

09 January 2017

Dear Colleague

Consultation: Degree Apprenticeships

The RPS is the professional body for pharmacists in Great Britain. We are the only body that represents all sectors of pharmacy in Great Britain. The RPS leads and supports the development of the pharmacy profession including the advancement of science, practice, education and knowledge in pharmacy. In addition, we promote the profession's policies and views to a range of external stakeholders in a number of different forums.

The RPS welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

1. Name of Institute

Royal Pharmaceutical Society

* 2. Please select your sector:

Please also note that when the survey refers to 'sector', please take this to mean the profession your institute represents and/or the sector your members primarily work in. Where there are sectors listed, these are done so according to the SFAs categories to enable us to correlate the results with other research in this project.

3. Number of student members in UK

1-1,000

1,001-5,000

5,001-20,000

20,000+

* 4. Number of members in UK

1-1,000

1,001-5,000

5,001-20,000

20,000+

* 5. Do you offer qualifications to students or members that are on the QCF framework?

Yes

No

6. Do you offer qualifications to students or members that are not on the QCF framework?

Yes

No

If yes please provide details:

7. What in your view is the role of a professional body in developing degree apprenticeships?
Please tick all that apply.

Contributing wide sector knowledge

Contributing educational expertise

Contributing to the development of the knowledge, skills and behaviours required

Driving the discussion between the employer and HE provider(s)

Promoting them as an attractive route

Delivering the End Point Assessment

Other (please elaborate)

Possibly delivering end point assessment

8. Do you think the development of more degree apprenticeships will contribute to future growth within your sector?

Yes, they will help fill current skills gaps

Yes, they will increase diversity in the sector

Yes, they will increase the attractiveness of the sector

Yes, other (please elaborate below)

Maybe (please elaborate below)

No (please elaborate below)

Please enter any comments here:

9. Is it in your Institute's interest to have a degree apprenticeship in your sector?

Yes, to protect our future membership pipeline

Yes, they complement our current qualifications (or what is needed to qualify in our sector)

Yes, other (please elaborate below)

No, they conflict with our current qualifications (or what is needed to qualify in our sector)

No, other (please elaborate below)

Please enter any comments here:

10. Is there a degree apprenticeship standard already approved for delivery in your sector or profession?

Yes

No

11. Are you involved in the development of a degree apprenticeship standard that is not yet approved for delivery?

Yes - invited by employer

Yes - invited by HE provider

Yes - requested to be involved

Yes - invited by SFA or other government body

No - were invited but declined

No - not involved at all

Other (please specify)

Don't know

12. Do you have a clear idea of how to get involved in the development of a degree apprenticeship standard in your sector?

Yes

No

Please elaborate:

13. Do you have/did you have the capacity and capability internally to support the development of a degree apprenticeship standard?

Have/had capacity but not capability

Have/had capability but not capacity

Have/had both

Have/had neither

Please enter any comments here:

14. What do you consider the opportunities for degree apprenticeships to be? Please tick all that apply.

Access to a new income stream

Access to a new student market

Delivery of HE provision that develops the occupational skills and competencies employers require

Delivery of HE provision that meets local/regional skills needs

Delivery of HE provision that meets national skills needs

Increased business engagement and closer links with employers

Potential for developing partnerships with further education colleges and private training providers

Potential for developing wider partnerships with employers on research and knowledge exchange

15. What do you perceive as key challenges to the development of degree apprenticeships (both inside and outside of you organization)?

Degree apprenticeships do not fit with current employer priorities

Degree apprenticeships do not fit with current HE provider priorities

Lack of awareness of degree apprenticeships amongst students

Skills Funding Agency Apprenticeship funding rules

The general reputation of apprenticeships

Uncertainty of student demands for degree apprenticeships

Uncertainty of how to deliver degree apprenticeships

Uncertainty of how the Levy will operate

Unclear how to develop a degree apprenticeship with an HEI/alternative provider

Other (please specify)

16. If you have ticked any of the options above - what do you think potential solutions might be?

Greater clarity and awareness of degree apprenticeships.

* 17. In your organization, would a degree apprenticeship currently meet your requirements for admission to membership?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please enter any comments here:

18. Could you see that changing in future?

Yes

No

Not sure

19. Does your Institute have an interest in offering the End Point Assessment for a degree apprenticeship standard?

Yes, we already offer it

Yes, we are interested

I don't know if we would be interested or not

I would like to know more

I don't know what an End Point Assessment is

20. Any other comments on the development of degree apprenticeships, that this survey hasn't covered?

None

21. If you are interested in participating in the project further, please enter your contact details below:

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Yours sincerely

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