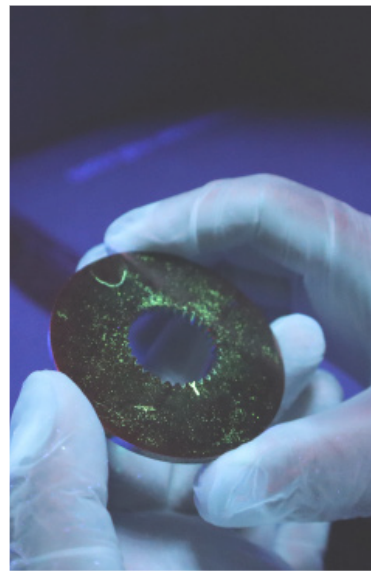




NDT APPRENTICESHIP PROVIDER



LAVENDER INTERNATIONAL

QUALITY, FLEXIBILITY & TRUST



NDT Apprenticeships

Lavender International provides specialised training in Non-Destructive Testing (NDT), a critical area within engineering. In August 2023, we became the only external training provider in the UK offering NDT-specific apprenticeship schemes tailored to regional and national employer needs.

We offer two apprenticeship schemes including the Level 2 Operator and Level 3 Non-Destructive Technologies Technician programmes. We collaborate with over 50 employers, from SMEs to large organisations, to support new and emerging talent on nuclear build projects such as Hinkley Point C.

Our mission is to provide an outstanding apprenticeship programmes that support the industrial needs and development of the NDT sector. We want to ensure each apprentice will not only achieve success, but will also mature within their profession, preparing them to become the leaders of tomorrow.

LEVEL 2 NDT OPERATOR

- This programme takes around **14 – 18 months** to complete and includes one NDT method of your choice at Level 2 (PCN or EN4179).
- An NDT Operator works as part of an inspection team, undertaking NDT method inspection to pre-defined NDT work instructions and reporting findings through quality management processes.

LEVEL 3 NON-DESTRUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES TECHNICIAN

- This programme takes between **24 - 28 months** to complete and includes three NDT methods of your choice at Level 2 (PCN or EN4179), including at least one complex method that is assessed at the EPA.
- The role of the Non Destructive Technologies Technician involves supervisory responsibility of NDT Operators. They will oversee, validate, and audit inspections and manage projects through to completion.



THE SET-UP OF THE TECHNICIAN'S SCHEME WITH LAVENDERS WAS BRILLIANT... PLANNING AND RE-ARRANGING ELEMENTS OF THE TRAINING AROUND OUR EMERGING NEEDS. A VERY RESPONSIVE AND STRONG PARTNERSHIP HAS BEEN FORMED, WITH EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE PROVIDED. "

- ROLLS ROYCE

Delivery

Through innovative programme design, strong employer collaboration, and commitment to apprentices' success, Lavender are setting new standards in engineering training. We deliver high quality, hands-on training each month, including residential courses that provide apprentices with realistic inspection workshops to practice inspections that meet NDT standards.

We recruit tutors with extensive experience in Aerospace, Defence, Nuclear, and Marine industries. Each tutor is highly qualified in multiple NDT methods, providing hands-on training with the latest equipment. This approach ensures apprentices develop real-world skills to meet industry demands.

We will guide the apprentice through functional skills, the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required by the standard and a choice of NDT certification courses, ensuring a smooth transition from gateway and the End Point Assessment.



APPRENTICESHIP DELIVERY

- The programmes are tailored to suit employers' and apprentices individual needs, providing the apprentice with the knowledge, skills, behaviours and NDT method relevant to the workplace.
- Prior learning and experience is assessed before enrolment. This assessment will compare the apprentice's existing knowledge, skills and behaviours to those required by the Apprenticeship Standard.
- Our flexible delivery model and training plan will include work-based training and mentoring, online learning, Maths and English teaching where appropriate, Health & Safety training, remote support, practical work experience sessions and off-site residential courses at our training facilities in Rotherham and Sheffield.
- Every apprentice will be allocated a dedicated NDT tutor who visits their workplace monthly. They will support the apprentice with teaching, learning and skills development, project choice and preparation for the end point assessment as well as offering guidance throughout.

ELIGIBILITY

Ideally apprentices should hold a minimum of two GCSEs at grade 4 (or equivalent) including English and Maths.

Apprentices without Level 2 Maths and/or English aged 16-18 will have to complete an English and Maths functional skills qualification.

