

Apprenticeship Micro Credentials Pilot Project Funding: Guidance for Apprenticeship Contract Holders (ACH)

01 October 2025

Medr/2025/29: Annex A

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg |

This document is also available in Welsh

www.medr.cymru



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government

Introduction

This guidance document outlines the process for securing and managing funding allocated through the Apprenticeship Micro Credentials Pilot Project (worth £272,559.47).

This targeted funding stream has been set aside to test a new approach which should support more flexibility within the Apprenticeship Programme and responds to feedback received from stakeholders.

The pilot project will offer an opportunity for an ACH (or subcontracted providers) to deliver short courses or qualifications (as micro credentials) alongside an existing apprenticeship framework. This will help an apprentice to obtain additional skills and learning to support career progression.

The pilot project will focus on key competencies linked to Wales' Net Zero agenda across the following Apprenticeship sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
- Construction and Building Services
- Energy

The project will also provide useful intelligence that will inform the new Apprenticeship Programme being introduced in 2027.

Background context

1. Medr's Strategic Plan sets out an aim to 'create a flexible and joined-up tertiary system where everyone can acquire the skills and knowledge they need for a changing economy and society'. Through the Plan, we have committed to design future apprenticeship provision to respond to the Welsh Government's skills priorities and to meet the needs of learners, employers and the economy.
2. Apprenticeships are a key lever for driving productivity and helping to grow a skilled and diverse workforce. The economy and new technologies are changing at pace in Wales and we need an apprenticeship programme which is agile and responsive to meet these changing needs effectively and ensure the right qualifications and skills are being delivered. To test an approach to meet these needs, Medr has established a new pilot to deliver short courses and qualifications alongside an existing apprenticeship framework, which will inform the development of the new apprenticeship programme in 2027.

Introduction

3. This guidance document sets out the requirements for delivery of the Apprenticeship Micro Credentials Pilot Project. It provides an overview of the project requirements, including learner eligibility and entry conditions; and details the data submission and monitoring requirements in order that Medr can monitor delivery and learning outcomes.

4. The pilot will run alongside the apprenticeship programme for 2025-26 and will be open to commissioned contract holders (and their sub-contractors). The ACH must ensure that provision adheres to contractual requirements previously set out and any courses funded through the pilot will need to be delivered by 31 March 2026.

Purpose of the pilot

5. There is a need to ensure that the Apprenticeship Programme becomes more flexible and provides apprentices with the right skills and qualifications to enter and progress in their chosen career. In this context, Medr has established a pilot project that offers short courses and qualifications as micro credentials which will focus on key occupational competencies linked to Wales' Net Zero agenda.
6. The project will enable apprentices to strengthen their occupational competence and further enhance their learning journey.
7. A budget of £272,559.47 has been set aside for the pilot project for 2025/26 which is in addition to apprenticeship core funding allocations. Through the pilot, apprentices will be able to access course provision from the approved qualification and courses list (at **Appendix 1**) that supports progression within their occupation/sector. Medr will not fund courses outside the approved list. An apprentice will be able to access more than one course if appropriate or relevant to their chosen occupation as long as they don't exceed the £1,500 cap. Again, any courses funded through the pilot will need to be delivered by 31 March 2026.

Eligibility and entry requirements

8. The pilot project will provide micro credentials across the following Apprenticeship sectors:
 - Advanced Manufacturing and Materials
 - Construction and Building Services
 - Energy
9. To be eligible to participate in the pilot project, individual beneficiaries must meet the eligibility requirements set out in the [Apprenticeship Programme Specification](#), and:
 - Be following a foundation apprenticeship, apprenticeship or higher apprenticeship within any of the sectors set out in paragraph under 4.1
 - Be employed with an existing apprenticeship learning agreement.
10. The ACH (or subcontracted provider) must adhere to the entry requirements set out by the respective awarding body for any course offered through the pilot project, including related to age restrictions or prerequisite requirements.

Pilot project delivery

11. The pilot will be delivered through the ACH. The ACH can subcontract delivery to well-placed training providers through their existing local arrangements.

12. The fundable course list can be found in Appendix 1. Only courses and qualifications contained within the approved list will be funded by Medr.
13. It is anticipated that the fundable list of short courses (Appendix 1) will evolve, and therefore, will not be 'set in stone'. This reflects the speed in which transformation is taking place as part of Wales' Net Zero agenda.
14. Medr will consider requests to include additional courses submitted by the ACH or industry. Medr will develop and publish a template for new courses/qualifications and will consult with stakeholders as part of a 'light touch' approval process. All applications must include evidence of economic and employer demand before courses will be considered and approved.
15. The following process must progress for any new course proposals:
 - STAGE 1: Application from the ACH or industry
 - STAGE 2: Assessment by Medr involving RSPs and Sector Bodies
 - STAGE 3: Evaluation by Medr
 - STAGE 4: Approval and course costs agreed.

Data submission requirements

16. Medr will use data from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) to monitor delivery and learning outcomes for the Apprenticeship Micro Credentials Pilot Project. The LLWR User Support Manual sets out the guidelines that institutions should follow when submitting LLWR data.
17. In line with the conditions set out in existing apprenticeship contracts, the ACH must ensure that data is submitted in the correct format and in a timely manner.

Monitoring and audit

18. Monitoring and audit will play a role in ensuring that the guidance is being applied consistently and to help assess whether policies, procedures and controls are adequate.
19. The approach to monitoring will focus on the following areas:
 - Compliance with the apprenticeship programme and supporting guidance document.
 - Learning outcomes for the pilot project.
20. This will be achieved through end-of year monitoring; a data matching exercise; and detailed audit testing of learners on the pilot project.
21. Medr will use the data submitted via the LLWR to monitor compliance through the pilot project. This will include:
 - monitoring of learner enrolments against planned data
 - monitoring of programme and activity datasets to ensure that delivery requirements are being met.

