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Issue #5



SCIENCE
APPRENTICESHIP FORUM

SAF Newsletter

The latest news, views and announcements

Letter from the Forum

Dear members,

We're excited to share that the *Best Practice Guidelines for Science Apprenticeships* is now officially released! This resource brings together key insights, strategies, and proven approaches to help ensure apprentices in the science sector receive the support they need to thrive.

We couldn't have made the document without all of your support and feedback. Your contributions—through shared experiences, thoughtful comments, and collaborative dialogue—have shaped a guide we hope will serve as a valuable tool for apprenticeship providers, employers, and mentors alike.

To celebrate the launch and continue the conversation, we hosted a Google Meet session with apprenticeship providers and employers who were eager to explore the document in more detail and discuss how to put its recommendations into action.

You can review the document for yourself [here!](#)

Thank you again for your incredible input and commitment to improving science apprenticeships.



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

Apprenticeship Vacancies

There are currently a number of exciting apprenticeship vacancies available with various employers, offering fantastic opportunities to earn while you learn.

These roles are within the scientific sector and are delivered in partnership with **Manchester Metropolitan University**. Whether you're looking to kick-start your career or take the next step in your professional development, these vacancies provide a strong pathway supported by expert teaching and real-world experience.

[Kindeva Drug Delivery - Analytical Services Apprentice](#)

[Altus Science Ltd - Laboratory Technician Apprenticeship](#)

The Science Council Needs You!

The Science Council is looking for more case studies of registered apprentices (i.e., RSci/RScitech).

*If you are interested in getting involved, please email: [**I.flint@sciencecouncil.org**](mailto:I.flint@sciencecouncil.org)*



Calls-to-Action (CTA)

TikTok Content Creator Wanted

Are you a creative, social-media-savvy individual who loves making engaging videos? The Science Apprenticeship Forum is looking for a TikTok Helper to create fun and informative content about science apprenticeships!

What you'll do:

- Film short videos in the workplace
- Interview apprentices and professionals
- Edit and post engaging TikToks
- Help grow our audience

All you need is a passion for storytelling and social media! Work around your own schedule, network with like-minded individuals, and build evidence for your KSBs!

What's not to love?

Interested? Please contact **Erin** at scienceapprenticeshipforum@gmail.com



Apprentice of the Month: Srishimeerra Srinathan



Congratulations to Shime Srinathan, our Apprentice of the Month! Shime is a Level 6 Food Technical Professional at Food Forward Consultancy Ltd, working to bridge the gap between passionate food entrepreneurs and technical compliance. With a background influenced by her mum's work in the food industry providing technical support and mentoring and a deep interest in how food choices are shaped, she's helping SMEs thrive in the complex world of food safety and regulation.

In addition to this newsletter feature, she will also receive a certificate to share with her workplace.

To get involved in the next '**Apprentice of the Month**', see more information on page 5!

Apprentice Spotlight: Srishimeerra Srinathan

Q: What sparked your interest in the food industry?

A: Food impacts our everyday lives and choices. I became curious about how things like advertising and packaging influence buying habits. My mum, who works in the food industry, often shared insights that got me thinking about the science behind it all.

Q: What does your role involve day-to-day?

A: I support a range of clients with compliance—everything from supplier approval to sustainability and traceability. It's a mix of email queries, scheduled tasks, and site visits (usually 3-4 a month). The aim is to make systems simple and seamless.



Apprentice Spotlight: Srishimeerra Srinathan

Q: What challenges have you faced?

A: Many SMEs lack budget for technical help. My focus is on creating easy-to-follow systems they can manage themselves, without sacrificing compliance.

Q: How has your apprenticeship helped you grow?

A: It's been hands-on from day one. I've built confidence, especially through face-to-face work, and learned how to adapt big industry practices for smaller businesses.

Q: Have you developed any unexpected skills?

A: Definitely confidence—especially in communication. I now work closely with a wide range of passionate business owners and better understand their needs.

Q: What are your career goals for the future?

A: I'd like to delve deeper into auditing and mentoring. I'm especially drawn to more niche areas like cheese and biscuits—there's always more to learn!

Q: What advice would you give to someone considering an apprenticeship in your field?

A: Get involved, be curious, and stay adaptable. Learn from everyone around you and make the most of every opportunity—you're in charge of your own development.

Apprentice of the Month Nominations!

We're celebrating our amazing apprentices by featuring those who go above and beyond—whether through outstanding performance, teamwork, or workplace impact. Nominate a deserving apprentice by sharing their achievements and help us highlight the incredible talent in our community!

Use the link [here](#) to nominate now!



Key Updates

Apprenticeship Funding Updates - England

The UK government has announced updates to its apprenticeship funding policy in England, effective from 1 August 2025. Key changes include the introduction of shorter apprenticeships with a minimum duration of eight months, aimed at addressing skill gaps in sectors such as green energy, healthcare, and the film industry. The requirement for apprentices over 19 to have GCSE-equivalent English and maths has been removed, which could increase participation. Employers may receive up to £2,000 for offering new foundation apprenticeships. The government also plans to reform the apprenticeship levy into a broader “growth and skills levy,” with proposed restrictions on using funds for higher-level apprenticeships. While the changes are intended to shift focus toward entry-level training and broader workforce participation, some businesses have raised concerns about reduced flexibility for investing in senior-level skills development.

For more information, visit the website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apprenticeship-funding/apprenticeship-funding>

Nine in ten Level 7 apprentices will now be ineligible for funding

The UK government's decision to restrict funding for Level 7 (master's level) apprenticeships to individuals aged 21 and under, effective from January 2026, will render approximately 89% of current apprentices ineligible for financial support. This policy shift aims to redirect resources toward lower-level apprenticeships for younger entrants. However, critics argue it disproportionately affects public sector roles and limits access to advanced qualifications for individuals from underrepresented backgrounds. In the 2023–24 academic year, only 11% of Level 7 apprenticeship starters were under 22, highlighting the policy's broad impact. Despite warnings from employers and educators about potential negative consequences on public services and social mobility, the government is proceeding with the funding changes.

Read the article here:

<https://feweek.co.uk/nine-in-ten-level-7-apprentices-will-be-ineligible-for-funding-new-figures-reveal/>



Upcoming Events / Dates:

LGBTQ+ Pride Month

June 2025

Learning Disability Week

16-22 June 2025

Any Other Business (AOB):

Science Apprenticeship Forum Membership Form

As we continue to enhance the way we support and connect with our community, we kindly ask all members to complete the new SAF membership form. This will help us ensure we have the most accurate and up-to-date information about your members.

You can find the form [here!](#)

