

# GUIDANCE NOTE

Issued: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 (FOR COMMENT)

## **FLEXIBILITY FRAMEWORK AND DIGITAL APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS (DUE TO BE RELEASED IN TIME FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2022 IMPLEMENTATION)**

This guidance document is designed to build on the IFATE guidance on the Flexibility Framework, [Flexibility framework / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

The guidance shows what the flexibilities mean for those digital apprenticeship standards NSAR provides EQA support for. It is designed to build on the IFATE guidance with specific examples to help ensure all relevant EPAOs are interpreting the IFATE guidance in a consistent and comparable way.

The table below only addresses those flexibilities that are relevant. For the full range of flexibilities and the IFATE protocol requirements, please consult the original guidance. See link above.

Type of flexibility (Abridged)	What this means for digital apprenticeships
<p><b>2. Remote delivery of assessment (including invigilation)</b></p> <p><i>Assessor views/conducts the assessment method(s) remotely using video technology. The assessment is still conducted "live" in real time.</i></p>	<p>This applies to those digital apprenticeship standards where interviews are a key part of the EPA. The relevant digital apprenticeships are:</p> <p>IT (ST0125)   NE (ST0127)   SD (ST0116)   SDT (ST0128)   ST (ST0129)   DA (ST0118)   DT (ST0795)   DST (ST0120)   CST (ST0124)   CIA (ST0114)   Cyber Security Technician (ST0865)   ITTS (ST0115)   ITST (ST0505)   DM (ST0122)   UC Technician (ST0130)   UCT (ST0131)</p> <p>Where exams are part of the EPA, this applies, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ITST (ST0505)</li> <li>DST (ST0120)</li> </ul> <p>Please consult with Ofqual for those newer versions of the standards that were assigned to OFQUAL for EQA.</p>

<p><b>4. Assessments taking place outside of usual venues</b></p> <p><i>Does not relate to simulated environments replacing workplace observation which is classed primarily as a change of assessment method and dealt with separately in flexibility no.1</i></p> <p><i>Relates solely to the venue changing and all other parameters remain the same</i></p> <p><i>e.g. the apprentice being located at their home for a professional discussion when usually they would have been in a room at their usual place of work.</i></p> <p><i>This may be used in conjunction with remote delivery of assessment (no.2)</i></p>	<p>This applies to those digital apprenticeship standards where interviews are a key part of the EPA. These digital apprenticeships are:</p> <p>IT (ST0125)   NE (ST0127)   SD (ST0116)   SDT (ST0128)   ST (ST0129)   DA (ST0118)   DT (ST0795)   DST (ST0120)   CST (ST0124)   CIA (ST0114)   Cyber Security Technician (ST0865)   ITTS (ST0115)   ITST (ST0505)   DM (ST0122)   UC Technician (ST0130)   UCT (ST0131)</p> <p>When it comes to undertaking the <b>EPA project at home</b>, this is in scope for this flexibility and can continue. However, EPAOs are expected to put in place suitable mitigation strategies to manage the risks associated with allowing apprentices to take the project at home, rather than under the controlled conditions indicated in the assessment plan.</p> <p>As EQAO, we will discuss and monitor the implementation of these risk mitigation strategies and the EPAO monitoring of their impact.</p> <p>Where exams are part of the EPA, this also applies. EPAOs should be mindful of the nature of control and security expected in the assessment plan or implicit in the assessment method and look to ensure similar controls and security are in place. Standards where this applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ITST (ST0505)</li> <li>• DST (ST0120)</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Delivery of assessment methods in any order (when a specified order is in the assessment plan)</b></p> <p><i>Unless integrated, risks non completion of EPA (displacement) or results of one method impacts the next.</i></p>	<p>The interview must remain as the final assessment method to be administered. This is because of the role the interview plays in establishing the final grade. This applies to the following standards:</p> <p>IT (ST0125)   NE (ST0127)   SD (ST0116)   SDT (ST0128)   ST (ST0129)   DA (ST0118)   CST (ST0124)   CIA (ST0114)   ITTS (ST0115)   DM (ST0122)   UC Technician (ST0130)   UCT (ST0131)</p> <p><b>The only exceptions are:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DT (ST0795)</li> <li>• Cyber Security Technician (ST0865)</li> <li>• ITST (ST0505)</li> <li>• DST (ST0120)</li> </ul> <p>In these standards, the assessments can be done in any order, as specified in the assessment plan.</p>