

UVAC 'State of the Nation'



17/09/2021





Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Monthly Policy Update
3. Other Updates
4. Final Word

Questions Welcome at Any Time



Policy Update

Adrian Anderson
Chief Executive, UVAC





Higher Level Vocational Learning – The Next 12 Months

- T levels and Applied Generals
- Higher Technical Education (HTE) and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)
- Higher and Degree Apprenticeships
- Occupational Standards and Occupational Maps
- Lifelong Loan Entitlement, National FE and HE Credit System and Short Courses

Impact of the above on HE provision as a whole



Economic and Societal Priorities and Skills and Higher Education

The Spending Review – return on investment, productivity, public sector services and financial constraints

Post Pandemic Economy and Skills Needs (and Brexit) - skills shortages and/or gaps – e.g., agricultural, food processing, HGV drivers, nurses, managers etc.

Young People and the Pandemic – Intergenerational Impact, programmes and support for the young

Social Mobility, Diversity and Levelling-Up – Historic Patterns, Impact of the Pandemic, Red/Blue Wall and Devolution

Green Jobs and Net Zero Agenda – COP26, new jobs and new skill sets

Interventionist Government – A Government with a track record of intervention



T Levels, Applied Generals and the Technical Pathway

- Proposed Mainstream Binary Offer at 16 - 18 - A Levels and T Levels
- Some Opportunity for smaller Applied Generals to be combined with A Levels, but Applied Generals (e.g., BTEC and Cambridge Nationals) will become rare
- A range of organisations undertaking on-going lobbying on the value of the Applied General – focus on choice, distinctiveness of Applied Generals, role in access and participation
- A desire by Government for the creation of a high-quality technical pathway – T Levels to HTE/HTQs – an alternative to/or part of HE? Removal of funding for qualifications seen to compete/overall with T Levels

T Levels, Applied Generals and the Technical Pathway – *Issues for HE*

- **T Levels** – small and uncertain cohorts, timescales, objectives - employment and HTE (and vocational HE) – see UVAC analysis of rollout timetable [HERE](#)
- **Applied Generals** – key to access and participation and recruitment for some HEIs
 - Applied General fundamental route to HE in some subject areas e.g., health and social care
- **T Levels** – challenging programmes based on occupational standards, focused on employment with a 45-day work-placement

Higher Technical Education (HTE) and Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)

- **Higher Technical Qualifications** – an IfATE Quality Mark for level 4 and 5 technical qualifications mapped to and approved against Occupational Standards – see UVAC analysis of rollout timetable [HERE](#)
- Gambling the house or a watching brief?
- Will HTQs grow?
 - Number Caps (on other types of provision)??
 - Financial Incentives/Disincentives for other provision??
 - Where will HTQs grow – employer and individual demand, e.g., Health and Social Care
- **IfATE Approvals process** – fairly positive
- **Competition** – with Ofqual regulated FE qualifications and issues of credit size
- **Quality** – Ofsted versus OfS/QAA? History repeating...
- Articulation and progression with bachelor's degrees



DfE/ESFA Apprenticeship Priorities

- **Current Priorities:**

- Increasing the number of Apprenticeship starts
- Optimising the Apprenticeship Programme – flexibilities e.g., flexi-job Apprenticeships, levy transfers, improving quality
- Working with the Treasury on the Spending Review.



The Position of Degree Apprenticeship

Ministers and the IfATE *VERY* Supportive, but:

- Concern over Social Mobility – the perceived middle-class grab
- Concern over SME engagement – relatively low take-up
- Medium-term and Long-term Affordability and the Government Apprenticeship Budget



IfATE Degree Apprenticeship Consultation

- **Mandatory qualification policy** – recognition of the value of a degree in an Apprenticeship and support for Trailblazers to specify a mandatory degree in an Apprenticeship
- **Degrees within Degree Apprenticeship fully integrate with on-the-job training** - delivered through the Apprenticeship
- **Degree will reflect KSBs** – degrees used to deliver the Degree Apprenticeship will be designed, delivered, and validated based on the KSBs specified in an Apprenticeship standard
- **All Degree Apprenticeships will be based on the integrated model** – that is the integration of the degree and work-based learning, on and off the job learning and the degree will be used to deliver the EPA
- **Integrated Degree Apprenticeship use modules of the degree to deliver the EPA. Under the reformed model EPA will include assessment by occupational and industry experts.**

LINK to UVAC Response [HERE](#)

Occupational Standards

- Occupational Standards define the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed to be occupationally competent in a particular occupation
- Originally developed for Apprenticeships now also used for T Levels and HTQs
- *As of August 2021, 134 Occupational Standards had been approved at levels 6 and 7 and 154 at levels 4 and 5*
- Occupational standards are a useful resource – BUT issues of consistency and quality, focus on the KSBs of today not tomorrow and developed for work-based programmes
- Will Occupational Standards be used to influence provision at level 6 and 7?

