

Apprenticeship Subcontracting Rationale

The University of Central Lancashire uses subcontractors in certain subject areas where enhancements to teaching and learning for apprentices can be achieved by partnering with specialist providers. The University will also 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 required by the ESFA funding rules.

Selection and procurement of subcontractors will be carried out in accordance with the University's Procurement Code. Where any element of the programme, including English and Maths, is subcontracted to the employer or another provider, they must be either a Main or Supporting Provider on ESFA's register of Apprentice Training Providers or a registered Employer Provider.

The use of delivery subcontractors is agreed with employers prior to the commencement of the apprenticeship programme.

As the main provider of an apprenticeship, the University will provide governance and quality assurance for all delivery under the apprenticeship, including delivery by subcontractors. The approval and oversight of any apprenticeship subcontractors is managed via the University's existing quality management processes. All subcontractors have a contractual relationship with the University and are required to undergo rigorous quality assurance processes and remain compliant with the ESFA Apprenticeship Funding Rules. The contract between the University and the subcontractor provides transparency as to the costs of the subcontracted delivery and is available for review by the ESFA as required.

The University does not charge a management fee when subcontracting apprenticeship training provision.

The University declares subcontractor arrangements to the ESFA as required and where subcontracting activity exceeds £100,000 annually, the University will obtain an independent auditors' report.