

APPRENTICESHIP FUNDING RULES UPDATE

5TH JUNE 2025





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Today

1. Level 7 funding update
2. Level 4 apprenticeship
3. Other developments

Level 7 funding

1. Announced on 27th May

What's changing from 1 January 2026

Level 7 apprenticeships will continue to be government-funded for young people aged 16-21* at the start of their apprenticeship in England

Any apprentice who started a level 7 apprenticeship before 1 January 2026 will continue to be funded through to completion

* and under 25 for care leavers and those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

<https://help.apprenticeships.education.gov.uk/hc/en-gb/articles/24002145831954-Changes-to-funding-for-level-7-apprenticeships>

What does this mean?

1. Level 7 funding is unchanged for the rest of 2025
2. Applies from 1st January 2026
3. On-programme Level 7 apprentices are not affected.
4. Level 7 funding will be available if students start a Level 7 before 22nd birthday.
5. Employers can pay commercially for ineligible Level 7 learners.
 - a) Employer's NI position for commercially funded apprentices TBC

What have we heard from employers so far?

1. Relief that Level 7 funding is unaffected for the rest of 2025
2. Priority is confirming programmes for 2025 intakes
3. Considering accelerating planned starts
4. Planning ahead to 2026 intakes
5. Concerns around consistency of student experience

How are First Intuition working with employers?



1. Supporting employers for 2025 intakes
2. Amending our programme offering to meet client needs in 2026:
 1. Apprenticeships
 2. Exam pathway
 3. Exam + skills pathway
3. More about this in the Summer

Level 4

1. Applicable for starts from 9th June 2025
2. Funding band £12,000
3. Refreshed knowledge, skills & behaviours, and duties
4. EPA is role scenario and professional discussion, but under review

Other developments

1. Change in 2025/26 funding rules:
 1. Minimum duration reduced to 8 months, subject to legislative change
 2. Off the job training amended to set hours
2. EPA reform looking to simplify EPA plans

What next?

1. Talk to your local First Intuition/client manager
2. First Intuition will be hosting more events in the Summer to share more information on our tailored training solutions