

The Actuarial Education Company

on behalf of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries

Employer Update – May 2021

Covid-19

In March last year, we transitioned all our face-to-face courses to live online delivery and all tutorials leading to the September 2020 and April 2021 exams have been delivered online. The feedback we have received from students has been overwhelmingly positive and so we hope we have been able to minimise any disruptions to their studies.

We do plan to return to face-to-face teaching when it is safe and practical to do so but for the September 2021 exam session, it is likely that the vast majority of ActEd tutorials will remain online. However, we will continue to keep this under review and will let you and students know if we can run a small number of face-to-face tutorials towards the end of the session.

Subject to continued easing of restrictions, we are hoping to re-introduce face-to-face tutorials more predominantly for the session leading to the April 2022 exams, but will continue to offer live online tutorials to give students a choice.

We imagine that some of you may be starting to reconsider how best to support your students post-lockdown, in terms of either face-to-face or online tutorials (or both). If you are willing to share your thoughts with us, please [let us know](#) so that we can plan accordingly.

Thanks to you all for your continued understanding.

Product development

Sound Revision is back! Sound Revision is a set of audio files, designed to help students become more familiar with the most important aspects of the course. The audio files are split into a number of manageable topics based on the chapters in the Course Notes and are available to download through our Virtual Learning Environment. The recordings are perfect for use on-the-go or where taking folders and course notes is not practical. Sound Revision is only currently available for Subject CP1, but hopefully will be expanded to some other subjects in the future.

ASET is now available in Subject CP2, currently covering 2020 exam papers only. More information is given on [our website](#).

We continue to review our products and services in the light of changes to the IFoA's examinations, for example, for the changes to open-book, online exams. We have published a [short video](#) on our website with some hints and tips for students taking online exams.

We will let you know as and when further products become available, but if you or your students have any feedback for us on our materials, please email us at ActEd@bpp.com.

Employer Update webinar

We are planning to run our annual Employer Update webinar on Thursday 14 October at 1pm. We will send you an invite nearer the time, but for now please save the date. Please [let us know](#) if there is anything you would specifically like us to cover on the webinar.

New Student webinar

On Friday 15 October 2021 at 1pm, we will be running our very popular free, live webinar for new students entering the actuarial profession. The webinar introduces students to the actuarial exam system, and explains to students how to make the most of ActEd's support to give them a good start to their studies. There is no need to pre-register. Joining instructions are available [here](#), and the webinar will be recorded and put on our website for those unable to attend live.

Company reports

For the September 2021 exam session, we are planning to send company reports to employers on the following dates:

- Wednesday 14 July 2021
- Wednesday 11 August 2021
- Wednesday 8 September 2021
- Wednesday 6 October 2021.

The reports provide a summary of the assignment grades and tutorial attendance for your students to help you monitor their progress. The information is provided through an online portal. If you have any questions about company reports, please email us at ActEd@bpp.com.

Apprenticeships

BPP ActEd's **Level 7 Actuary Apprenticeship** reached a milestone in January 2021 when the first learner completed their End-Point Assessment through the IFoA. Congratulations to Katie Saunders from LCP who attained a Distinction.

The programme welcomed a further cohort of new learners in May and BPP ActEd is already talking to employers about the September intake.

The **Level 4 Actuarial Technician Apprenticeship** is also now accepting applications for the October 2021 cohort. We have employers in all the key actuarial sectors – pensions, life insurance, and general insurance – who take on apprentices as a way to broaden the range and diversity of their actuarial teams.

This programme is designed for school leavers with at least a good 'A' level in Mathematics, who have decided that the world of work is a more attractive option than university, as well as existing employees looking to develop their career.

Please contact us at actuarialapprenticeships@bpp.com if you are interested in finding out more about either programme.

As a reminder of the two programmes:

The Level 7 apprenticeship takes students up to the IFoA Associate qualification, studying and taking their exams in the normal way while completing a PPD-style portfolio throughout their apprenticeship. On completion of their associate exams, there is a final End-Point Assessment (EPA), which consists of a case study exam and a portfolio-based interview. After the apprenticeship, students can go on to complete the full IFoA Fellowship by taking the SP and SA exams outside of the apprenticeship.

BPP ActEd provides a comprehensive package of support for the IFoA exams as well as additional support and guidance for the portfolio and EPA. Levy funding of up to £18,000 per apprentice will cover the cost of the support provided by ActEd, while IFoA membership subscriptions, exemption fees and exam fees are met by the employer.

The normal duration of the apprenticeship is 42 months, or less for those with exemptions, and subject to certain conditions, is open to new recruits, or existing trainees part-way through the Core Principles subjects.

The 2-3 year Level 4 programme combines study towards a professional qualification (Module 0 and Module 1 of the Certified Actuarial Analyst qualification), with development of work-based skills, knowledge and behaviours. The skills, knowledge and behaviours element of the programme reflects the sector the apprentice works in. At completion, there is an EPA comprising a 'showcase portfolio' and an interview. On completion, apprentices may choose to continue with the CAA exams or progress to taking the IFoA exams.

BPP ActEd provides materials and tuition for the CAA examinations as well as skills coaching / mentoring; and support for the EPA.

As with all apprenticeships, apprentices on the L4 or L7 programme must be given 20% off-the-job training, which is planned and monitored for compliance purposes.

Level 4 review – invitation to participate from IFATE

The Level 4 Actuarial Technician apprenticeship was first published back in 2015. BPP ActEd and the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) have agreed that this may be a timely moment to review this programme, with a view to the 2021 cohort starting on any revised / updated apprenticeship.

A review would include making sure the knowledge, skills and behaviours are up to date and meeting the needs of employers and apprentices, and ensuring the approach to assessment is the best way of determining apprentice competency at the end of their programme. (Please note that IFATE is not mandating a review be carried out at this time.)

IFATE encourages all affected stakeholders to get involved, while ensuring the content is employer-led by design. As the original employer group (known as the trailblazer) no longer meets, we are looking to help rebuild this. The reconstituted trailblazer group would need to meet at least three times over a 6-month period.

Here are some useful links:

- The role of the trailblazer group - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-new-apprenticeships/trailblazer-group/>
- Developing an apprenticeship - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-new-apprenticeships/developing-occupational-standards/>
- How apprenticeships are approved - <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/developing-new-apprenticeships/the-approvals-process/>

If you are interested in helping to review the content of the Actuarial Technician Standard and EPA plan, please contact martin.keeves@education.gov.uk.

Have we got your correct details?

If you'd like to change who this Employer Update goes to within your organisation, please let us know by emailing us at ActEd@bpp.com. If there's anything else you'd also like to see included, also please let us know.