



THE INSTITUTE OF CONSERVATION

Department for Education: Higher Technical Education consultation

1 September 2019

Icon response

P19

Question: Would you support incorporating the above flexibilities/requirements in the Institute approval process, and are there any specific points you would like to raise in relation to the above?

Icon strongly supports the proposed flexibility.

While occupational standards have been developed by employers, the employers and standards do not necessarily fully reflect the breadth of a sector. For example, the heritage sector does not neatly fit into just one area. The option for broader qualifications with additional content extending a single occupational standard could help meet the needs of sectors that are particularly interconnected.

Furthermore, qualifications that are broader and give a solid foundation in a range of subjects would also reflect modern careers more strongly. Careers evolve and develop: qualifications within cultural heritage can lead to employment sectors that are not necessarily associated with the qualification. For example, a conservation student could gain employment within the construction industry.

P32

Question: To what extent do you agree that there is a need and opportunity for more young people and adults (including those who need to upskill/retrain) to be undertaking HTE in the future? Please provide examples from your own experience.

Icon agrees with the statement.

There are considerable numbers of career changers within the cultural heritage conservation sector, with people pursuing a career in conservation at a later age. There is an opportunity for HTE to provide these people with a route into the profession. However, older learners will be keen to progress to employment more quickly. It will be important to communicate the benefits of employer-designed content and how it supports employability.

P35

Question: To what extent do you agree with these measures to improve the profile of HTE?

We welcome the involvement of professional bodies. As key links to employers and the workforce, professional bodies can play a pivotal role in communicating HTE options and benefits.

Question: To what extent do you agree with these measures to improve information, advice and guidance (IAG) for young people, adults and employers?

Icon welcomes the involvement of professional bodies. Their established communication channels to employers and the workforce can help disseminate information about HTE to target audiences.

https://consult.education.gov.uk/higher-technical-level-4-5-review-team/higher-technical-education/supporting_documents/Improving_higher_technical_education%20pdf.pdf

Consistency in the supply of IAG is needed, particularly for sectors with many different job roles and focuses. This could be achieved through a multi-agency approach where the different agencies supplying IAG conform to uniform messages. An accessible, user-friendly and employer-focused database of all qualifications, that enables users to conduct searches based on course content, could improve enrolments across more specialist and unknown fields.