the project from Universities UK. The trailblazer group invites any HEI that is interested in this project to contact them directly to join the group.

HE trailblazer update

A trailblazer group of English HEIs is leading a project to develop three new apprenticeship standards for HE:

- Academic Professional
- University Administrator
- Research/Project Funding Manager for the HE sector

The proposals were subject to a short Government consultation in early May, to which UCEA alerted members and to which we submitted a response.

Members can find attached a briefing paper, "HE trailblazer update", from the co-Chairs of the group, which outlines the background to the project, developments since the consultation and an invitation to HEIs to get involved in the project.

UCEA will join the steering group for the project, in order to reflect members' views and to be able to keep members updated as the standards develop. However, [Government guidance for trailblazers](#) is very clear that they must be developed by employers and not led by employer associations or trade bodies; therefore the co-Chairs are keen that as many HEIs in England as possible are involved in the project in order to reflect the diversity of the sector.

If you wish to join the trailblazer group, or find out more about the project, please contact Kathryn Hague (Kathryn.Hague@solent.ac.uk), Executive Officer at Southampton Solent University who is assisting the project until Universities UK takes over the secretariat role in due course.

Government guidance delayed

The Government did commit to publish new guidance for employers on the apprenticeship levy in June, but the EU referendum and ministerial changes delayed publication. DfE had expected to publish the new guidance in July but there is still no indication of when we might expect it. The Government is still publicly committed to implementing the apprenticeship levy in April 2017.

Helen Fairfoul, Chief Executive

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