



UNIVERSITY VOCATIONAL AWARDS COUNCIL

2026 -2027 CPD Programme

By Key Themes

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2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Welcome to UVAC's CPD programme for the academic year 2026–2027

This year's programme brings together 30 practical sessions to help apprenticeship leaders and their teams navigate policy change, strengthen delivery and prepare for what's next. The series combines policy updates, practical workshops, member experience and expert insight across the issues shaping apprenticeship provision.

Practical, member-focused support

Sessions will draw on member experience, external experts, policy makers, Ofsted speakers and audit specialists, helping participants understand what is changing and what it means in practice.

Who is the programme for?

The programme is designed for colleagues involved in apprenticeship delivery and strategy, recognising the importance of strong links between curriculum, quality, finance, systems, employers and leadership.

Webinars are open to relevant colleagues from member institutions, allowing you and your team to choose the sessions most useful to you.

Booking

Register for webinars via the UVAC website or the QR code below. You will need your UVAC login for registration. Registration remains open until 24 hours before the session.



Please do take time to cancel your registration if you can't attend. This is particularly important when we have invited external speakers to join us.

You can cancel by using the registration link email that you are sent or emailing us at r.rhodes@bolton.ac.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to our member webinars throughout the year.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Policy Watch – Making an Effective Response

Policy Watch – Implementing EPA Reform Policies

Thursday 3rd September 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical policy session is for apprenticeship leaders, curriculum leaders and will explore how to respond effectively to apprenticeship assessment and EPA reform. We will consider the changing balance between on-programme and end-point assessment, the implications for provider and employer responsibilities and the decisions needed during implementation. We will review curriculum, staffing, systems, quality assurance and communications so that assessment remains valid, manageable and compliant while supporting a positive apprentice experience and strong achievement.

Policy Watch – Implementing Young People Policies

Thursday 17th September 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical policy session for apprenticeship leaders and curriculum teams will explore how emerging policies for young people may affect apprenticeship recruitment, participation and progression. We will hear from policy makers and consider the changing expectations on providers and employers, the needs of different groups of young people and the links between apprenticeships, other skills pathways and employment support. We will consider 'll look at how to translate policy into an effective local offer, build stronger referral and progression routes, and identify the practical actions your organisation should take.

Policy Watch – Implementing SME Policies

Wednesday 15th October 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical policy session for apprenticeship leaders and business development teams will explore how emerging policies for small and medium-sized employers may affect apprenticeship demand and delivery. We will consider the implications for employer engagement, programme design, funding and partnership working, and the different needs of smaller organisations. We will translate policy into a clear SME proposition, review how to adapt recruitment and account-management approaches and build delivery models that are accessible, sustainable and more likely to support participation and achievement.

Policy Watch – Implementing Space & Place Policies

Thursday 29th October 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical policy session for apprenticeship leaders and teams will explore how emerging space and place priorities can be translated into an effective organisational response. With input from DfE on their emerging approach to provider responsiveness and from a combined authority on their expectations of providers in their community we will consider the implications of devolution, local skills priorities and place-based partnership working for apprenticeship planning and delivery. We will explore how to identify the opportunities and risks for members and the actions needed to create a strong and positive response from their organisation.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Ofsted

Ofsted Member Experiences – Autumn

Thursday 10th September 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical member experience session is for apprenticeship leaders and curriculum teams to share learning from recent Ofsted inspections during the autumn period. Members will describe their inspection process, the evidence and activities that mattered most and how inspectors explored curriculum, teaching, leadership, inclusion and outcomes. We will consider the emerging themes across inspections, identify the challenging or unexpected elements and explain the practical steps members can take to improve their own assessment readiness, prepare staff and demonstrate the quality and impact of their apprenticeship provision

Creating the Self Assessment Report & QIP Workshop

Tuesday 15th September 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical workshop is for apprenticeship and curriculum staff tasked with the creation or updating of a Self Assessment Report and Quality Improvement Plan against the updated Ofsted framework. This is an interactive session for participants at curriculum or institution level, where we will explore the most useful sources of evidence and how to use this to make evidence-based judgements, distinguish description from evaluation and identify the most important strengths and areas for improvement. We will explore how to write clear improvement priorities, set measurable actions, allocate ownership and monitor impact, so that the SAR and QIP become useful management tools as well as credible evidence for governance and inspection.

