

Level 4 Associate Project Manager Apprenticeship: Update on APM Qualification

March 22, 2024



The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE) has announced a change to the Level 4 Associate Project Manager apprenticeship standard in England. Effective April 2024, sitting the [Association for Project Management \(APM\) Project Management Qualification](#) will no longer be a mandatory requirement for completing the apprenticeship's end-point assessment.

This decision, made without the endorsement of APM, will also be reflected in the next edition of the standard published in April 2024 for new apprentices. The change aligns with IfATE's wider initiative to remove professional qualifications from apprenticeship requirements.

Key Points:

- The APM Project Management Qualification is no longer mandatory for the Level 4 Associate Project Manager apprenticeship (effective April 2024).
- This applies to both existing apprentices and those entering the programme after April 2024.
- Apprentices who have already secured funding can still take the qualification if they choose to do so.

APM's Response:

The Association for Project Management acknowledges the short notice provided by IfATE and recognises the potential concerns this may cause, particularly for those already enrolled in the programme. As the chartered body for the project profession in the UK, APM remains committed to supporting project

professionals during this transition.

APM emphasises the value of the APM Project Management Qualification in enhancing an individual's skillset and career prospects. They highlight a survey indicating that 95% of APM qualification holders believe it benefits their careers. Therefore, APM prioritizes supporting current apprentices in completing their programme with the professional qualification they anticipated upon enrolment.

Apprenticeships and Project Management Qualifications:

Apprenticeships offer valuable entry points into the project management profession, allowing individuals to gain work experience, education, and an income simultaneously. While no longer mandatory, APM maintains that the Project Management Qualification remains a significant element in this development pathway for those who achieve it and their employers.

Earning a recognised professional qualification from a chartered body offers additional benefits, including broader recognition across sectors and internationally, which apprenticeships alone may not provide.

Recommendations for Employers and Apprentices:

APM encourages all Accredited Training Providers to ensure current apprentices retain the opportunity to take the APM Project Management Qualification assessment, especially where funding is available.

Apprentices may also consider the new APM Project Management Qualification with exams launching in September 2024. This updated version incorporates the latest assessment format and improvements based on feedback from project professionals in the UK, including apprentices, with a focus on accessibility and candidate experience.

Support for Apprentices:

- All current apprentices will continue to receive complimentary APM Student membership to support their studies and career development.
- For more information on membership benefits and how to join, apprentices can visit the provided link.

APM's Next Steps:

The Association for Project Management is exploring ways to provide further support to current and future candidates. They will also share any additional information received from IfATE.