

Sub-contracting on Northumbria University Apprenticeship Programmes

Apprentice training is delivered by the University or sub-contractors selected and monitored according to the University's sub-contracting policy. The rationale and governance of sub-contracting is approved by University Governance.

The following rationales were approved by University Education Committee and Employment and Finance Committee in May 2021.

1. Rationale for Sub-contracting

1.1 Police Constable DA

Partial Delivery sub-contracted to Northumbria Police and Durham Constabulary (3 year programme)

ESFA Criteria	Rationale
<p><i>• fill gaps in niche or expert provision, or provide better access to training facilities</i></p>	<p>The University's delivery follows the collaborative Police Force/Provider model as defined by the College of Policing where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HEI is the Awarding Body, the Main Training Provider, and the principal provider of final summative assessment. • In England, the HEI needs to be on the Register of Approved Training Providers (RoATP) - Northumbria University (UKPRN 1001282) was accepted onto the Register in April 2017 - see https://roatp.apprenticeships.sfa.bis.gov.uk/download. • Programmes jointly developed with forces and delivered by both academic and police personnel. • Programmes approved/validated and recognised through HEI processes and linked to the College of Policing QSA. • Assessment conducted by force and HEI. • For England, Independent end point assessment conducted by an organisation that is on the RoEPAO. • Quality Assurance managed under HEI processes (QAA and internal) and in line with IfA/ESFA and Welsh Government requirements for apprenticeships. <p>(PEQF Police Constable Degree Apprenticeship National Programme Specification p27).</p>

	<p>The subcontracted elements of the programme are those which are identified as 'reserved' by the CoP. These are the areas of the curriculum which are suitable only for delivery by the police service due to the specific professional nature of the learning.</p> <p>All police service delivery is managed by professional trainers within the employer force, supported by the HE provider as appropriate.</p>
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1.2 BSc (Hons) Nursing Science, Registered Nurse (Adult) Degree Apprenticeship

Partial delivery sub-contracted to Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (18 month programme)

ESFA Criteria	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>fill gaps in niche or expert provision, or provide better access to training facilities</i> 	<p>The Nursing Apprenticeship provided Lancashire NHS Trust with an opportunity to address their shortage of nursing staff by taking Nurse Associates and Assistant Practitioners to qualified nurse status in a shortened timescale. The plan was supported by South Cumbria Local Workforce Action Board (LWAB) as it aligned to their strategy to work with Universities and Colleges to create opportunities and pathways for local students to study and work in the area (LWAB – Our Workforce Strategy 2019).</p> <p>At that time Northumbria University was the only provider who could offer the programme over 18 months rather than 2 years. As time was a critical factor, Northumbria was the chosen partner for the initiative and a co-delivery model was developed between the two organisations.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>offer an entry point for disadvantaged groups</i> 	<p>The Lancashire Trust 18 month Degree Apprenticeship programme provides an opportunity for existing staff to upskill and progress to Qualified Nurse status within the Trust. Many of the staff who undertake the programme are mature learners with dependant families. They have the desire to become a qualified nurse but are disadvantaged in that they do not have the financial means to embark on a traditional 3-year Nursing programme. The apprenticeship provides continuity of income and employment with the Trust.</p>

1.3 Level 2 Mathematics and English Provision

ESFA Criteria	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>fill gaps in niche or expert provision, or provide better access to training facilities</i> 	<p>The University is not an approved level 2 testing centre therefore level 2 Mathematics and English provision is sub-contracted to an appropriate organisation. Currently this training is provided by QA who is a large, established provider of apprenticeships with nationwide reach and Good Ofsted rating. The organisation is a trusted partner of the University through their role in the successful operation and delivery of programmes at Northumbria's London Campus.</p>

2. Fees Retained for the administration and management of sub-contracting

The University retains responsibility for the quality assurance administration and management of sub-contracted provision. This includes:

- Initial due diligence of proposed subcontractors
- Annual quality monitoring audit including observations, visits (where appropriate and possible), apprentice progress review and action planning.
- Co-ordination of activity e.g. referral and tracking of learners (level 2 maths and English) and facilitation of and attendance at, joint operational meetings.

Sub-Contractor	Funds retained per student over duration of programme
Northumbria Police	£503
Durham Constabulary	£503
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	£380
QA	£53.39