

# ACP Apprenticeship Procurement

Briefing for HEIs, HEE Workforce Transformation Leads and Apprenticeship Leads

Health Education England in partnership with Salisbury Managed Procurement Services have now initiated a national procurement offer for providers of the L7 Advanced Clinical Practice Apprenticeship. We aim to develop a national framework for preferred providers of this programme who meet the national standard with whom employers can then transact. The national procurement/ framework will have provision for either direct award or a further competition. We recognise that for some specialisms there will be relatively small numbers e.g. Ophthalmology so by joining these together across a regional geography it becomes viable for the HEIs and they can plan their programmes accordingly based on employer demand.

We aim to launch the formal tender process in February 2019 for September 2019 starts. As part of the tender HEIs will be asked to declare their current and planned specialities based on the anticipated numbers which will be collated from employers nationally by the HEE Regional Teams. The Framework will open regularly throughout the year. This will allow for new market entrants; changes in provider specialities offered; ensure the framework underpins and aids existing and new academic partnerships (rather than become a prescriptive list); and encourage new delivery methods to overcome geographical challenges.

The Level 7 Apprenticeship is an exciting new route to upskill and crucially retain staff with the relevant experience and expertise.

The Level 7 Apprenticeship standard covers a variety of master's degrees in Advanced Clinical Practice. Universities and employers will be delivering the apprenticeship through a full master's level award, as opposed to more loosely defined 'master's level' education which otherwise includes PG Certs, PG Dip and experiential learning routes. Universities are also restructuring courses to include integrated end point assessment (EPA).

Advanced Clinical Practice defines a level of practice not a specific role, and Advanced Level Practitioners (ACPs) are from a range of professional backgrounds such as nursing, pharmacy, paramedics, occupational therapy, healthcare science and midwifery. Completing this apprenticeship will allow them to develop the skills and knowledge to allow them to take on expanded roles and scope of practice caring for patients.

Further details will be communicated shortly to all HEIs and NHS Trusts nationally. In the meantime, if you have any specific queries regarding the Procurement process then please contact Simon Dennis on [simon.dennis@nhs.net](mailto:simon.dennis@nhs.net) or your regional HEE Lead.

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