

Ofsted inspection

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Ofsted, inspection and the quality assurance of apprenticeships

Ofsted and OfS introduced the following arrangements from September 2018 for the inspection/quality assurance of level 4 and/or 5 apprenticeship provision that contains a recognised HE award as part of the approved apprenticeship standard.

- **OfS will provide relevant data and information to Ofsted** to inform its risk assessment process and planning of inspections of HEIs which have L4/5 apprenticeship provision with standards that contain a recognised HE award as a mandatory component.
- **Ofsted will continue to inspect providers with such apprenticeship provision** using the Common Inspection Framework and as detailed in the handbook for inspecting further education and skills.

What this means for you

If you provide apprenticeship training at levels 2-5 you are in scope of Ofsted inspection.

- Universities delivering apprenticeships or other FE provision before 2016 will **already** have received a full **inspection**. If your offer now includes apprenticeship training, that will be inspected when you are next due for inspection.
- Universities delivering apprenticeship training since 2016/17 will normally receive your **first full inspection** in 2018/19 (i.e. **within 3 years** of starting to deliver).
- If you are a 'new provider of apprenticeships' since April 2017, you will receive a **monitoring visit** within 24 months of starting to deliver, and then a full inspection within 24 months of the monitoring visit.

What will the provider get from inspection? Ofsted

- You will receive feedback from the inspection team at the end of the inspection.
- Each inspection will result in a published report on the quality of your training, highlighting the strengths and areas for improvement identified in the inspection.
- The report will be published on the Ofsted website:
<https://reports.beta.ofsted.gov.uk/>
- If the provision requires improvement you will receive a monitoring visit to support you prior to the next inspection.

Monitoring visits



Monitoring visits (1)

- If you are a new provider of apprenticeship training since April 2017 you will receive a monitoring visit from Ofsted within 24 months of starting to deliver this provision.
- You will then receive a full inspection within 24 months of the monitoring visit. If you receive one or more insufficient progress judgements this will be usually within 6 to 12 months.
- There will be two working days' notice of the visit.
- Ofsted will use the following progress judgements:
 - insufficient progress;
 - reasonable progress;
 - significant progress.
- Monitoring visits will result in a published report.

Monitoring visits (2)

A new apprenticeship training provider from April 2017 will receive progress judgements against the three following themes:

- how much progress have leaders made in ensuring that the provider is meeting all the **requirements of successful apprenticeship** provision
- what progress have leaders and managers made in ensuring that apprentices benefit from **high-quality training** that leads to **positive outcomes** for apprentices
- how much progress have leaders and managers made in ensuring that effective **safeguarding** arrangements are in place

Ofsted may carry out monitoring visits to any provider at any reasonable time to explore one or more specific themes.

The Common Inspection Framework



The Common Inspection Framework (CIF)



- Ofsted's national quality framework for inspection is the Common Inspection Framework which can be seen here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/common-inspection-framework-education-skills-and-early-years-from-september-2015>

- The further education and skills inspection handbook is your main source for information about Ofsted inspection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-and-skills-inspection-handbook>

- The framework and handbook outline the key judgements and provision types that we inspect and grade.

Evaluating apprenticeships (1)

Inspectors will consider how well:

- apprenticeships are planned and managed and fully meet the principles and requirements of an apprenticeship
- the provider's staff engage with employers to plan the training, assessments, review points and milestones throughout, agree any additional qualifications to be included, if any, and monitor and support apprentices to progress quickly, gain new skills and achieve to their full potential
- trainers, assessors, coaches and mentors communicate up-to-date vocational and technical subject knowledge that reflects expected industry practices and meets employers' needs and apprentices acquire that knowledge effectively.

Evaluating apprenticeships (2)

Inspectors will consider how well:

- apprentices develop the skills and behaviours, including English, mathematics and digital skills, that enable them to meet expectations, contribute to their workplace and fulfil their career aims
- apprentices complete their apprenticeship successfully, progress to their intended job role or other sustained employment, get promoted or, where appropriate, move to a higher level of apprenticeship or qualification
- apprentices contribute to their employer's business.

The inspection process



A typical inspection timetable

Typical inspection timetable		Timeline
Notification	2 working days before the inspection starts	Day -2
On-site inspection	Inspection currently lasts for 3 or 4 continuous days on-site (unless it is a short inspection because you were 'good' last time, when it will last 2 days)	Days 1-3/4
Report factual accuracy check	The lead inspector drafts a report which is quality assured and then sent to you to check for factual accuracy	Around Day 13
Report publication	This usually happens within 4-5 weeks of the end of the inspection	Day 19

Who will carry out the inspections?

- Ofsted inspectors have long experience of inspecting apprenticeship training.
- The inspectors on your inspection team will be professional inspectors of apprenticeships who have had years of experience in vocational education and training.
- At least one member of the team will be a specialist from the apprenticeship sector and usually from the vocational specialism that you offer.
- Many inspectors are current practitioners.
- They will **not** be inspectors of schools.