

DURHAM UNIVERSITY APPRENTICESHIP SUBCONTRACTING DECLARATION

Background

This statement covers the activity for which the University is funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for sub-contracted provision. It applies to our use of subcontractors in apprenticeships in the 2024-2025 funding year which we operate in line with the ESFA apprenticeship funding rules and associated guidance for subcontracting with delivery partners. It is a mandatory requirement of the ESFA funding rules.

Principles

The University is committed to delivering high quality Apprenticeships that meet the needs of Apprentices, employers and the wider labour market. In most cases, all the delivery of the Apprenticeship will be carried out by the University however in some limited instances the University works with a third party who would support our delivery with the provision of selected services within the Apprenticeship.

Use of Subcontractors

Subcontracting relationships will be in one of three forms:

- Subcontract the delivery of English and maths functional skills where an individual does not already hold or cannot demonstrate that they hold the qualifications in these subjects.
- Subcontract to the employer or another learning provider for delivery of selected knowledge, skills or behaviours. Where subcontracting is in the apprentice's best interests by enhancing the apprenticeship experience, an apprentice's employer can be approved to deliver selected units from within our programme.
- Subcontract some of the training to a partner institution for delivery to fill a gap in niche or expert provision.

The University will act at the lead training provider and will retain oversight of the whole apprenticeship. The organisation subcontracted to must be on the ESFA's Register of Apprentice Training Providers (APAR) or have an exemption from the register and if an employer, must be a registered Employer Provider.

Rationale for Sub-contracting

The University subcontracts to further enhance its offer. Our reasons include:

- enhancing opportunities available to apprentices
- providing wider choice and range of provision for learners and employers regionally and nationally
- providing wider geographical access for learners across the North East of England
- maximising content through procurement of specialist or niche provision and expertise
- offering achievable entry points to disadvantaged learners.

All subcontracted provision will be subject to the University's Apprenticeship Subcontracting Policy which sets out how the University will monitor and quality assure subcontracted provision. This policy applies to all subcontracted provision including that provided by employer providers, main providers or supporting providers.

Charges

The University does not retain any funding to support activity with subcontractors.

Payment to employer providers will be made to cover direct costs only as required in the ESFA funding rules.

Programmes that include subcontracting

Senior Leader Apprenticeship

Level 2 Functional Skills

Subcontractor name: East Durham College

Rationale for subcontracting: To fill gaps in niche or expert provision.