

Transitional arrangements relating to Key Skills in Wales within Apprenticeship Frameworks

Additional Guidance for Framework Developers

Key Skill Qualifications in Wales have announced a new set of requirements regarding how Key Skills within Apprenticeship Frameworks are to operate in the future. The information below clarifies the circumstances when they can be accepted as part of an apprenticeship framework.

The requirements are:

- Candidates who register for Key Skills (KS) qualifications before **31st August 2010** and achieve before **31st August 2011** can use these for framework completion.
- Candidates who start a new Apprenticeship Framework issued after **September 2010**, but who already -
- Hold a Key Skills qualification in the particular ESW skill and at the correct level; or
- Who are already registered on a Key Skills qualification and will achieve by **31st August 2011**; will have the KS achievement recognised against the ESW requirement.

The important point is that there are no proxies, no exemptions or relaxation allowances for ESW. All the information on ESW is available on the Welsh Assembly Government website via the following link: It includes an FAQ paper which notes that there will be no proxies for ESW.

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/learningproviders/essentialskillswales/?lang=en>

For SASW compliant frameworks, Key Skills qualifications (at the same level and subject) will be accepted as alternatives to Essential Skills Wales qualifications, where they have been achieved before **31st August 2011**. The current 'five year' rule does not apply, as this only refers to the current 'relaxation' ruling for Key Skills. There is no such ruling for the relationship between Key Skill qualifications and ESW and therefore, whilst it is unlikely that someone will present with these qualifications post 2016, there is no time limit within unless there are Ministerial changes to the SASW and supporting policies.

Blueprint frameworks	Framework issue date	
	<i>Issued before 1 Sept 2010</i>	<i>Issued after 1 Sept 2010</i>
Key Skills Qualifications	Accepted when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011	Accepted only when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011
Key Skill Proxies	Accepted for ICT only - when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011	Accepted for ICT only - when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011
Essential Skills Wales (ESW) Qualifications	Accepted – when registered from 1 st September 2010	Accepted

SASW frameworks	Framework issue date	
	<i>Issued before Sept 2011</i>	<i>Issued after Sept 2011</i>
Key Skills Qualifications	Accepted and recognised as ESW achievement if at the same level and subject for the framework - when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011	Accepted and recognised as ESW achievement if at the same level and subject for the framework – only when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011
Key Skill Proxies	Accepted for ICT only - when registered before 31 st August 2010 and achieved by 31 st August 2011	Not accepted
ESW Qualifications	Accepted	Accepted