

Minutes

AAG/23/M2

Apprenticeship Advisory Group meeting

Held on Wednesday 5 July 2023, Hybrid – in person at UCAS, Cheltenham and virtually through MS Teams.

Chair:	Siobhan Williams	Business Engagement Manager, UCAS
In person:	Abi Parker Andrew Erwich James Walker Fiona Hawesley Fleur Kent	Cappfinity Ltd YMCA Manchester Metropolitan University (in place of Liz Gorb) SCL Professional Ltd Siemens NTAR
Online:	Celeste Jones Darryll Bravenboer Debbie Houghton Hannah Rashidi Isa Mutlib Emma Nolan Sean Johnson- Hargreaves Apprentice Ellie Yell Ben Rubery	University of Hertfordshire Middlesex University The Bedford College Group BT Group Careers Camp OneFile Staffordshire University Multiverse ASOS.com
Apologies:	Eve Oakley Richard Kirk Liz Gorb Lucy Hunte George Boag Hazel Grant Marcus Simmons Nicki Hay Sharon Ross Phil Warnock Jonathan Mitchell	DfE Workplus Manchester Metropolitan University Health Education England – NHS Skills Development Scotland Transport for London LDN Apprenticeships BPP Education Group DHL Ginger Nut Training Institute for Apprenticeships & Technical Education
UCAS in attendance:	Alexa Gillett Deniz Gosai Matt Walsey-Wood Pete Milsom	Lead Product Manager Project Support Officer Lead Product Manager Partnership Manager

A2/22/01 Welcome and apologies

The Group was welcomed to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

The Group was informed that Dan Doherty, Cognizant UKI, had changed employment and as a result was no longer a member of the Group. Dan was thanked for all his time and commitment to the Group over the last couple of years.

As a result of Dan leaving, the position of Group Chair was now available. An email was sent to the Group after the meeting asking for nominations for Chair and vice-Chair. The Group was asked to email Deniz Gosai – d.gosai@ucas.ac.uk by Thursday 13 July if they would like to nominate themselves or another member.

Group
AAG031

A2/22/02 Minutes and action log from previous meeting

The minutes were approved as a correct and accurate reflection of the last meeting.

The open actions from the log were discussed:

AAG015 – the events calendar for 2023/24 was still being planned but would be shared with the Group once it had been finalised.

Updates for the other actions would be provided during the meeting or were closed.

A2/22/03 'You said, we did'*Accommodation*

Information was now available on [ucas.com](https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/accommodation-apprentices) on accommodation for perspective apprentices <https://www.ucas.com/apprenticeships/accommodation-apprentices>.

Events

Members had previously informed UCAS that they wanted more varied and smaller employers involved in UCAS events. The events calendar for 23/24 was currently being finalised and more smaller employers were expected to attend the regional events.

Qualifications

The Group had previously reminded UCAS that they should be aware of changing qualifications when filtering on qualification type. This was fed back and had been taken into account when developing the long-term Talent Finder service.

Where Next – what influences the choices for apprenticeships report was scheduled to be released on Thursday 6 July. The key findings included:

- 5% of young people consider an apprenticeship at 11 years old.
- Regions of lowest level of HE progression had highest level of awareness of apprenticeships.
- Receiving similar amount of apprenticeship information compared to university information correlated to starting an apprenticeship.
- Learners from lower social economic background had access to less advice.
- The apprenticeship application experience was not positive.
- Learners from social economic background had less support with applications.

- Learners who had applied to apprenticeship but later changed their minds gave the most common reason as being the lack of apprenticeship opportunities.
- Low level of pay and no maintenance support acted as a barrier.
- 45% of current apprentices stated that an apprenticeship is what they thought it would be.

Members were asked to share the report through social media networks.

A2/22/04 Update on the apprenticeships and Tariff points

It was announced in February 2023 that UCAS would be allocating Tariff points to Level 3 (and equivalent) apprenticeships. UCAS confirmed that they had begun consultation with the relevant bodies around this. Some slides were circulated after the meeting.

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AAG032

UCAS was referred to a project completed by Skills for Health which looked at accrediting Level 3 apprenticeships. It was agreed that this report would be reviewed.
https://haso.skillsforhealth.org.uk/news/recognising_talent_for_care_pathways_for_progression/.

Members noted that allocating Tariff points would be challenging for apprenticeships as an apprenticeship was not solely qualification based and guided learning hours often differed to what was outlined in the frameworks. UCAS was aware of this and had factored these when considering the different proposed models.

It was also confirmed that UCAS would work close with regulatory bodies on the proposed models and guidance.

A2/22/05 Application Service workshop – thoughts and views

It was confirmed that by August 2023, apprenticeship opportunities would be available alongside undergraduate opportunities in the UCAS Hub through Career Finder.

Talent finder would be launched in the autumn and would be a matching service based on employers specific criteria.

UCAS was hoping to launch the Application service by 2024. The aim was to simplify the apprenticeship application service for learners as well as helping employers target specific applicant based on their interests, skills and to help enhancing EDI targets.

UCAS was in the early stages of planning the application service and were interests in hearing the Groups views on specific questions. The product vision and objective were explained. A workshop was run, and feedback was captured which would be shared separately alongside the minutes. This feedback should be treated in confidence.

Members were encouraged to email Matt Wasley-Wood – m.wasleywood@ucas.ac.uk if they had any additional feedback they would like to share.

A2/22/06 Any other business and Close

UCAS was working in partnership with the DfE on the 'Early Connect' programme. The aim of this programme was to connecting employers to young people in schools and colleges much earlier in their decision-making process for future pathways. Early Connect would provide employers with early access to talent, utilising UCAS services such as their new digital talent connection platform

that will be piloting from autumn. Employers would be able to actively promote their career opportunities to a targeted audience defined by their own specifications. Early Connect would also offer support to young people by educating them about the opportunities that apprenticeships had to offer and support them with their applications. This would help learners make the best-informed decision and help employers to secure the future talent for their organisation needs.

UCAS was planning a pilot for this new service to start in the autumn in the North East, Lancashire and London regions and were looking for employers to join the pilot to help UCAS shape this ground breaking new service. If any members were interested in hearing more, they were asked to email Siobhan Williams – s.williams@ucas.ac.uk. Group AAG033

The date and venue for the next meeting would be confirmed shortly.