



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency

**ofqual**



Institute for Apprenticeships  
& Technical Education

## Important information about the changes to EQA

The Institute has published the [response to its external quality assurance \(EQA\) Consultation](#) today.

The Institute launched a consultation on 27 February 2020 which proposed a simplified and improved system for EQA of apprenticeship end-point assessment. The consultation proposal was that all EQA would be delivered by Ofqual, or the Office for Students for integrated degree apprenticeships, under a common EQA framework set by the Institute.

Having taken into account all the responses, and listened to feedback, the Institute have strengthened the proposal, and will proceed with the changes. The Institute's consultation confirmed that the change to EQA offers the potential for improved consistency, a simpler system, and lower costs for end-point assessment organisations.

### ***What does this mean for EPAOs?***

This change means that all organisations wishing to deliver end-point assessment outside of integrated degree apprenticeships will need to be recognised by Ofqual by the time that the standards they deliver transfer to Ofqual. Those who are not yet regulated will need to apply for Ofqual recognition, and those who are already recognised will need to agree their expanded scope of regulated end-point assessments.

Mindful of disruption due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the need for the market to adjust, there will be a transition period of two years. Ofqual and ESFA will communicate closely with End-point Assessment Organisations during this period. Ofqual will work closely with the Institute, the ESFA and other EQA providers through this period, building carefully on the work that they have done to-date to ensure a smooth transition. Please refer to the [consultation response](#) for further detail.

Until EPAOs transition to Ofqual, they should continue to work with their current EQA provider(s), respond to their requests and meet the relevant payments. EPAOs should also continue to comply with the conditions of [the Register of End-Point Assessment Organisations](#)

### ***What happens now?***

ESFA and Ofqual will follow up with further information over the coming weeks to explain how and when it would be best to apply. To ensure ESFA and Ofqual are able to provide maximum support, a phased approach to transition will be taken, which will in the main be aligned to occupational routes. ESFA will be communicating directly with the EPAOs in each group and encouraging them to engage in the support Ofqual will be providing.

### ***What do I need to do?***

You may want to begin looking at the existing information about [how to apply for Ofqual recognition](#).

For those EPAOs that are not currently recognised by Ofqual, it would be really helpful if you

could indicate your intentions by completing the following short survey, which will take only a couple of minutes to complete. Your responses will help ESFA and Ofqual to plan the appropriate support so we would be grateful if you would be able to participate as soon as possible.

**[Please take the survey](#)**