

APPRENTICESHIPS CAP RESET FOR NON LEVY EMPLOYERS

The Education & Skills Agency (ESFA) have announced that the 10 start limit for small and medium sized employers has been reset to 0. Apprenticeship starts have been on hold for some employers who reached their limit which was set back in April 2021. Any non-levy paying business can start up to 10 new apprentices regardless of the number they currently employ

GOOD NEWS EXPECTED! 20% OFF THE JOB TRAINING CHANGES IN DRAFT 2022/23 RULES

Draft apprenticeship funding rules for 2022/23 have revealed there may be a change in the controversial 20% off the job training.

From 1st August 2022 the figure could be a fixed 6 hours a week, no matter how many hours the apprentice works. The hours will still be calculated flexibly and therefore this is an average.

This means a drop for anyone working more than 30 hours a week.

Some apprentices doing the same qualification were doing more off the job training simply

because they worked longer hours, so this would bring fairness and a simpler method for all concerned.

Please don't forget these are still draft and there may be changes PLUS it will be for new apprenticeships and won't apply to anyone already on an apprenticeship.

We will keep you informed of this and any other significant changes.

As always you can call us and we will update you on the very latest situation.



MINIMUM WAGE

We mentioned this on our Facebook page recently but it's probably worth repeating as the HMRC penalties can be very high!

Apprentices - £4.81
Under 18 - £4.81
18-20 - £6.83
21-22 - £9.18
23+ - £9.50* National Living Wage

Note:
The apprenticeship wage can only be paid for the first year

More info here:
<https://bit.ly/3tsCaSb>

ENGLISH & MATHS

The need for a Level 2 apprentice to attempt the English and Maths at a higher level than 2 looks like it will be dropped.

Previously when doing a Level 2 apprenticeship it was necessary to complete English and Maths at Level 1 then try the Level 2, this may be withdrawn for the new contract year beginning on August 1.

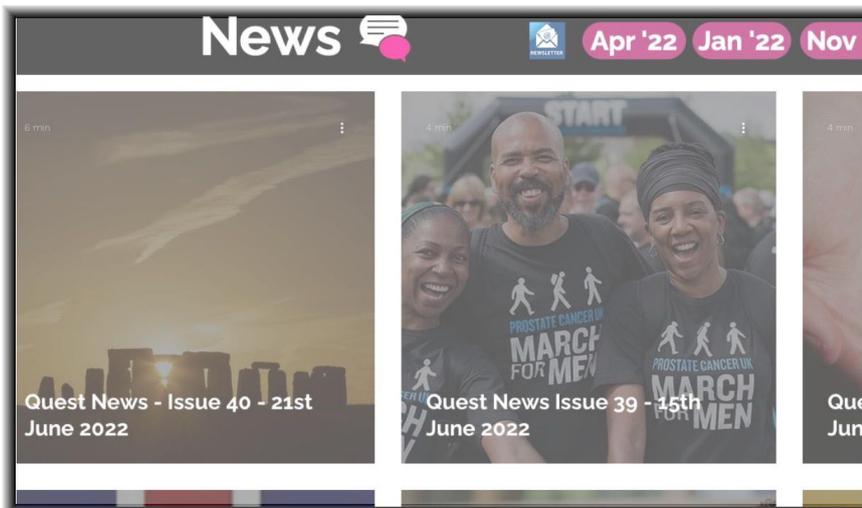
As with the off the job training hours this has been written on a draft proposal, which we usually see implemented, and will only affect new apprentices.

Those currently on a previous contract do have to adhere to the rules of that year's contract.

OFF THE JOB TRAINING - WEEKLY NEWS

Each week we send sources of information to apprentices to help with their off the job training requirements. The information includes the highlighting of awareness weeks, links to news articles, online lectures, training sessions, Ofsted reports and TV and radio programs. You can find a lot of this information on our web site as well under our heading of news. We also have our newsletters there for reference.

<https://www.questfortraining.com/blog>



APPRENTICESHIP REQUIREMENTS

Here's a quick reminder:

- UK Residency 3 years
- PAYE not self employed
- 16 Hours a week minimum to avoid issues with lengthy duration of learning
- Must be in the right role to perform the apprenticeship
- Must not have too much experience in the role
- Be able to achieve the right level in Maths and English if they do not have exemptions
- 20% Off The Job Training (OJT) must be completed within normal working hours.

WORKING TO GUIDLINES

Each year the government review the way the apprenticeships are run, they provide the vast percentage of the money, so naturally they set the rules we have to follow!

The main one we expect to make the most impact, to you the employer, is the off the job training hours (as previously mentioned in this issue), but other changes will inevitably affect the way we, as a training provider, deliver the training.

Working with government systems means we have strict policies and procedures to follow.

Our Ofsted inspection was at the beginning of this month, we are treated just the same as schools and colleges when it comes to delivering and the standards we are expected to reach.

With contracts, collecting accurate information to send the funders is vital. Anything that is even slightly wrong is rejected and has to be redone.

The spelling of and the accuracy of names, post codes, contracted working hours, etc., must be spot on and can't be amended - the contract must be rebuilt and sent out again for signature.

With putting forward Maths and English exemptions the scanned copies of original certificates must be clear and if your name is different then has to be accompanied by proof of the change - e.g., marriage certificate.

So we would ask you to please be mindful of the accuracy of the information we are given so that we can eliminate the need to re-issue contracts and other legal documents, which can cause us both unnecessary time and effort.