



Senior Leader – version 2 standard and assessment plan: FAQs

Please re-visit our webpage regularly to see additional questions. These FAQs will be reviewed and added to regularly.

Last updated: 04.03.2021

Question	Answer
When will a detailed explanation of the stages of the Strategic Project Proposal and the pre-Gateway project summary, which highlights the expectations both pre and post Gateway be available?	This will be discussed in the 2nd webinar on the 30th March and will also be included in the Customer pack. We're currently working on the customer pack and will be in touch to share as soon as we have the pack completed.
Can the apprentice start work on their strategic business proposal before the title is accepted by ILM?	Work must not start on the Strategic Business Proposal until the title and scope have been agreed between the Employer and ILM at Gateway. The apprentice then has 12 weeks to carry out the research and consult with stakeholders to bring the proposal to the required point for EPA.
What stage does the strategic business proposal have to be at 12 weeks?	The strategic business proposal does not need to be fully implemented during the EPA period, but it must be a comprehensive strategic business proposal that will enable full implementation at an appropriate time for the organisation and must be signed off for implementation.
Will the apprentice have to gain sign-off on the proposal from the board / Senior Leadership?	Yes, the apprentice will be required to gain sign-off from the board / Senior Leadership.
What level of detail can we expect from the new guidance for the new standard and assessment plan?	There is much more clarity in this assessment plan and we will expand on this further in our guidance and discussed at the next webinar on the 30th March.
What is the minimum period for an apprenticeship and how does this relate to the EPA period?	The minimum period for any apprenticeship is one year and one day. For this particular standard the average length of the on programme is expected to be 24 months but as long as it is more than a year and a day it would be eligible (subject to meeting all other funding rules). The EPA period (post Gateway) is 5 months.
Could self-reflection be included as long as it is assessed by the education provider and not self-assessed?	The use of self-reflection is not permitted for the EPA. This does not mean that reflection is not deemed a powerful learning strategy but just that it is not an accepted form of evidence for the EPA. Learners should continue to include context statements to support their product evidence which may include some reflection, but these would be in support of other evidence rather than evidence itself. If no product evidence is available for a particular piece of work a witness testimony is a strong form of evidence which would replace a personal reflection.

<p>The assessment plan states that the training provider should not be involved in the proposal. This is a different approach to the on-programme work-based project in the previous version of the standard. Could you say a bit about what this means in practice for training providers? Can we provide any support?</p>	<p>The TP would be supporting the apprentice right up to Gateway and therefore as part of the delivery of the on-programme they would be able to help them to develop their ideas for the title etc. and how they would carry out the research, liaise with stakeholders etc. However, from the point of Gateway the Training Provider cannot offer further support to the apprentice as when they pass through Gateway they are signing to say that the apprentice is EPA ready and therefore is now in a position to independently complete all aspects of the EPA.</p>
<p>When working with a Owner/Leader, how does the 'relationship' between employer and employee work. e.g. who signs off the proposal?</p>	<p>We would expect an owner to have an internal sign off process whether that is with peers, stakeholders etc. We are working on some examples to include within our Customer Pack, which we will share at our next webinar.</p>
<p>Where can I find the exemplars for the current standards please?</p>	<p>These are in Walled Garden and on EPA Pro and are accessible once learners are registered.</p>
<p>Where can we get access to the funding rules?</p>	<p>Here is the link to the current funding rules gov.uk/guidance/apprenticeship-funding-rules</p>
<p>Within the assessment plan, S19 "Manage relationships across multiple and diverse stakeholders" is mapped against the strategic business proposal and professional discussion. Is this correct as under the pass and distinction grading there is no mention of S19 and it is also not within the list under assessment method 2?</p>	<p>We have raised this with IfATE and they have corrected the error and updated the website.</p>
<p>How are we interpreting 'typically' 18 items of evidence. Should we revolve around 16 -20?</p>	<p>We are currently working on the detailed guidance around this and it will be included in our Customer pack once published but I would say that within two pieces either side sounds reasonable.</p>
<p>Will there be exemplars for public sector bodies, where profit is not an issue and v different context in terms of strategic changes?</p>	<p>Yes we are working on some additional examples that speak to other settings and contexts.</p>
<p>Very early on you said a degree was not mandatory. Does that mean that it is possible to still integrate a degree nonetheless? Or can it be on a L7 diploma?</p>	<p>A qualification whether a Degree, a Diploma or other may still be delivered as the on programme as long as it aligns to the KSB's and is agreed with the employer. IfATE have stated in their blog "Delivery of the apprenticeship has been made more flexible with the removal of the Masters qualification as a mandated part of the apprenticeship- although an employer would still be free to use such a qualification to deliver the apprenticeship, so long as it aligns to the KSBs. Apart from registration and certification costs, these would still be fundable under the levy up to the funding band limit."</p>
<p>If an apprentice is placed onto a break-in-learning from current programme which is linked to a masters degree, can they switch to the new version?</p>	<p>Our current understanding is that apprentices will not be able to switch to the new plan and therefore they will pick up on the current version on their return.</p>
<p>What resources will be available for apprentices and where will they be located?</p>	<p>Resources will sit within the new EPA Pro platform and will include exemplars, evidence matrices and customer handbook.</p>
<p>How does the 4000 words strategic business proposal differ from current programme?</p>	<p>There is a clearly define structure setting out what must be included in the SBP in the Assessment plan and we will give more details of this on our next webinar and within our Customer Pack.</p>

Will the grading criteria be published?	Yes the Grading criteria are in the assessment plan and will also be in our Customer Pack.
Will these changes apply to all future students or only those starting after 29th March?	The new version will apply to any apprentice starting on their ILR after 29th March. Any ILR starts before then can stay on current version for the duration.
How long will the legacy Standard with Degree remain i.e. for learners who might have had breaks in learning and take longer to complete?	At this moment we are planning to keep the EPA for this standard open for as long as we have learners registered on it.
Can you provide more detail about how exactly we should be handling levy-funded activities vs non levy-funded activities?	The rules around this are not within our remit however we will arrange for our funding specialist Bryony Kingsland to offer guidance at a future webinar.