

Apprenticeship Programmes response to COVID-19

These are difficult times for employers, apprentices and providers of apprenticeship training and assessment.

CICM would like to reassure you that we have contingency measures in place and will strive to continue the delivery of CICM virtual classes, professional qualification assessment and apprenticeship end-point assessments to support apprenticeship completion.

In addition, the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and Institute of Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) have implemented new measures, for the duration of the pandemic, to make it easier for apprenticeships to continue, or to break and resume later, when that becomes possible.

New measures:

- Apprentices who experience Covid-19 related gaps in training can classify this period as a **break in learning**.
- Apprentices, who cannot be assessed for a mandatory professional qualification due to COVID-19 related issues, can **take a break in learning**. (Find out more about current CICM qualification delivery [here](#))
- Employers and training providers have additional advice about how to report and initiate a **break in learning where the interruption to learning due to COVID-19 is greater than four weeks**. This would extend the end date of the apprenticeship.
- ESFA clarifies how employers and training providers can record breaks in learning so that funding is not unnecessarily disrupted.
- Apprentices who are ready for assessment but **who cannot be assessed due to COVID-19 issues can have their end-point assessment rescheduled**, and apprentices whose gateway is delayed can have an **extension to the assessment timeframe**.

Please note that government guidance is kept under active review and updated regularly, and therefore please refer to the following information for current arrangements and advice:

[ESFA guidance](#) on applying the policy on breaks in learning and delays to end-point assessment (EPA).

[FAQs for apprentices](#) - scroll to end of webpage for ESFA answers to a range of issues you may experience during this time.

[IfATE advice](#) about temporary measures in response to COVID-19 to allow for breaks or pause in learning where there are disruptions to training or assessment.

[CICM advice and tools](#) for managing credit management in a crisis, including links to government support for business and workers support packages.