**Independent Technical Education Advisers - Description**

DfE is inviting applications to work as Independent Technical Education Advisers, on three areas of policy implementation.

1. Qualification reviews

Since the Wolf Review in 2011, the DfE has implemented an annual process to identify which high quality technical qualifications should count in performance tables. These include:

• level 1/2 Technical Awards for 14-16 year olds;

• level 2 Technical Certificates for post-16 students;

• level 3 Tech Levels for 16-19 year olds; and

• level 3 Applied General qualifications for 16-19 year olds.

The process for awarding organisations to submit technical and applied qualifications for the 2020 performance tables will open in autumn 2017. Advisers will advise on reviews of these qualifications, to make evidence-based recommendations as to whether individual qualifications meet the requirements for inclusion in performance tables.

2. Apprenticeships

The 2012 review of apprenticeships recommended a number of reforms to increase the quality and sustainability of the system. As apprenticeships become increasingly employer-led, both in design and control through the introduction of the levy, groups of employers (trailblazers) are coming together and developing apprenticeship standards and assessment plans to replace existing frameworks. Educational Advisers will consider the suitability of proposed assessment plans, and provide relevant advice to the Institute for Apprenticeships.

3. T level content development

In the context of Lord Sainsbury’s report on Technical Education, the government is introducing new college-based courses and qualifications, known as T levels. These will be developed through panels of professionals, appointed to ensure that the new qualifications meet the expectations of employers. The first panels are expected to begin work in Autumn 2017. Working with the panels, Advisers will develop outline content, and qualification criteria, on the basis of panels’ decisions about required knowledge, skills and behaviours, the Advisers will develop outline content for qualifications, beginning with core content for each route. Advisers will engage the panel in further discussion and work closely with them, in particular with the panel chair, to agree the content which will be submitted for approval within deadlines set by DfE. Advisers will also work with DfE officials and with other DfE-appointed experts to produce full criteria for these qualifications, including assessment arrangements.

Requirements

Advisers need to have a strong knowledge of technical and applied education, including qualification content and assessment design, development, approval and delivery. This includes a strong broad knowledge of technical education reforms and the Government’s current proposals for T levels, as well as apprenticeships. Advisers need experience of reviewing assessment methods to ensure they holistically test skills, knowledge and behaviours, as well as writing clear succinct documents for publication. Advisers will be required to provide recommendations to relevant teams and external stakeholders, and to work closely with civil servants to meet the requirements of Ministers and government policy. The work will begin in Autumn 2017 and is likely to continue until Summer 2019. We expect to appoint up to ten advisers.

The maximum daily rate is £600 (Band B), including expenses and excluding VAT, where VAT is applicable.