

# Integrated Degree Level Apprenticeship Standards

## A guide for Higher Education Institutions (HEI's)

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are playing an increasingly vital role in the delivery of degree level apprenticeships. As these programs evolve, HEIs are not just providers of education but are also becoming key players in the assessment process, particularly with the **integration** of End Point Assessments (EPAs). This **EPA Focus** outlines the key changes to responsibilities for HEIs under **integrated** degree level apprenticeship standards, especially those HEIs that will serve as EPA organisations, regulated externally by the Office for Students (OfS).



## Overview of Degree Level Apprenticeships:

**Integrated** degree level apprenticeships provide a unique blend of higher education and practical workplace training. Apprentices will earn a full bachelor's degree as a core component of their apprenticeship only where they successfully pass the **integrated** end point assessment hurdles.

- **Integrated degree** apprenticeships mandate that degree qualifications are linked seamlessly with the Knowledge, Skills, Behaviour's, ensuring that learning is contextual and directly relevant to the apprentice's role.
- **Integrated standards** for degree level apprenticeships will only be awarded where the apprentice passes the EPA component preventing learners from leaving prior to completing the apprenticeship.

# End Point Assessment (EPA's)

## End Point Assessment:

**Integration** means that HEIs are now directly responsible to administer and conduct EPAs, which means they need to assess apprentices not only on their academic learning but also on their ability to apply this learning in their professional role against the assessment plans within the Apprenticeship Standards.

As EPA organisations, HEIs are regulated by the OfS to maintain standards and ensure the quality and integrity of the assessment process and will need to understand and work to the **OfS Regulatory Framework**.

## Transparency, Rigor and Conflicts of Interest:

The development of assessment materials, mark schemes, quality and standardisation processes **must be made transparent to all stakeholders, including apprentices and employers**, ensuring that the assessments are rigorous, fair, consistent, and free of any and all conflicts of interest actual or perceived.

Assessors conducting and marking the EPAs will need to **demonstrate occupational competence and a recognised assessment qualification**. Regular quality interventions and standardisations will be essential to ensure quality is maintained across all assessments delivered.



# HEI's as EPA Organisations

## HEI's as EPA Organisations:

HEI's will need to prepare comprehensive guides and support documents for apprentices, including mock assessments and questions banks, ensuring they align with the apprenticeship standards and meet the requirements set by the OfS.

## Enhancing the apprenticeship experience:

For HEIs, these changes present an opportunity to enhance their role in developing skilled professionals through apprenticeships.

The potential threats come from the ability to faithfully follow assessment plans, upskill current staff and ensure conflicts are properly managed and mitigated.



# Marshall Assessment EPA Focus

## Key Actions for HEI's

**Develop Collaborative Partnerships:** Engage with [existing industry assessment experts](#), join Trailblazer groups and find the right advice, guidance, and support.

**Invest in Staff Development:** Ensure that academic and support staff are trained in the specifics of degree apprenticeships and the EPA process. Look to identify roles early and ensure assessment and quality assurance qualifications are obtained in a timely manner.

**Create Policies and Best Practice:** Understand the external quality framework for EPAs, understand what the regulators ([IfATE](#)) expect and what the potential risks are.

**[Consider Outsourcing:](#)** Where the infrastructure and expertise do not exist within the HEI.

To start your end point assessment journey with Marshall Assessment, click here to get in touch:

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