

Graduate Apprenticeships

Guidance – Employer Information SAAS

Date: 1st June 2021

Graduate Apprenticeships

Background

Graduate Apprenticeships have been created in partnership with industry and the further and higher education sectors. These apprenticeships combine academic knowledge with skills development which enables participants to become more effective and productive in the workplace.

Employer Recruitment of a Graduate Apprentice

Now that you have decided to recruit a Graduate Apprentice, you should note that for learners starting their course from June 2021, there is a new and additional step for you and your candidate to consider as part of your recruitment process.

Your employee/candidate will be required to complete an application to the Student Award Agency Scotland (SAAS) for funding to cover the tuition fees for their programme on an annual basis.

Eligibility for a place on a Graduate Apprenticeship remains **at the advice of the university** and applying for SAAS funding will not be part of the eligibility checks. The university will review candidate eligibility in advance of the SAAS application. Applying for SAAS funding for tuition fees for the first time is a simple process for the employee and once they are in the SAAS system, it is even simpler in subsequent years.

Eligibility

Eligibility for a place on a Graduate Apprenticeship remains **at the advice of the university**. The university that your employee/candidate will attend as a Graduate Apprentice, will be able to advise if your candidate meets their entry criteria, is eligible to participate and what they need to do next to apply for tuition fees from SAAS.

As in previous years, the university will refer to their entry requirements and use their Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) procedure to advise you if your Graduate Apprentice applicants meet the academic eligibility conditions. The time for this should be built into your recruitment process.

It is advised that employers share their employees/candidate's current qualifications and experience with the university prior to issuing a Graduate Apprenticeship employment offer to ensure they meet the entry and funding criteria.

The only eligibility check that will be carried out by SAAS will be to check if your preferred candidate meets the residency requirements by being domiciled in Scotland for the duration of their GA programme. Eligibility for tuition fees for a Graduate Apprenticeship is not based on household income. However, to be eligible for funding the individual must meet SAAS residence conditions and be on a Graduate Apprenticeship course they fund. Visit www.saas.gov.uk for more information.

Once the university has confirmed eligibility, your employee/candidate should then apply to SAAS for tuition fees. The decision on eligibility for a Graduate Apprenticeship programme has not changed with the suitability of a candidate being decided by the University.

For more information on the details of SAAS funding eligibility criteria you can visit the SAAS website using the following link. <https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/graduate-apprenticeships>

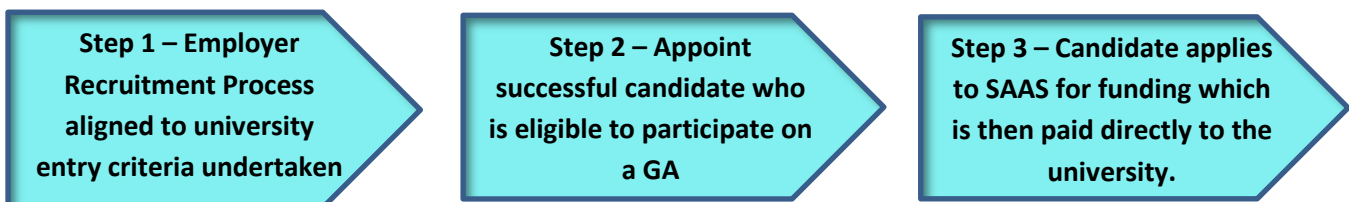
Please note **only** Graduate Apprentices **starting** their courses in session **2021-22** onwards need apply.

Tuition Fees

SAAS will pay the tuition fees directly to the learner's college or university. A Graduate Apprentice Learners starting from June 2021 onwards must apply to SAAS **each** academic year prior to the start date of their course resuming.

To prevent any delay, your employee/candidate should apply for SAAS funding as soon as possible after their GA place has been confirmed.

Employer Steps (Step 3 should only be taken after candidate eligibility has been confirmed with the university)



If you need further information, you should contact the college or university your Graduate Apprentice will attend who will be able to advise.