Occupational Maps

“Occupational maps group occupations with related knowledge, skills and behaviours into pathways, making it easier to see the opportunities for career progression within that particular route. Within each pathway, occupations at the same level are grouped into clusters, to show how skills learnt can be applied to other related occupations.” - IfATE

IfATE is being asked to consider fostering the development of new occupational standards where gaps in Occupational Maps are apparent and to support revision to meet economic and societal objectives e.g., the Green Jobs and Net Zero agenda.

Occupational Maps could develop as career maps including information on wage returns and the benefits of particular options.



Lifelong Loan Entitlement, National FE and HE Credit System and Short HE Courses

- The Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) is designed to transform student loans system and enable adults to access a flexible loan entitlement to the equivalent of four years of student loans for higher-level study and training at college and university.
- LLE trialled from 2022 and introduced from 2025
- National FE and HE Credit System – a long-term ambition
- OfS Higher Education Short Course (30 or 40 credits) [Trial Challenge Competition](#)



Wider Impact of Higher Vocational Learning on Higher Education

- ***Funding*** – New methodology for recommending Apprenticeship funding bands – transparent and based on actual costs. Impact on other forms of provision?
- ***Quality Assurance*** – Apprenticeships at all levels are subject to Ofsted inspection.
- ***Government Intervention*** – Funding incentives/disincentives and caps on numbers?
- ***A Different and Wider HE Offer*** – Degrees, Apprenticeships, HTQs, Short Courses, FE and HE Credit Transfer and wider range of providers.



An Exciting Future 12 Months...

*Any Questions or
Observations?*

- UVAC 'State of the Nation' Address



Other Updates





Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks 2021/2022 Schedule

	PCDA- Police Constable	Academic Professional	Social Worker	HealthCare Professionals (New)	Strategic Apprenticeship Leaders (New)
Oct	X				
Nov		X			
Annual Conference – DAKN Workshop					
Dec			X		
Jan				X	
Feb					X
Mar	X				
Apr		X			
May			X		
Jun				X	
Jul					X

CONTACT : Dr John Lanham



john.lanham@galto.co.uk



07768 147 266



Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship

1)NSS/ NAS – Apprentice or Student, HEI requirements, strategies to manage expectations.

2)OfSTED..... Preparing / Experiences / Lessons and Suggestions

Weds. 20th October – 14.00-16.00 - Online

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5190681562753290252>

PCDA



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john.lanham@galto.co.uk



07768 147 266

Academic Professional

- 1)Update on Standard
- 2)EPA – experience and reflection
- 3) Curriculum innovation

Weds 10th November – 14.00 – 16.00 – Online

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6597921206376866063>

AP





Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

New 2021-22 Network

DAKN for institutional / DA strategic leaders.

Register interest using this link/form –

<https://forms.gle/7ZpwP4Nthjq1vHp2A>

Institutional
DA Leaders



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07768 147 266



Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

Degree Apprenticeship Knowledge Networks

New 2021-22 Network

Are you interested / willing to get involved and help set up a DAKN for Nursing/Healthcare apprenticeships ???

Register interest using this link/form -

<https://forms.gle/wS7VNfBdJCU3swCs8>

Nursing/
Healthcare



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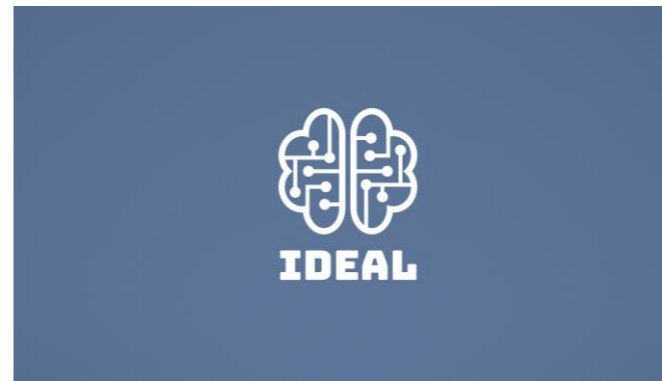
john.lanham@galto.co.uk



