



Changing the apprenticeship standards

We would like to know your views

About this document

This is a Plain English version of: **Consultation on the proposed Apprenticeships Specification Cymru (ASC)**.

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. To find out more contact:

Email: ApprenticeshipTeam@gov.wales

Easy Read Wales made this Plain English document. Click [here](#) to tell us what you think.

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About our plans

There are standards that say how apprenticeships should be run in Wales. **They are called the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for Wales (SASW).**

The **Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Act 2022** made big changes to post-16 education and skills training in Wales. We call this **TERA** for short.

As a result, we are developing new apprenticeship standards. The new standards would be called **Apprenticeships Specification Cymru** or **ASC** for short.

The **ASC** would set out the rules that must be followed for apprenticeship courses to be approved in the updated post-16 education system.

We would like to know what you think about the new **ASC** standards. The information and questions are all in this booklet.

You can complete the questions online. Or you can email or post us your answers.

Please send your response by 4 December 2026.

Email: ApprenticeshipTeam@gov.wales

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Skills & Tertiary Education Division
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
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CF10 3NQ

We will need to store and use the information you send us. This includes publishing people's answers.

We will publish a summary of the responses. Usually, no names will be published. There is a question at the end where you can decide if you want your name included or not.

If you would like further information about how we will use and store your information, please contact us at: dataprotectionofficer@gov.wales

Or write to us at: **Data Protection Officer**
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
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About Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships help people develop skills and experience. This can then lead into work. We have rules in place that say how apprenticeship courses should be run.

Welsh Ministers would like to make new rules - or standards, that work within the new post-16 education system.

The standards must be followed for the apprenticeship course to be approved.

The new standards would be called the Apprenticeships Specification Cymru or ASC. They would apply to apprenticeships in Wales.

They would apply from 1 August 2027.

Your views will help us make the final version of the new standards.

Why are changes needed?

Under **TERA**, apprenticeships have become part of a single post-16 education system.

The aim of the new **ASC** standards is to align apprenticeships with other types of post-16 education, including:

- Further education colleges
- Universities
- School sixth forms
- Adult community learning.

This will help us better support learners throughout their lives, and make sure people have the skills we need for the future.

Welsh Ministers must put standards in place that apprenticeship courses need to follow.

What would ASC cover?

The ASC would cover things like:

- The content of apprenticeship courses
- The skills and knowledge needed
- Qualifications
- Assessment
- Training
- Welsh language.

The new standards would help give more flexibility where there are no qualifications.

They will help make sure apprenticeship courses support learners to get the skills needed to do the job.

Essential Skills rules would be fairer.

There would be more chances to do apprenticeships in Welsh.

What will stay the same as before?

Apprenticeships would still:

- Make sure learners get the right training and experience for the job.
- Support recognised jobs.
- Include qualifications where possible.
- Still have assessments.
- Support the needs of learners and employers.

Apprenticeships that have already started will carry on following the current standards.

Medr is the name of the organisation who are responsible for managing apprenticeships in Wales.

Questions

Name:

Who you work for. If this is relevant.

Email or phone number:

Address:

Question 1. The aim of the new ASC standards is to:

- make apprenticeships more flexible
- meet future need.

How much do you think the new plans will support this?

A lot

Some

A little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this:

Question 2. The new ASC standards still wants to make sure learners are fully able to do the job they are training for.

How much do you agree the new standards would support this?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this and what should be changed:

Question 3. The new ASC standards would set a minimum number of learning hours per apprenticeship course.

This must be matched up to the Credit and Qualifications Framework or CQFW credits.

For courses that do not lead to qualifications, they must clearly show how learning hours are worked out. They should align with CQFW credits, and support learners to achieve the skills and knowledge needed.

Every course must include a minimum of 37 occupational competence and technical knowledge credits.

Do you agree this amount of credits is the right amount for apprenticeships?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this and ideas you have:

Question 4. The new ASC standards would mean there is a change in how the apprenticeship credit is made up.

At least half would be through showing they can do the job. The rest through knowledge.

This would mean the apprenticeship stays focused on real job experience.

How much do you agree with these changes?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Also any risks and ideas you have:

Question 5. This question is about **Essential Skills**. Essential Skills would be needed for Foundation Apprenticeships (Level 2) and Apprenticeships (Level 3).

For Higher and Degree Apprenticeships (Levels 4 to 7), Essential Skills would not be a required part of the course.

They could be added if they would be helpful for the student.

This would help apprenticeships be more flexible.

How much do you agree this would be a good balance?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Also any effects on students and ideas you have:

Question 6. This question is about **Essential Digital Literacy Skills**.

The new standards would allow these skills to be included. But only where they are relevant.

This is to make sure there is a balance between skills and what is needed for each occupation.

How much do you agree this would be a good balance?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Also issues or other ideas for credits you have:

Question 7. This question is about **Essential Skills and Learner age**.

The new standards would mean Essential Skills are mostly only taken with certain levels of apprenticeships.

How much do you agree level is the right way to decide this, rather than the age of the learner?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Also issues or other ideas you have for credits:

Question 8. Current apprenticeships would continue under the existing standards. The new standards would be put in place over time.

How much do you agree with this?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Also, any issues and ideas you have:

Question 9. The ASC comes with a list of Proxy Qualifications, or alternative qualifications to Essential Skills.

They are accepted where a qualification shows it is the same level or a higher level than the Essential Skills needed.

For example, if a learner has a GCSE in English, Grade G or above, they would not need to study Essential Communication Skills and achieve a minimum Level 1 on their apprenticeship course.

Do you think the list is a good way of showing how Essential Skills are met?

Agree a lot

Agree some

Agree a little

Not at all

Don't know

Please tell us why you think this. Tell us about any qualifications or other evidence that should be added. Or if anything should be removed:

Question 10. Do you have any other comments you would like to make about what has been talked about in this booklet?

Question 11. Do you think the new standards could have any negative effects on any groups of people? What could be done to change this?

Question 12. The new standards would provide more chances to use the Welsh language in apprenticeships.

Do you think the new standards would have any positive or negative effects on the Welsh language? Also, what could be done to change any negative effects?

Question 13. What could be done to make sure Welsh is used more? Also to make sure it is treated fairly to English?

Question 14. Is there anything else you would like to add?

Do you agree to your name being published next to any answers?

Yes

No