

05 May, 2024

Brief Consultation Response - Modification of The Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for Wales (SASW)

The University and College Union (UCU Cymru) represents almost 7,000 academics, lecturers, trainers, instructors, researchers, managers, administrators, IT staff, librarians, and postgraduates in universities, colleges, adult education and training organisations across Wales. UCU Cymru is a politically autonomous but integral part of UCU, the largest post-school union in the world.

UCU Cymru broadly welcomes Welsh Government's proposals. In the view of our members, they combine to provide pragmatic solutions to issues generally encountered when delivering and/or claiming apprenticeship frameworks.

In common with Colegau Cymru, we feel that inclusion of Welsh language qualifications as a proxy for essential communication skills, and the removal of the requirement for essential skills for L4 and L5 Higher Apprenticeships would deliver greater parity; bringing them into line with the proposal for L6 Professional and Degree Apprenticeships

On a far larger scale, UCU Cymru has for some time argued the need for a Welsh Apprenticeship Framework. Whilst not immediately germane to this consultation, we feel that parity can be supported by coherent pathways and clear routes for progression. In this respect, it should be entirely possible for a 'young apprentice' to progress all the way to level 6 and beyond.

Acknowledging that this is task for government and CTER, we note these proposals as a small step towards a genuine tertiary system