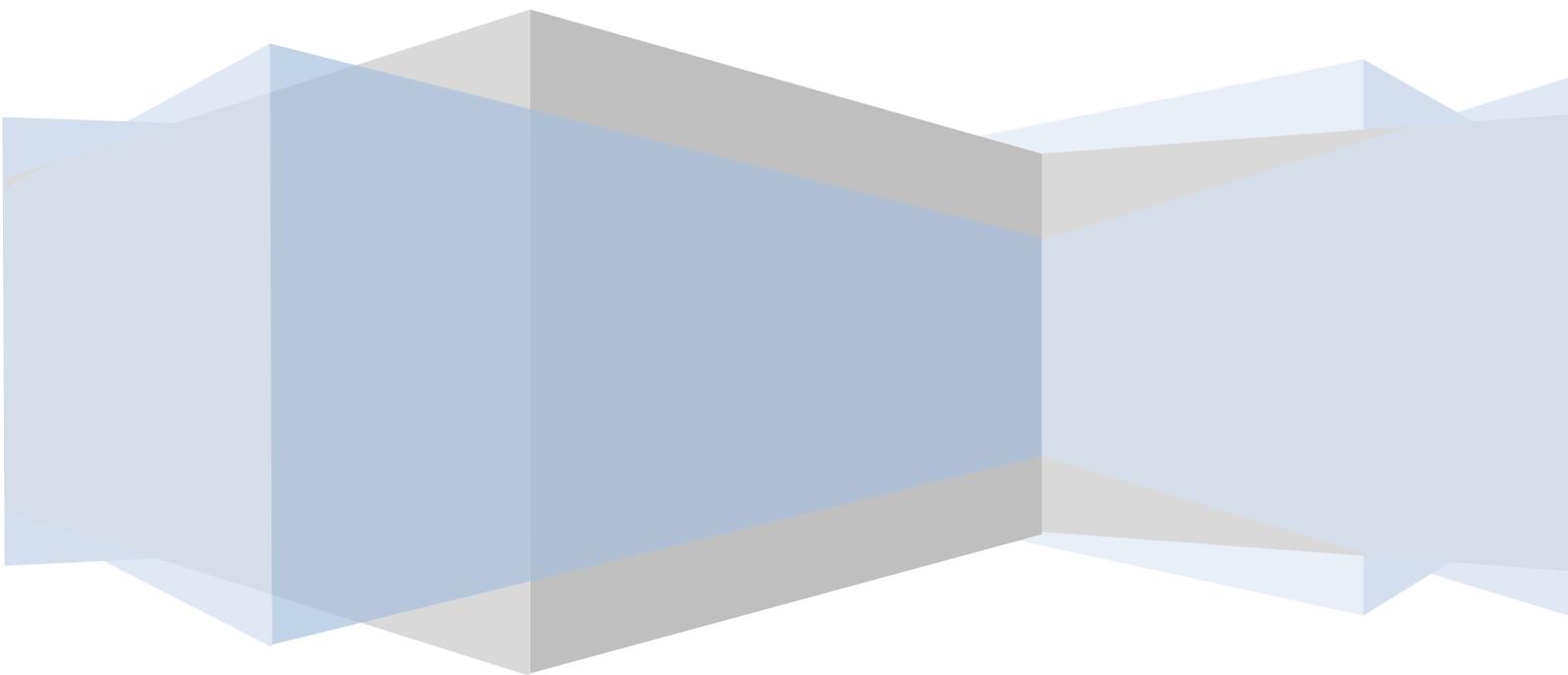


## **Trailblazer Apprenticeship (Associate Project Manager and Project Controls Technician) - Frequently Asked Questions**



## Contents

1. Trailblazer Apprenticeship - General FAQ's .....	3
2. Project Controls Technician Apprenticeship.....	3
3. Associate Project Manager .....	4

## 1. Trailblazer Apprenticeship - General FAQ's

### A. What is the Trailblazer apprenticeship?

The Trailblazer apprenticeship is part of the UK Government's Trailblazer programme that aims to establish new standards for apprenticeships. The Trailblazer programme is committed to reaching three million apprenticeship starts in England by 2020.

The apprenticeship standards are designed by employers (Trailblazer groups) to meet their needs, the needs of their sector and the economy more widely. Each apprenticeship standard has an assessment plan produced by "Trailblazers".

