

Digital Forensic Apprenticeship (Level 4) Employers Factsheet

OFFICIAL

What are apprenticeships?

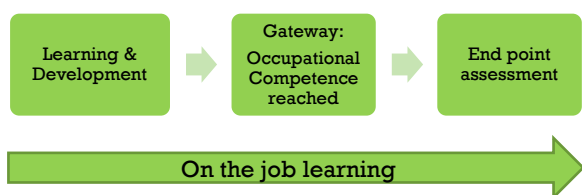
Apprenticeships are a great way for employers to 'grow your own' talent. They also provide an excellent route for young people to enter the labour market allowing individuals to train on the job and gain a qualification at the same time.

What is Digital Forensics?

Digital forensic science is a branch of forensic science that focuses on the recovery and investigation of material found in digital devices. Digital forensics is the process of identifying, preserving, analysing, and documenting digital evidence.

What is the Level 4 DF Apprenticeship?

A recently developed [apprenticeship standard](#), based on the national [Digital Forensic Technician Professional Profile](#) (in draft). The standard is due for publication on the [IfATE](#) website in March '23. Levy paying organisations will be able to draw down funding for the training and end point assessment of their apprentices, with govt approved providers, up to the value of £18k for 24 months. Employers are responsible for the apprentice wage during this time.



Employers and training providers could be eligible for £1,000 each if they hire an eligible apprentice see [here](#).

Who is the apprenticeship for?

It is available for students aged 18yrs and above but can also be used to upskill or retain employees of any age, as long as the apprenticeship is giving them new skills to enable them to achieve competence in their chosen occupation



What will the training consist of?

It will comprise of a blended learning programme of online learning events combined with face-to-face blocks of learning, which will equate to 20% of the apprentice's time overall. Due to the expected low numbers of apprenticeships per organisation, it is proposed to work within geographical regions to ensure suitable cohort sizes for L&D partners.

What support does the apprentice need?

Employers must provide ongoing support, pastoral care and mentoring for the apprentice. Good management of apprentices is vital to ensure they adapt to the workplace and continue to grow with the business. The Trailblazer Group are setting up a working group to share best practice on the mentoring of apprenticeship.

Who created the standard?

The apprenticeship was developed by a Trailblazer Group (TB) made up of employers that represent the occupation and intend to employ apprentices in it. The DF Trailblazer Group consisted of police forces, forensic servicer providers, private sector organisations, professional bodies, and it was led by the FCN.

More information:

www.FCN.police.uk

www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-take-on-an-apprentice

paula.mulroy@dorset.pnn.police.uk



Digital Forensic Apprenticeship (Level 4) Employers Factsheet

OFFICIAL

What does a Level 4 apprenticeship standard equate to?

	Level	Equivalent Education level
Intermediate	2	GCSE
Advanced	3	A level
Higher	4 & 5	Foundation degree
Degree	6 & 7	BSc or MSc

How much does a DF Apprentice earn?

The TB Group will not determine what salary organisations will pay their apprentices, this is for the organisation to set. Within the TB group we will be sharing indicative salaries to support a more standardised approach. However, they are entitled to the National Minimum Wage for their age group. See the current [National Minimum Wage rates](#)

What if my organisation has used its apprenticeship Levy?

Levy paying employers who utilise all of the funds in their online accounts switch to the co-investment model where the government will contribute 95% of the cost of training, with employers paying the remaining 5%.

Is it appropriate for young people to work within digital forensics units?

The TB Group considered the impact of viewing traumatic material on brain development and worked with the National Police Wellbeing Service to explore this. An evidenced based paper outlined that it was appropriate, however, a number of recommendations were made to protect those working with such material. The full paper can be accessed [here](#).

Can I use the L&D Fund to pay for individual courses based on my organisation current training plan?

No, the levy fund will be used to procure L&D provision from a government approved apprenticeship provider. The TB Group, are working with providers to ensure this meets the needs of the role. An approved provider must be on the Register of Approved Training Providers (RoATP) and be subject to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) funding rules, quality arrangements and Ofsted inspections.

What if I am an employer who does not pay the levy?

You can still choose to utilise the apprenticeship. You will have to make a 5% contribution to the cost of this training and government will pay the rest (95%). You will pay this directly to the provider.

Can I change the content of the apprenticeship to meet our organisational needs?

No, the Knowledge, Skills and Behaviours of the apprenticeship standard are set and all will be covered as part of the L&D. The order and format of delivery depends on the approach of learning partner.

What's the ongoing review process of the apprenticeship?

The Trailblazer Group will monitor the implementation of the standard through initial stages. Ongoing maintenance will be undertaken by the TB Group as part of the IfATE cycle of maintenance.

Benefits

- ✓ Support for training costs
- ✓ Grow your own talent
- ✓ Better representation
- ✓ Better retention

For reading on apprenticeships in Wales:

[Recruit an apprentice: guidance for employers: Funding and eligibility | GOV.WALES](#)