Ofsted Spotlight – Teaching Excellence

Thursday 5th November 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical Ofsted spotlight session for apprenticeship curriculum, teaching and quality teams will explore how to identify teaching excellence in apprenticeship provision. With member input from recently inspected organisations we will consider how inspectors evaluate curriculum design, teaching, training, assessment, feedback and the extent to which apprentices apply and remember what they learn. We will review data and evidence that demonstrates consistently strong practice, how staff development and quality assurance can improve teaching and how providers can identify and address inconsistency while retaining a clear focus on the apprentice progress and outcomes.

Ofsted Member Experiences – Winter

Thursday 14th January 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical member experience session is for apprenticeship leaders and curriculum teams to share learning from recent Ofsted inspections during the winter period. Members will describe their inspection process, the evidence and activities that mattered most and how inspectors explored curriculum, teaching, leadership, inclusion and outcomes. We will consider the emerging themes across inspections, identify the challenging or unexpected elements and explain the practical steps members can take to improve their own assessment readiness, prepare staff and demonstrate the quality and impact of their apprenticeship provision.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Ofsted

Ofsted Spotlight – Careers

Thursday 4th February 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This Ofsted spotlight session is designed for apprenticeship leaders, curriculum design leaders, careers teams and delivery staff. With member input we will explore how to deliver careers education, information, advice and guidance within apprenticeship provision. We will consider what effective and impartial support looks like, how it should reflect the apprentice's starting point and ambitions and the roles of employers and providers. We will consider how careers activity can be embedded throughout the programme, evidenced and evaluated, and used to support progression, informed choices and sustained employment beyond the apprenticeship.

Ofsted Member Experiences – Spring

Thursday 14th April 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical member experience session is for apprenticeship leaders and curriculum teams to share learning from recent Ofsted inspections during the spring period. Members will describe their inspection process, the evidence and activities that mattered most and how inspectors explored curriculum, teaching, leadership, inclusion and outcomes. We will consider the emerging themes across inspections, identify the challenging or unexpected elements and explain the practical steps members can take to improve their own assessment readiness, prepare staff and demonstrate the quality and impact of their apprenticeship provision.

Possible Ofsted ‘1 Year On’ Conference

TBC April 2027

This one-year-on Ofsted conference will bring together colleague from Ofsted apprenticeship leaders, sector colleagues and member providers to reflect on inspection experience over the previous year. We will explore the main themes emerging from inspections, how expectations have been interpreted in practice and the areas that continue to create challenge or uncertainty. Through expert input and provider experience, we will identify what has changed, how to develop effective practice and confirm which priorities members should address in their self-assessment, governance, curriculum and inspection preparation.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Assessment & EPA Reforms

Costing Assessment & EPA

Thursday 1st October 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for apprenticeship finance, assessment and delivery teams will explore how to develop clear and defensible costings for apprenticeship assessment and EPA. We will consider the activities, staffing, systems and quality-assurance costs that need to be understood, and how responsibilities may change as assessment reforms are implemented. We will look at how to distinguish and allocate costs appropriately, evidence the assumptions behind your model and use costing information to support contracting, pricing, curriculum planning and financially sustainable delivery.

Effective Assessment Services in Integrated Assessments

Thursday 3rd December 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical session is for curriculum leaders, assessment teams and academic staff responsible for the delivery of integrated assessment. We will explore a working model for effective assessment services, consider roles and responsibilities, performance measures, assessment planning, governance, quality assurance and the relationship between curriculum delivery and final assessment. With member input we will explore key policies, processes, handovers required and how to ensure that these are consistent across all delivery.

