

Interim statement on Degree Apprenticeships

Degree Apprenticeships Characteristics Statement

QAA has recently begun a process of engagement and consultation with the higher education sector and other key stakeholders such as the University Vocational Awards Council (UVAC), to develop a national-level statement about the characteristics of Degree Apprenticeships.

This statement will provide key information about Degree Apprenticeships as they currently operate, including their context, distinctive features of the qualifications, and information about their content structure and delivery.

The statement will align with the existing suite of characteristics statements that sit within Part A of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (including statements on Foundation, Master's and Doctoral degrees). As a characteristics statement, it will serve to support and contextualise the national Qualifications Frameworks for the purpose of delivering Degree Apprenticeships.

Degree Apprenticeships and the Quality Code

While this statement is under development, providers are reminded that, as higher education qualifications, Degree Apprenticeships are covered by the Expectations of the UK Quality Code. As such, the Quality Code is a key reference point for setting the academic standards and assuring the quality of Degree Apprenticeships.

When designing and delivering Degree Apprenticeships, providers may find it particularly helpful to refer to the following components of the Quality Code, available at: www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code.

- The national **Qualifications Frameworks**, which describe the achievement represented by higher education qualifications and sit within Part A.
- **Chapter B1: Programme Design, Development and Approval** which explores what is required for the initial design and development of programmes in higher education.
- **Chapter B6: Assessment of Students and the Recognition of Prior Learning**, which sets out what is expected of the sector in terms of the assessment of higher education qualifications.
- **Chapter B10: Managing Higher Education Provision with Others** which is concerned with the management of academic quality and standards in the context of the delivery of learning opportunities with others, including employers.

Further information

If you are interested in contributing to the development process for the Degree Apprenticeships Characteristics Statement please get in touch with us via www.qaa.ac.uk/contact-us or sign up to our community of practice by emailing m.guy@qaa.ac.uk.