



# End-Point Assessment for the Level 7 Systems Thinking Practitioner Apprenticeship

Advance HE's End-point Assessment (EPA) service has been operating since October 2019, and during that time we have administered EPAs for over 500 Level 7 apprentices from 25 different training providers. We have been on the Department for Education register, since January 2019, and have been recognised by Ofqual since December 2021, which highlights the quality of our service.

## How we assess

The EPA for the L7 STP comprises two assessment elements – a Work-based Project report with an accompanying presentation, and a Professional Discussion underpinned by a portfolio of evidence. All assessments and any resits must take place within a 9-month EPA period.

All elements of the EPA are assessed online, via our Smart EPA (SEPA) portal, and each apprentice will have the same dedicated 1st and 2nd markers for their entire EPA.

The 1st marker carries out the face-to-face elements of the EPA with the apprentice, whereas the 2nd marker blind marks the EPA. The 1st and 2nd marker come to an agreement on grades before these are issued to the apprentice.



## Benefits of our service

- + **Be part of a Reference Group** – we connect on a monthly basis with training providers to inform the development of our EPA Handbooks so that they have the stakeholder at their core
- + **Expert consultants** – in addition to our monthly Reference Group, we employ sector expert consultants to help develop our EPA Handbooks
- + **Quarterly calls** – once contracted with us, you will have 1:1 calls with the EPA Manager to discuss apprentice EPA progress, receive cohort data analysis, discuss service updates, and to have answered any of your questions
- + **Quarterly coffee mornings** – we host these for all of our contracted employers and providers to get together and discuss anything related to the apprenticeship, including the sharing of best practice
- + **Apprentice Orientation sessions** – the EPA manager hosts 1-hour orientation sessions with apprentice cohorts overviewing the EPA and addressing apprentice questions
- + **High first time pass rate** – we see over 90% of apprentices achieve pass or distinction at their first attempt on our other apprenticeships
- + **Efficient and effective turnaround times** – average of 9 working days for feedback to be returned to apprentices upon completion of their EPA.
- + **Expert assessors and training** – we recruit sector experts with an understanding of apprenticeships to act as our assessors, and train them through quarterly standardisation events; we also 2nd mark all EPAs in Year 1 of our service.

## Costs and contracting

Each EPA costs £2000 per apprentice. Resits / retakes are charged at £500 per assessment element failed. The cost of a resit / retake after the 9-month EPA period is the same as a first attempt EPA (£2000 per apprentice) as the apprentice will need to complete the entire EPA again.

Once contracted with us, you will receive our sector expert-written Handbooks and additional guidance. Guidance will clearly describe to apprentices, employers and training providers key information such as how we conduct assessments, how to upload evidence for assessment, and how assessors will evaluate assessment evidence.

## Resits / retakes

- + These can take place as many times as the employer deems, as long as they are concluded within the 9-month EPA period;
- + The apprentice only needs to resubmit work against the specific knowledge, skills or behaviours that weren't achieved in their first / previous attempt;
- + The apprentice will need to resit if any grade cluster is not met. If no grade clusters are met for an assessment, the apprentice will need to retake it;
- + The overall apprenticeship grade will be capped at a Pass if resit or retake is required, unless at least 11 grade clusters had been met to distinction level prior to resit.



## “ What apprentices think of our service

“My conversation with my assessor was rigorous, encouraging, and a wonderful invitation to me to think through aspects of my pedagogy. I found it a great experience.”

“Advice is clear and timely and my queries have been resolved on the same day. Excellent support from the team.”

“My academic assessor was fantastic - so supportive and friendly which enabled me to perform to my best and she gave great constructive feedback.”

### Our team

**Celia Brigg, Head of Quality and Memberships:** Providing strategic oversight to Advance HE's role as an EPAO.

**Dan Amin, Quality and EPA Manager:** Operational lead of the EPA service, assuring quality compliance and enhancement. Responsible for direct engagement with employers, providers and apprentices on service-related matters.

**Abigail Lee, EPA Executive:** Management of EPA software, communication functions, and supporting the EPA process.

**Chris Purdham, Quality Executive:** Develops new and existing software to ensure a high level EPA service is offered.

### Good news stories from apprentices

We have recently published a number of pieces from successful apprentices that have come through Advance HE's End Point Assessment. [You can view all of our EPA stories here.](#)

Below you will find one of our recent stories:

***“Rediscovering the power of feedback and reflection in driving improvement”***

Emma Wood is a Lecturer in Marketing at the University of Exeter Business School and recently completed the Academic Professional Apprenticeship programme where she achieved distinctions in all three elements of the course.

[Find out how she found the process in this interview with her.](#)



### Want to find out more?

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👉 [www.advance-he.ac.uk/epa-systems-thinking](http://www.advance-he.ac.uk/epa-systems-thinking)

