

Press Release

01.06.20

BPIF consortium submit application on behalf of the industry for a Level 2 Print Apprenticeship Standard

The BPIF, along with the help of our consortium members, the industry, our training division and other training organisations have submitted an updated application to the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) to develop a Level 2 Print Apprenticeship Standard, which has been worked on for over 12 months.

The BPIF consortium have worked tirelessly to respond to all of the issues and queries identified by IfATE throughout the preparation for this submission. They have managed the changing requirements, as the process and structure of the standard have changed, ensuring that the standard now includes the knowledge, skills and behaviours that are required of a candidate.

One of the challenges has been to present the application to ensure that others who do not know our industry can understand the important differences between Level 2 and Level 3. Under the new regime it is not sufficient they are similar at different levels – there must be a complete distinction in the nature of the role. This has required the BPIF consortium to define duties for Level 2 that clearly distinguish it from Level 3 by producing a document that maps the differences for Level 2 to ensure absolute clarity in the standard.

The Level 2 print apprenticeship is a vital path for young people taking their first steps into our industry and their careers. It provides candidates with a route into the work environment, at a level that they feel comfortable at, ensuring they can thrive and grow in confidence, becoming great assets for employers. And, for those who may have lacked confidence in a more formal school or academic environment, it provides a stepping stone to achieving valuable skills, as well as core maths and English qualifications, at a pace they are happy with. Many employers agree that putting all young apprentices straight on to a Level 3 is simply too much for them. This is something we hope the IfATE strongly take into consideration when reviewing this application.

Ursula Daly, Programme Director, BPIF and main contact for the consortium proposal said, “We could not have done this without the input of our industry and we would like to thank everyone for responding to our many surveys as we have worked through this process. The information that you provided us with was key to our ability to build a compelling application, and the strength of your support is what gave us the determination to continue.”

The next steps will be that our application is reviewed by the Engineering and Manufacturing route panel within IfATE, The chair of the consortium, James Buffoni of The Ryedale Group may be invited to attend this review. Pending their decision it will then pass to the funding panel who will also review. This review process typically takes 6 weeks but in the current circumstances this timeline may be extended.

We are hopeful that we will secure the approval and if you would like to get involved with the consortium that will then go on to develop the standard and the End Point Assessment Plan then please contact Ursula Daly at ursula.daly@bpif.org.uk

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The British Printing Industries Federation (BPIF)

The BPIF is a thriving, best-in-class trade association invigorating a modern, progressive print industry. We inspire those within the UK print, printed packaging and graphic communication industries to see opportunities for growth. Our members form a diverse and influential community and together we ensure the industry's voice is heard in Government.

We help solve business problems and drive strategic change providing the highest standard of support so our members can grow and develop healthy, sustainable and profitable businesses. Our experts specialise in offering practical, value-adding solutions for all areas of a business, ranging from HS&E and quality issues to HR disputes. They provide resolutions of technical or legal issues as well as giving advice and support on training, marketing, sales and finance.

We are passionate about upskilling the industry, making it our mission to educate, inspire and equip the future generation of print. In addition we offer a wide range of opportunities for networking both regionally and nationally, including prestigious events, special interest groups and popular short courses on a wide range of topics.

For more information on the BPIF, visit: www.britishprint.com