EPA Reform – Adjusting Curriculum for On-Programme Assessment

Thursday 18th February 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for curriculum, teaching and assessment teams will explore how apprenticeship programmes should be adjusted for a greater use of on-programme assessment. We will consider how assessment requirements can be mapped through the curriculum, sequenced alongside learning and supported by appropriate formative activity and feedback. We will consider staff roles, assessment readiness, evidence and quality assurance, and how to prepare apprentices effectively without narrowing the curriculum or teaching only to the assessment, while maintaining a coherent and positive learning experience.

Apprenticeship Assessments – Early Lessons

TBC June 2027

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, curriculum leaders and assessment teams will review the early lessons emerging from apprenticeship assessment reform. Drawing on developing practice and member experience, we will explore what is working well, where implementation is proving difficult and how changes are affecting apprentices, employers and staff. We will review the practical implications for curriculum, assessment planning, systems, quality assurance and communications, and identify the adjustments providers can make now to improve consistency, manage risk and support successful outcomes.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules

LLE EOI Drafting & Submission Workshop

Monday 5th October 2026 | 9:30 - 11:30

This practical workshop is for leaders, curriculum, registry and staff responsible for developing their LLE Expression of Interest. We will explore how to present a clear institutional proposition, demonstrate strategic and operational readiness and provide credible evidence of learner and employer demand. With input from previous successful round 1 applicants we'll look at curriculum, quality assurance, systems, student support, finance, governance and delivery planning, with structured activities and peer review to help participants create or strengthen their draft response and identify any gaps before submission.

LLE EOI Drafting & Submission Workshop

Friday 9th October 2026 | 9:30 - 12:00

This practical workshop is for staff responsible for developing their organisations LLE Expression of Interest. We will explore how to present a clear institutional proposition, demonstrate strategic and operational readiness and provide credible evidence of learner and employer demand. With input from previous successful round 1 applicants we'll look at curriculum, quality assurance, systems, student support, finance, governance and delivery planning, with structured activities and peer review to help participants create or strengthen their draft response and identify any gaps before submission.

LLE Update

Monday 7th December 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical update is for leaders and teams working on Lifelong Learning Entitlement provision to review the latest policy, regulatory and implementation developments. We will consider what these mean for institutional planning, curriculum approval, learner eligibility and finance, systems, student support and market development. We will review the key decisions members need to make now, the areas that remain uncertain and the practical steps that can strengthen readiness while retaining flexibility as the LLE arrangements continue to develop.

Apprenticeship Units – Lessons from Early Engagement and Delivery

Thursday 21st January 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, curriculum and employer-engagement teams will explore the early lessons from engaging employers and delivering Apprenticeship Units. We will consider what is driving demand, how employers and learners understand the offer and the operational challenges emerging from shorter, more flexible provision. We will consider unit selection, curriculum design, onboarding, timetabling, learner support, evidence and progression, drawing out practical approaches that can improve participation, delivery quality and the value of units within a wider apprenticeship strategy.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules

LLE Modules – Lessons from Early Engagement and Delivery

Thursday 11th March 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for curriculum, teaching and employer engagement teams will explore how to design apprenticeship curriculum that works effectively for small and medium-sized employers. Hearing from SME employers and exploring member's own successful practice we will consider the practical changes that balance the requirements of the standard with different workplace contexts, limited employer capacity and the need for relevant, flexible delivery. We will explore how to sequence learning, add key questions into initial needs assessments and skills scans, use workplace projects and examples, involve managers and adapt support so that SME apprentices can apply learning quickly and make sustained progress towards achievement.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Audit & Compliance

Audit Highlights 2026/2027 & Spotlight on Costings

Thursday 8th October 2026 | 9:30 - 12:00

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, finance and compliance teams will review the main audit themes for 2026/2027, with a particular spotlight on programme costings. Working with an audit firm we will explore the areas most likely to attract scrutiny, common weaknesses in evidence and the links between costing decisions, funding claims and delivery records. We will consider how to build a clear audit trail, test the robustness of your evidence and cost models, and identify practical actions that reduce risk before an audit begins.

