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Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

Apprenticeship Programme – NTFW Conference

March 2026

Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

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Current Apprenticeship Programme

Sector Frameworks

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Streamlining the apprenticeship frameworks from 23 to 18:

- Health, social and childcare
- Engineering
- Manufacturing
- Creative, design and media
- Management, business and retail services
- Public and protective services
- Education and early years
- Catering and hospitality
- Construction and the built environment
- Legal, finance and accounting
- Digital
- Hair and beauty
- Agriculture, environmental and animal care
- Transport, automotive and logistics
- Science and energy
- Food and drink
- Property services
- Sport and leisure

Sectors Reviews

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Social Care

- Level 2 Health and Social Care: Core
- Level 2 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
- Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Adults)
- Level 3 Health and Social Care: Practice (Children and Young People)
- Level 4 Independent Advocacy
- Level 4 Professional Practice
- Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care
- Level 5 Leadership and Management in Health and Social Care

CCPLD

- Level 2 CCPLD: Core
- Level 2 CCPLD: Practice
- Level 3 CCPLD: Practice
- Level 4 Professional Practice in CCPLD
- Level 4 Preparing for Leadership and Management in CCPLD
- Level 5 Leadership and Management in CCPLD: Practice

Purpose of the Reviews

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- Identifying strengths & areas for improvement
- Stakeholder feedback collection
- Informing action plan, whilst being mindful of sector landscape and workforce pressures
- Ensuring the review reflects provider, employer, and apprentice perspectives.

Construction Update

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Following engagement with apprenticeship providers, industry and learners, Level 2 apprenticeship pathways in bricklaying, site carpentry, scaffolding and building maintenance will be available later this year.

Frameworks for Bricklaying, site carpentry and scaffolding are in the process of being published for consultation. They will be available for registration from September 2026, building maintenance will follow later in the year, a date is still to be confirmed with Qualifications Wales.

A new Level 3 framework for bricklaying and carpentry will follow in September 2027.

Engineering

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New Level 4 Higher Apprenticeship Skills Framework

- Various Level 4 routes
- NVQ Extended Diploma in Engineering (Skills) Level 4
- Essential Skills
- Choose 2 Optional Units (Career Skills) relevant to a companies needs. (These can be an endorsed program of learning and certificated by an awarding body)

Engineering

Optional units (Career Skills)

- Augmented Engineering Implementation
- Robotics Practical Use and Programming
- Smart Maintenance for Industry 4.0 Electrical
- Smart Maintenance for Industry 4.0 Mechanical
- Master Programme CNC Programming and Manufacturing 1
- Master Programme CNC Programming and Manufacturing 2
- Practical Design and Implementation Techniques for Sustainability
- 3 D Printers for Industry
- Master Programme Autonomous Engineering
- Master Programme Smart Manufacturing Data Applications
- Hydraulics/Electro
- Pneumatics/Electro

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New Apprenticeship Programme – Post 2027

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Definition

A Welsh apprenticeship is paid employment with training. Apprentices earn a wage, gain experience, learn new skills and gain industry recognised qualifications and competence (from level 2 up to degree level). The learning is defined through an apprenticeship framework.

What is our Vision?

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We want the new programme to be more responsive and flexible to address skills priorities to meet our changing economy, Welsh Government skills priorities and the needs of learners.

How will we achieve this?

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- Agile, flexible and responsive to meet learner and economy needs, including flexibility within Frameworks and a flexible funding model

- Inclusive apprenticeships and strengthen learner engagement, support and communications, including improved careers advice and guidance

- Strengthen employer engagement, support and communications, including recruitment, widening the employer base and mentoring

How will we achieve this?

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- Clear progression routes for apprentices from level 2 to level 6 and across the tertiary system
- Outcome based model
- Expand Welsh-medium and bilingual apprenticeship provision

Testing new approaches

- Micro credentials pilot
- Employer engagement
- Learner engagement

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New Apprenticeship Programme 2027 – Key Dates

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The key next steps on the development and implementation of the new apprenticeship programme 2027 are:

Date	Activity
17 February 2026	Publication of the report on the outcomes of the consultation on the new apprenticeships programme
16 April 2026 and 22 April 2026	Engagement sessions with tertiary education providers on the new apprenticeship programme funding model
13 May 2026 14 May 2026 20 May 2026	Regional events to test the design of the new apprenticeship programme: North Wales Mid Wales South Wales
11 May 2026 – 19 June 2026	New apprenticeship programme funding model consultation
3 June 2026	New apprenticeship programme funding model consultation online event
w/c 3 August 2026	Publication of the outcomes of the new apprenticeship frameworks funding model consultation report
1 September 2026 – 31 December 2026	Publication of the apprenticeship programme grant and submission of applications and bids (further information will be published on this process in due course)
April 2027	Grant Award Letters issued
1 August 2027	New apprenticeship programme commences

Questions

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1. What is your organisation’s top priority in the delivery of the new programme?

2. What is your biggest challenge in achieving the vision for the new programme?

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Questions?