22. Learner progression and destination is a key performance measure for the project and crucial in evaluating success. It is anticipated that apprentices who successfully complete additional courses will be better placed to progress their careers.
23. In addition to the approach to monitoring set out above, data returned by the ACH will be subject to existing end of year audit requirements.

Evaluation

24. Medr anticipate undertaking an evaluation of the pilot project and findings will inform the new Apprenticeship Programme being introduced in 2027.

Contact details

25. For any queries relating to the Apprenticeship Micro Credentials Pilot Project, please contact apprenticeships@medr.cymru.

Appendix 1:

Micro Credential Course List (with 2025/26 funding value)

Course	2025/26 values
ABBE Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency for Older and Traditional Buildings	£855.03
ABBE Level 3 Award in Introduction to Domestic Retrofit	£238.44
ABBE Level 3 Certificate for Retrofit Assessors	£1,430.64
AIM L2 Award Understanding Domestic Retrofit	£715.32
BPEC Domestic Air Source Heat Pump	£953.76
BPEC Domestic Ground Source Heat Pump	£953.76
BPEC Domestic Hot Water Storage Systems (Unvented)	£476.88
BPEC Domestic Ventilation Systems	£715.32
BPEC Level 3 Award in Heat Pump Systems (Non-refrigerant Circuits)	£953.76
BPEC Low Temperature Hot Water Heating Systems	£715.32
BPEC Part L (Energy Efficiency)	£476.88
BPEC Rainwater Harvesting & Greywater Recycling Systems	£715.32
BPEC Solar Thermal Hot Water Systems NOS Mapped	£953.76
BPEC Water Regulations / Byelaws	£476.88
CAA Approved A2 Certificate of Competence (A2 CofC)	£238.44
CAA Approved General Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) Certificate (GVC)	£715.32
Cert-ain Energy Efficiency (Part L)	£476.88
Cert-ain Vented and Unvented Hot Water Systems	£476.88
Cert-ain Water Regulations	£476.88
City & Guilds Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671:2018 (2382-22) (18th Edition)	£953.76
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Manual Metal Arc (MMA) Welding (3268-02)	£1,192.20
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Metal Inert Gas (MIG) Welding (3268-02)	£1,192.20
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Oxy-Acetylene Welding (3268-02)	£1,192.20
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Tungsten Inert Gas (TIG) Welding - Aluminium (3268-02)	£1,192.20
City & Guilds Level 2 Award in Tungsten Inert Gas Welding (3268-02)	£1,192.20
EAL Level 3 Award in the Initial Verification and Certification of Electrical Installations	£953.76
EAL Level 3 Award In the In-Service Inspection and Testing Of Electrical Equipment (PAT)	£715.32
EAL Level 3 Award in the Requirements for Electrical Installations BS 7671:2018	£953.76
ECITB Torque and Tension Wind Turbine Bolted Connections (TS WT02-MJI33)	£715.32
ERS Energy Efficiency Domestic Heating (EEDH)	£476.88
ERS Unvented Hot Water Storage Systems (UHWS)	£476.88

Course	2025/26 values
ERS Water Supply Water Fitting Regulations	£476.88
GQA Level 3 Award in Air Permeability (Air Leakage) Testing of Existing Dwellings using the Low-Pressure Pulse (LPP) Method	£1,425.06
ISEP (IEMA) Carbon Footprinting and Reporting	£238.44
ISEP (IEMA) Internal Environmental Manager Systems (EMS) Auditor	£1,430.64
ISEP (IEMA) Environmental Sustainability Skills for the Workforce	£238.44
ISEP (IEMA) Environmental Sustainability Skills for Managers	£476.88
LCL Awards Hot Water Systems & Safety (inc. Unvented Hot Water)	£476.88
LCL Awards Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency for Gas Fired and Oil Fired Domestic Heating and Hot Water Systems	£238.44
LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Installation and Maintenance of Air Source Heat Pump Systems (non-refrigerant circuits)	£953.76
LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Installation and Maintenance of Ground Source Heat Pump Systems (non-refrigerant circuits)	£953.76
LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Installation and Maintenance of Heat Pump Systems (non-refrigerant circuits)	£953.76
LCL Awards Level 3 Award in the Installation and Maintenance of Solar Thermal Hot Water Systems	£953.76
NEBOSH Environmental Management Certificate	£1,430.64
NICEIC Domestic Unvented Hot Water Storage Systems (UVHW)	£476.88
NICEIC Domestic Ventilation	£715.32
NICEIC Energy Efficiency for Domestic Heating	£476.88
NICEIC Solar Thermal Hot Water	£953.76
NICEIC Water Regulations	£476.88
NOCN Level 3 Award in Energy Efficiency Measures for Older and Traditional Buildings - (2022)	£953.76
NOCN Level 3 Award in Understanding Repair and Maintenance of Traditional pre-1919 Buildings	£715.32
OFTEC OFT21-504A Installation, Commissioning and Servicing of Air Source Heat Pumps	£953.76
OFTEC OFT21-504D Design of Heat Pump Systems	£476.88
OFTEC OFT21-504G Installation, Commissioning and Servicing of Ground Source Heat Pumps	£476.88
TQUK Award for Commercial Drone Pilots	£1,425.06

Medr

Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

www.medr.cymru

2 Cwr y Ddinas
Stryd Tyndall
Caerdydd
CF10 4BZ

2 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff
CF10 4BZ



Noddir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Sponsored by
Welsh Government