Audit 2026/2027 Audit Papers

TBC November 2026

This practical session for apprenticeship finance and compliance teams will work through the 2026/2027 apprenticeship audit papers and the evidence expected from providers. We will explore how the papers are structured, what auditors are testing and how information from learner files, systems, finance records and delivery teams should fit together. We will review common areas of uncertainty, how to prepare and quality assure evidence efficiently, and how to use the papers as a practical tool for internal audit, risk assessment and improvement.

Auditing Apprenticeship Units

TBC March 2027

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, finance and compliance teams will explore the audit requirements associated with Apprenticeship Units. With an audit specialist, we will consider the evidence needed to support learner eligibility, enrolment, participation, delivery and funding claims, and where unit-based delivery may create new risks or gaps in existing processes. We will consider how to build an effective audit trail, adapt sampling and checking arrangements, clarify staff responsibilities and test whether your systems and records are ready to withstand external scrutiny.

Apprenticeship Units & Ofsted Inspection

TBC May 2027

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, quality teams and curriculum teams developing Apprenticeship Units will explore how unit-based provision will be assessed during Ofsted inspection. With Ofsted speakers we will consider how the Ofsted framework applies to shorter units, and how leaders can evidence quality, inclusion, learner progress and links to wider apprenticeship pathways. This session will include the experience of members directly involved in delivering units to explore successful practice in leadership, governance and curriculum delivery quality.



2026 -2027 Webinar Programme

Business Development, Data and Innovation

Using Your Data to Improve Delivery Quality, Outcomes & Drive Innovation

Thursday 22nd October 2026 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for apprenticeship leaders, quality teams and data colleagues will explore how to use data more effectively to improve delivery, outcomes and innovation. We will consider how learner, employer, curriculum, assessment and financial information can be brought together to identify patterns, emerging risks and opportunities for improvement. With member input we will consider how to establish a data analysis framework and how to ask better questions of your data, create useful measures and dashboards, target intervention and improvements more precisely and use evidence to support priority decisions about curriculum, resources, employer services and future programme development.

Increasing Engagement and Achievement with SMEs

Thursday 11th February 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for apprenticeship delivery and business development teams will explore how to increase engagement, retention and achievement with small and medium-sized employers. We will consider what SMEs need from apprenticeship providers, the engagement activities that work and the barriers that affect participation and progress. The session will review successful approaches to recruitment, onboarding, programme flexibility, progress reviews and early intervention that strengthen the employer relationship while helping apprentices remain engaged, make progress and successfully complete their programme.

Developing Curriculum for SME Delivery

Thursday 4th March 2027 | 9:30 - 11:00

This practical session for curriculum, teaching and employer engagement teams will explore how to design apprenticeship curriculum that works effectively for small and medium-sized employers. Hearing from SME employers and exploring member's own successful practice we will consider the practical changes that balance the requirements of the standard with different workplace contexts, limited employer capacity and the need for relevant, flexible delivery. We will explore how to sequence learning, add key questions into initial needs assessments and skills scans, use workplace projects and examples, involve managers and adapt support so that SME apprentices can apply learning quickly and make sustained progress towards achievement.



2026 -2027 CPD Programme

Funding Rules

2027/2028 Rules Draft Funding Rules

TBC March 2027

This practical briefing for apprenticeship leaders, finance and compliance teams will examine the draft 2027/2028 apprenticeship funding rules. We will compare the proposals with the current rules, identify the changes with the greatest potential impact and consider areas where further clarification or sector feedback may be needed. We will explore the implications for eligibility, programme design, evidence, systems and funding processes, and help participants begin an early implementation plan rather than waiting for the final rules to be published.

