**We can confirm that this apprentice qualifies for the EPA Covid-19 temporary dispensation in relation to Functional Skills as they meet the IfATE criteria as set out below. We will therefore not provide Functional Skills Maths and English (DELETE as appropriate) evidence for this apprentice at gateway.**

**We also acknowledge that the apprentice will not be entitled to the ESFA certificate where they fail to successfully complete the FSQ assessment in accordance with the rules of the dispensation.**

**Flexibility permitting EPA prior to FSQ achievement**

A new temporary flexibility has been introduced to allow apprentices at all levels that are ready and waiting to take their FSQ assessments in English and maths, to go through to take their end-point assessment (EPA), and later return to complete FSQ assessment.

**This flexibility is only available to apprentices where all possibilities to access FSQ assessment via face-to-face and remote assessment have been exhausted, and they have confirmed their intent to continue and complete their FSQ within three months of starting their EPA.** Confirmation of this must also be evidenced in the learner file/evidence pack. Apprentices who are waiting to take their FSQ assessment now have the opportunity to pass through gateway and take their EPA without any further delay.

**To be eligible to take their EPA before achieving the required functional skills qualifications, the apprentice must:**

* not be on a break in learning (an apprentice may return from a break in learning to take their end-point assessment)
* meet all other gateway criteria to progress to their EPA as specified in the apprenticeship standard (except meeting the English and maths requirements)
* have been confirmed by you and their employer as ready for both their EPA, and to take a functional skills qualification assessment
* start their EPA on or before 31 May 2021
* complete their FSQ within three months of starting their EPA

As completion payments for the apprenticeship will be triggered by progression to EPA, it is essential that training providers are able to demonstrate that they have exhausted all possibilities to access FSQ assessment via face-to-face and remote assessment through their awarding organisation. Apprenticeship Funding Rules will require providers to declare this in their evidence pack along with a written declaration of the apprentice’s intent to take the required functional skills assessments within three months of starting their EPA. In line with business-as-usual arrangements, this evidence pack content will be subject to audit and associated controls.

Apprentices will still only complete their apprenticeship once they have passed their EPA **and achieved their** FSQ in English and/or maths as required. After these achievements have been confirmed by the EPAO they can request a completion certificate. This means that training providers will be expected to provide prompt confirmation of the apprentice’s FSQ results to EPA organisations once these have been awarded, to allow certification to be issued.

**Find out more** [**here**](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964801/Providing_apprenticeships_during_the_coronavirus__COVID-19__outbreak.pdf).

**If you would like to discuss the solutions/options available to you in more detail, please get in touch with your Account Manager or the Direct Sales Team on 01924 206709 or at directsales@cityandguilds.com**