

TECHNICAL
APPRENTICESHIP
CONSORTIUM



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TECHNICAL APPRENTICESHIP CONSORTIUM

Annual Review: July 2019-June 2020

Technical Apprenticeship Consortium

Association for Consultancy and Engineering Alliance House 12 Caxton Street London SW1H 0QL
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Delivering national and regional leadership

- TAC hosted three national group meetings, including two virtually, to provide continued support to TAC members, report on activity, share good practice and develop future plans.
- TAC continues to facilitate five employer trailblazer groups, maintaining eight approved apprenticeship standards.
- Regional meetings were held in November 2019 and March 2020 for the London and South East, Midlands, and North groups. The latter was formed out of the merger of the North East and North West groups to simplify administration and avoid duplication of attendees.
- Regional meetings in March 2020 were moved online owing to COVID-19. TAC will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future.

Developing apprenticeships, supporting technical education

- In 2019/20, there were 905 new apprenticeship starts on the 8 TAC standards nationally; of these starts, 697 were on the degree apprenticeships facilitated by TAC. Our employer members reported 300 of the 905 national starts, 200 being degree apprenticeships.
- In September 2019, support from TAC and the transport planning trailblazer group, Aston

STANDARD	STARTS BY YEAR				
	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Building Services Design Technician			39	34	35
Civil Engineering Technician			83	236	150
Railway Engineering Design Technician	56	37	38	22	19
Transport Planning Technician		39	44	42	4
Building Services Design Engineer			63	157	148
Civil Engineer			159	623	522
Environmental Practitioner					12
Transport Planner					15
	56	76	426	1114	905

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University became the first provider to offer and deliver the newly approved Integrated Transport Planning degree apprenticeship in September 2019 as block release programme.

- September 2019 also saw Kingston University offering the newly approved Environmental Practitioner degree apprenticeship as a day release programme.



First Environmental Practitioner Degree apprentices at Kingston University

Read more at the TAC website

- The Environmental Practitioner trailblazer group has continued to develop new relationships with other universities across England to provide alternative viable provision. New relationships have now been developed, with Bolton University looking set to deliver a block release programme from 2021, with other universities set to follow suit.



First Transport Planning Degree apprentices at Aston University

Read more at the TAC website

- The Environmental Practitioner trailblazer group is also continuing to work with the professional bodies in the Environmental sector, to put into place end point assessment organisations for the Environmental Practitioner, with support from the Society for the Environment. This will allow completing apprentices to professionally register through appropriate professional bodies through their end point assessment.



- Two existing Apprenticeships were also reviewed and re-approved by Government for delivery in summer 2020, allowing all new apprentices to start on the revised standards from Autumn 2020. These were the:
 - o Transport Planning Technician (Level 3) - ST0336
 - o Railway Engineering Design Technician (Level 3) - ST0315
- TAC continues to support professional institutions who engage with our trailblazer work, and with end point assessment where they are formally registered.
- More recently TAC has supported the professional and regulatory bodies to better understand the external quality assurance arrangements for End Point Assessment, and is pulling together a joined-up approach with the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) and OfQual to aid in the simplification of external quality assurance.
- TAC also provided support to Pearson in their application to develop the new T-Level qualification in Construction; Pearson successfully secured IFATE funding to develop this curriculum in early 2020. TAC continues to liaise with Pearson on this development.

Engaging quality education and training partners

- 15 providers are TAC approved and listed on our website.
- Following the implementation of a new Provider Issues Management Policy in 2019, TAC is now able to report on issues being raised effectively and efficiently, whilst providing stakeholders with clear guidance and firm timescales. In combination with the issues log, reported issues were resolved in a timely manner.
- A working group reviewed TAC's tendering process. The aim was to widen high-quality provision across more providers with an invitation to tender issued to over 40 separate providers. This resulted in responses from 14, however, owing to limited member demand, we have paused this process.

Understanding and maximising funding opportunities

- TAC responded to IFATE's consultation on its methods for calculating Apprenticeship Funding bands in May 2020, the aim of securing appropriate funding for TAC apprenticeship provision and assessment.

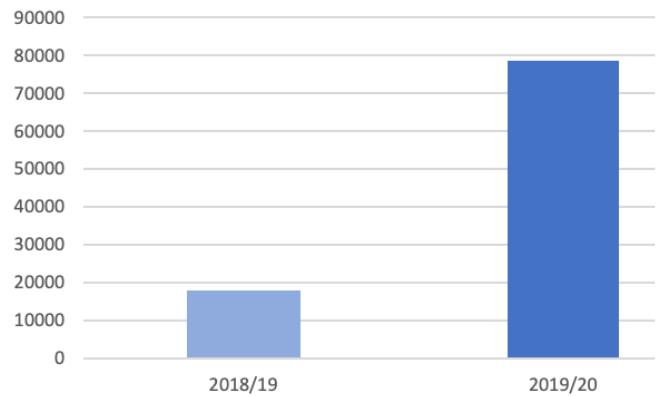
- TAC, working through the reviews of the Level 3 Railway Engineering Design and Transport Planning Technician Apprenticeship trailblazer groups, retained and increased funding bands respectively for these apprenticeships.

Adding extra value

- TAC continues to promote the work it does to its members, other employers, professional institutions and regulators. For example, with the Construction Industry Council (CIC), the Construction Leadership Council (CLC), training providers, and IfATE, ESFA and OfQual.
- The TAC member survey continues to be a useful tool to collate member apprenticeship demands, recruitment statistics and clarification on apprenticeship intake across all TAC standards and regions, whilst understanding the issues faced by employers in the recruitment, delivery and assessment of apprentices.
- Press articles and case studies related to TAC apprentices, providers and employers were promoted via the website, newsletters and

through social media. Numerous articles were prepared to support National Apprenticeship Week.

Twitter impressions



- Social media was used more effectively in the last year. Tweet impressions increased from 17,800 in June 2019 to 78,800 in June 2020. Total followers grew by a fifth (20%) over the same period.
- TAC continues to send member newsletters, providing quick reference points to apprenticeship updates and resources.

TAC facilitated trailblazer groups



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