2027/2028 Full Funding Rules

TBC May 2027

This practical briefing for apprenticeship leaders, finance, curriculum and compliance teams will work through the full 2027/2028 apprenticeship funding rules. We will identify the final changes, clarify their operational implications and consider how they affect learners, employers, delivery teams, systems and funding evidence. We will confirm which policies and processes that need to be updated, the staff who need briefing or training and the internal checks required, providing a practical implementation checklist to support compliant delivery from the start of the funding year.

2026/2027 Rule Updates

TBC June 2027

This practical update for apprenticeship leaders, finance, curriculum and compliance teams will review the latest changes and clarifications to the 2026/2027 apprenticeship funding rules as they happen. We will focus on the provisions most likely to affect operational practices, delivery decisions, evidence and funding claims. We will explore what has changed, what remains the same and where providers may need to adjust guidance, systems, contracts, staff training and internal checks to maintain compliance and reduce the risk of inconsistent practice.





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Policy Watch – Implementing EPA Reform Policies	Policy Watch – Making an Effective Response	Thursday 3rd September 9:30 - 11:30
Ofsted member Experiences - Autumn	Ofsted	Thursday 10th September 9:30 - 11:00
Creating the Self Assessment Report & QIP Workshop	Ofsted	Tuesday 15th September 9:30 - 11:30
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Costing Assessment & EPA	Assessment & EPA Reforms	Thursday 1st October 9:30 - 11:00
LLE EOI drafting & submission workshop	Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules	Monday 5th October 9:30 - 11:30
Audit Highlights 2026/2027 & Spotlight on costings	Audit & Compliance	Thursday 8th October 9:30 - 12:00
LLE EOI drafting & submission workshop	Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules	Friday 9th October 9:30 - 12:00
Policy Watch – Implementing SME Policies	Policy Watch – Making an Effective Response	Wednesday 15th October 9:30 - 11:30
Using your data to improve delivery quality, outcomes & drive innovation	Business Development, Data and Innovation	Thursday 22nd October 9:30 - 11:00
Policy Watch – Implementing Space & Place Policies	Policy Watch – Making an Effective Response	Thursday 29th October 9:30 - 11:30
Ofsted Spotlight –Teaching Excellence	Ofsted	Thursday 5th November 9:30 - 11:00
Audit 2026/2027 Audit Papers	Audit & Compliance	TBC November 2026
Effective Assessment Services in Integrated Assessments	Assessment & EPA Reforms	Thursday 3rd December 9:30 - 11:30
LLE Update	Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules	Monday 7th December 9:30 - 11:00



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Ofsted Spotlight – Careers	Ofsted	Thursday 4th February 9:30 - 11:00
Increasing engagement and achievement with SMEs	Business Development, Data and Innovation	Thursday 11th February 9:30 - 11:00
EPA Reform – Adjusting Curriculum for on Programme Assessment	Assessment & EPA Reforms	Thursday 18th February 9:30 - 11:00
Developing curriculum for SME delivery	Business Development, Data and Innovation	Thursday 4th March 9:30 - 11:00
LLE Modules – Lessons from early engagement and delivery	Apprenticeship Units & LLE Modules	Thursday 11th March 9:30 - 11:00
2027/2028 Rules Draft Funding Rules	Funding Rules	TBC March 2027
Auditing Apprenticeship Units	Audit & Compliance	TBC March 2027
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Possible Ofsted ‘1 year on’ conference	Ofsted	TBC April 2027
Apprenticeship Units & Ofsted Inspection	Audit & Compliance	TBC May 2027
2027/2028 Full Funding Rules	Funding Rules	TBC May 2027
Apprenticeship Assessments - Early Lessons	Assessment & EPA Reforms	TBC June 2027
2026/2027 Rule Updates	Funding Rules	TBC

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