### B. What are the fees for the qualification?

The Government sets the funding caps via the SFA (Skills Funding Agency) – there are no 'fees'. The Company chooses how they wish to train their apprentices and then claims back the costs – see [here](#) for Government information.

### C. How does the apprenticeship levy/funding works?

Detailed guidance on how the apprenticeship funding works can be seen [here](#).

### D. I am not a levy paying employer. Can I be a part of Trailblazer scheme and hire apprentice?

You can be a part of Trailblazer scheme by employing apprentice and committing to training. To know more about this, please contact us at [info@ProjectControlsInstitute.com](mailto:info@ProjectControlsInstitute.com)

### E. What are the locations where apprenticeships can be delivered e.g. London; Manchester?

The apprentice levy is in England only and therefore companies registered with offices in England can benefit from this standard.

### F. What are other apprenticeships under development?

The following apprenticeships are under development:

- Project Manager Integrated Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6)
- Project Controls Professional Apprenticeship (Level 6)

## 2. Project Controls Technician Apprenticeship

### A. What is the status of Project Controls Technician standard? When will it be launched?

The standard is approved and ready for delivery.

### B. What is the level of Project Controls Technician apprenticeship?

This apprenticeship is at level 3.

### C. What are the academic requirements for an apprentice?

Academic requirements for an apprentice are typically set by individual employers, entry requirements will typically include a minimum of 5 GCSE grades A\* - C (or equivalent qualifications) including mathematics; English (Language).

---

**D. What is the training duration?**

The duration of this apprenticeship is typically 36 to 42 months.

**E. How would the training be delivered? Will it be in a classroom?**

Training will be in whatever form the Employer wishes it to be – as long as 20% of the apprentices' time is off the job. More information about "off the job training" can be seen [here](#).

**F. What is career progression for Project Controls Technician?**

On completion, the apprentice will be eligible to apply for membership of the Association of Cost Engineers (ACostE) as a Graduate Member, and will also be eligible to apply for registration as an Engineering Technician (EngTech), subject to having suitable engineering experience and undergoing a professional review process.

With further training following on from the apprenticeship, individuals may choose to specialise in specific sectors or related roles which could lead to membership of other related professional bodies.

With additional training the Project Controls Technician could also progress to more specialist roles in areas such as project controls, planning, scheduling, estimating, cost control, risk and quality and ultimately a role as project controls manager or director.

**G. What are benefits of PCI apprenticeship training?**

PCI apprenticeship training has a multitude of benefits such as:

- Involved in development of the apprenticeship standards
- Registered training provider for apprenticeships
- Approved training provider of major professional organizations
- Training with case studies and real-life examples across the project life cycle

### **3. Associate Project Manager**

**A. What is the status of Associate Project Manager standard? When will it be launched?**

The standard is already approved and ready for delivery.

**B. What is the level of Associate Project Manager apprenticeship?**

This apprenticeship is at level 4

**C. What are the academic requirements for an apprentice?**

Individual employers will set their own entry requirements for their apprentices. Typically, candidates will have achieved a grade C or above in at least 5 GCSEs including English and Mathematics, and hold a minimum of 120 UCAS points, or equivalent.

**D. What is the training duration?**

The typical duration of this apprenticeship will be 24 months.

---

**E. How would the training be delivered? Will it be in a classroom?**

Training will be in whatever form the Employer wishes it to be – as long as 20% of the apprentices' time is off the job. More information about "off the job training" can be seen [here](#).

**F. What qualifications/ Progression is there after completion of apprenticeship?**

Upon commencement, apprentices may become student members of the Association for Project Management (APM) as the first step of professional membership. Apprentices will be eligible for progression to associate membership upon successful completion of the apprenticeship. Full membership can be attained through further experience and professional development.

The next step in career progression can be appearing for APM Project Professional Qualification (PPQ) or APM Practitioner Qualification (PQ). The APM PPQ is an examination-based qualification that assesses candidate's capability in delivering projects, programmes and portfolios. The Practitioner Qualification (PQ) is for relatively experienced professionals (project management practitioners) who can demonstrate an ability to manage a non-complex project. Those with the APM Project Professional Qualification (PPQ) or Practitioner Qualification (PQ) are eligible to become Full members of APM the Chartered body for the project profession.

Following this step and with practical experience, they may appear for APM Registered Project Professional (RPP). RPP is pan-sector standard that allows holders to demonstrate responsible leadership and the competencies necessary for effective project, programme or portfolio management - including the ability to manage a complex project and the ability to use appropriate tools, processes and techniques.