



AO-Forum presentation at: <https://www.awardingorganisation.com/archive/>

LabourList blog: latest policy vibes ... <https://labourlist.org/2024/04/what-labour-manifesto-2024-election-policies-party/>

Labour's Five Missions: <https://labour.org.uk/missions/>

Help! There's An Election Coming And I Want To Know What Might Happen So I Can Make Plans At My Awarding Body!

What will happen in the education sector over the coming years? If the Labour Party wins the next general election how will the landscape change? Will they tinker with vocational qualifications or apprenticeships? At the recent AO-Forum Conference on 1st May, Steve Besley of EdCentral considered the latest hints, clues and vibes buried in Labour's most recent mission statements, which include:

- "... the creation of Technical Excellence Colleges"
- "... an intention to transform the apprenticeship levy"
- "Higher paid jobs through better skills, apprenticeships and training"
- "Expand apprenticeships and skills training to spread opportunity for all"

These policy fragments provide some small insight as to the direction of travel: the word "apprenticeship" is referenced far more than "qualifications" showing where a future government's emphasis might lie, regardless of their colours. Changes to the levy would be gratefully received by many employers, but it's heartening to note that no modifications to EPAs have been mentioned as yet – which will be music to the ears of those who have invested heavily in this area.

Each party's manifesto will be published when the date of the general election is announced and AO-Forum members will be the first to hear when details are available.

International Opportunities

At the recent AO-Forum Conference, one of the key speakers was Jenny Patrickson, Managing Director of Active IQ. Her talk provided some very interesting figures ...



Jenny's AO-Forum presentation is at: <https://www.awardingorganisation.com/archive/>

Year	Number of certificates
2019 to 2020	4,880,120
2020 to 2021	5,776,325
2021 to 2022	6,732,000
2022 to 2023	8,552,050

Number of certifications of regulated qualifications awarded outside the UK

With 2022/2023 certificates 27% higher than the previous year, international business is obviously in a period of significant growth. AOs have a wealth of existing content and expertise – and UK education is seen around the world as credible and assured. Follow the link on the left to see Jenny's thoughts on approaches, risks, benefits or if you wish to contact Jenny with a view to partnering overseas.



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Qualification Wales – Funding Opportunities

QW are proactively seeking applications from AOs which provides a great opportunity to access a market of over three million people. There are now 91 awarding bodies recognised by Qualification Wales and this number is growing each year.

You are able to seek designation or approval for your qualifications, thereby making them eligible for use on publicly funded programmes for learners under the age of 19, and recognition provides the region's centres with the assurance that you are able to develop and offer high-quality qualifications.

Are you already regulated by Ofqual? The effort to also achieve QW recognition is relatively low as the Conditions of Recognition are very similar.

If you wish to see a list of the differences in the two sets of Conditions then email me at ben@gordonassociates.co.uk – we are able to easily export a list from our Monarch compliance system and send them over to you.

Follow the link on the left to see Elaine Carlile's slides and how to contact her for more information.