07768 147 266



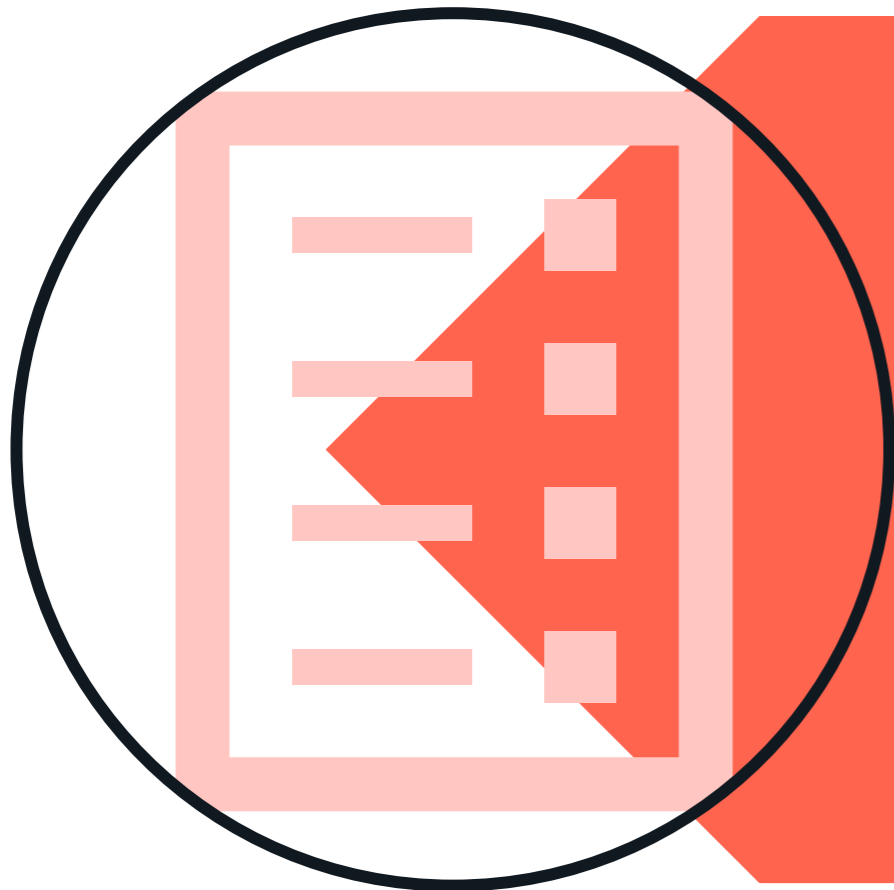
Erasmus+ Research



- **IDEAL** - *Improving Digital Education for All Learners*
- Submitted in response to rapid changes during pandemic
- Aims to research, evaluate and disseminate good practice, promote new approaches to online and blended learning in HE
- Looking at staff competency needed to support digital/remote learning
- Our strand is concerned with work-based and apprenticeship learning – particularly things that are additional to ‘normal’ digital pedagogy, such as working around the impact on the work-based aspects of the programme
- Literature Review = mostly placement activity so looking to carry out some empirical research by speaking to HEIs with a view to discussing:
 - How have you had to adapt apprenticeship/WBL delivery, particularly in terms of remote teaching/learning, remote working, and TPRs/liaison?
 - To what extent, and in what way, do you envisage these continuing after any pandemic-related measures are no longer needed?
 - What will practice look like in five years' time?
 - What are the implications in terms of (university) staff practice, areas of competence, and development? Have you made use of any specialist support, e.g., learning technologists?
- Article planned for HESWBL in 2022



Autumn Webinar Programme - Release End September



RoATP Thursday 4th
November 10-12

- Latest advice on completion
- Template
- Speakers

**TO REGISTER
CLICK
HERE**



Final Word

- Recording of this SoTN Address is available [HERE](#) plus slides ++ **briefing note** on key issues discussed this month
- UVAC National Conference 25 November 2021
 - **Theme:**
“HE Post Covid – How technical, higher technical education, Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, professional education and work-based learning programmes will contribute to economic recovery and social mobility”
 - **Registration Link:** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/uvac-national-conference-2021-higher-education-post-covid-tickets-162699385241>
 - Early bird tickets extended: from £120
 - Programme available [HERE](#)