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NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Thursday 20 November 2025

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Change: creating and adapting to apprenticeship
and skills policy, past, present and future

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Bringing together expert researchers
& practitioners from across higher
education concerned with higher
level skills delivery.

#UVAC2025

Join the conference conversation on LinkedIn using #uvac2025

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Conference Programme

Change: creating and adapting to apprenticeship and skills policy, past, present and future

Join the conference conversation on  using #uvac2025

Morning

08.00 - 09.00 Hall 10 Breakfast, Exhibition and Networking

09.00 - 09.15 Hall 9 Welcome and Housekeeping

09.15 - 09.55 **KEYNOTE**

Headline sponsor Aptem

High-impact progress reviews in University apprenticeship provision

Sean Baker | New Business Sales Director | Aptem
Chris Cherry | Strategic Associate | SDN Mesma

09.55 - 10.15 **KEYNOTE**

Ready for roll out - practical realities of the renewed inspection framework for higher education

Kerry Boffey | CEO | Adult Learning Improvement Network (ALIN) & Fellowship of Inspection Nominees (FIN)

10.15 - 10.55 **KEYNOTE**

Region to be cheerful? Exploring the role for vocational HE and apprenticeships within English devolution

James Farr | Director
Richard Guy
THINK

11.00 - 11.50 Workshop Session A

Hall 9 *World Skills UK endorsed competitions for higher & degree apprentices*
Professor Sarah Tudor | Head of Assessment and Progression, Director of the WorldSkills UK endorsed competition at the University of Exeter

Hall 11a *Assuring standards in times of change: Co-creating a blueprint for quality, consistency, and change*
Dr Nicky Westwood | UVAC Associate
Julie Stone | Consultant
Phil Sanders | Consultant

Hall 11b *End point assessment – Out of the melting pot*
Sam Moorwood | Associate Director of Skills | Sheffield Hallam University

11.55 - 12.45 Workshop Session B

Hall 9 *Navigating complexity with employers: Strategic workforce strategies in an era of change*
Mark Hayes | Director
Mike Craig | Head of Sales and Accounts
THINK

Hall 11a *Navigating Change: Empowering insights around workplace mentorship through a World Café*
Abigail Salter | Lecturer in Policing Organisation and Practice
Dr Sarah Bloomfield | Senior Lecturer in Work and Organisational Learning
Evelyn Mooney | Programme Leader | WELS, School of Health, Wellbeing and Social Care (HWSC) Open University

Hall 11b *Addressing policy misconceptions about mature learners and university approaches*
Dr Trevor A Brown | Reader in Strategic Practice and Apprenticeships
Richard Griffin | Senior Lecturer & Assessment Lead Manchester Metropolitan University

12.45 - 13.30
LUNCH & EXHIBITION

Afternoon

13.30 - 14.20 Workshop Session C

Hall 9 *The evolving apprenticeship workforce: Navigating change in tripartite roles*
Dr Nicky Westwood | UVAC Associate
Dr Helen Charlton | Head of Executive Education | Northumbria University Business School
Dr Phil Power-Mason | Head of Strategic Management | Hertfordshire Business School

Hall 11a *Not just another spreadsheet: Streamlining management*
Dr Cliona O'Dunlaing | Dean, School of Apprenticeships
Lauren Spurling | Head of Apprenticeship Academic Quality Anglia Ruskin University

Hall 11b *The constant in a shifting landscape: the value of work-related co-created practice development in degree apprenticeships*
Jackie Whitehouse | Head of Work-based Learning
Laura Yetton | Programme Manager University of Warwick

14.20 - 14.35
REFRESHMENTS BREAK & EXHIBITION

14.35 - 15.15 **KEYNOTE**
Hall 9 *From policy to practice: Reimagining apprenticeships through the lens of diversity and inclusion*
Pete Milsom | UCAS
Shona Taylor | Business Engagement Manager: Early Careers and Apprenticeships

15.15 - 15.55 **KEYNOTE**
Hall 9 *Headline sponsor ACE360*
Apprenticeships policy – Making it work for employers - panel discussion
Dr Fiona Aldridge | CEO | Skills Federation
Alison Morris | Director of Policy | Skills Federation
Kim Hardman | Director of Apprenticeships & UK Work Experience | Astra Zenica
Alison Housman | Policy Executive | Financial Services Skills Commission
Kate Young | Policy Manager | Enginuity

15.55 - 16.35 **KEYNOTE**
Hall 9 *From start-up to scale-up*
Gosia Lasota | Assistant Director
Dr Cliona O'Dunlaing | Dean, School of Apprenticeships Anglia Ruskin University

16.35 - 17.00 **KEYNOTE**
Hall 9 *Registration sponsor BUD*
Change is here: How technology is shaping HE vocational learning today and tomorrow
John Ingram | CEO | BUD

Hall 9 *Closing remarks*
Dr Mandy Crawford-Lee | Chief Executive | UVAC

17.00 - 18.00
Drinks reception
Sponsor OneAdvanced in the atrium

18.00
CONFERENCE CLOSES