Apprentices without Level 2 Maths and/or English who begin training aged 19 or older have the option to complete their Functional Skills.

They will be supported by our Functional Skills specialist who will provide additional training during the programme.

They must also satisfy the minimum vision requirement.

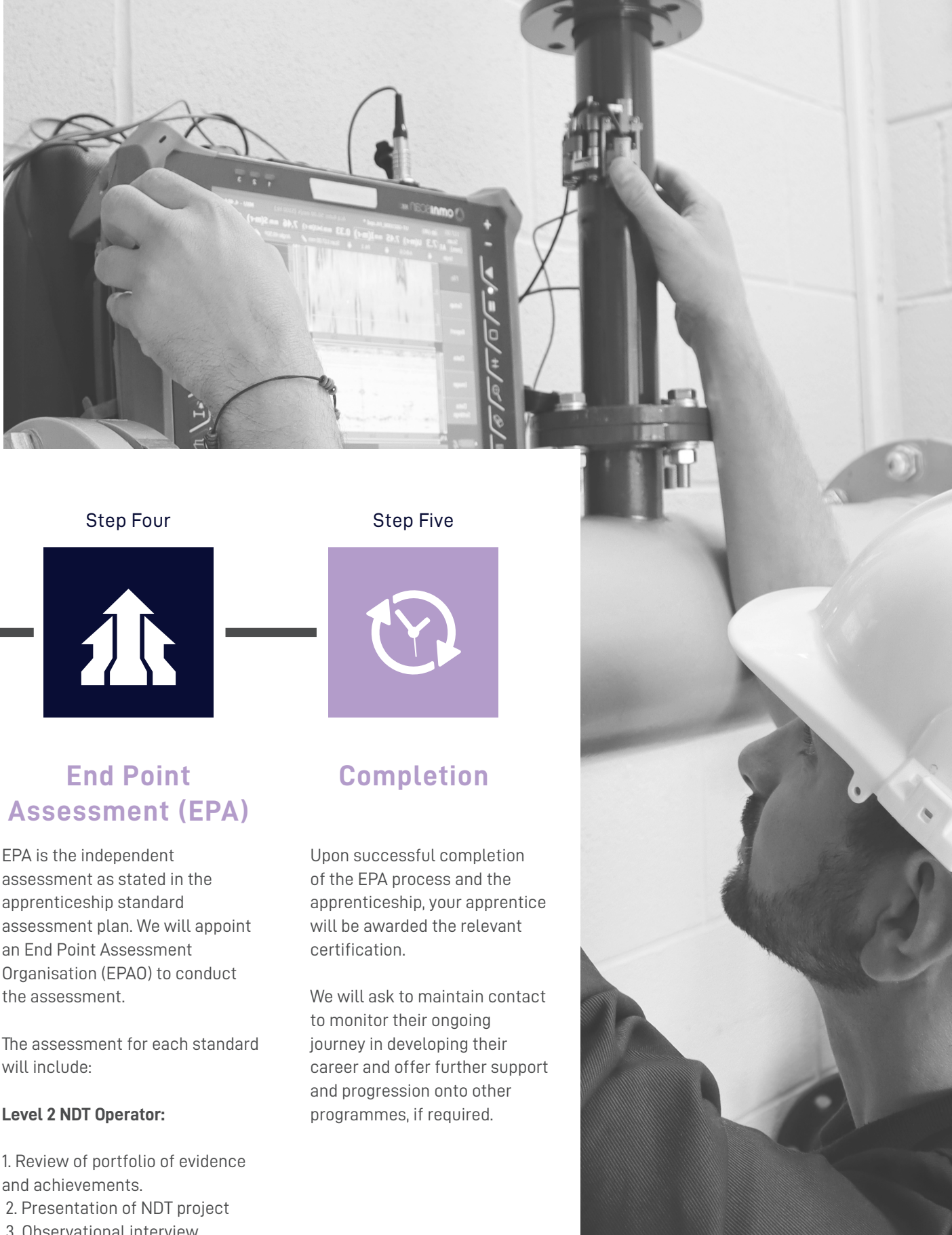
Apprentices will be expected to undergo a visual acuity and colour perception test.

Apprenticeship Process

■ A Summary of the Apprenticeship Process

This outlines significant phases of the apprenticeship journey, starting with the initial assessment through to completion of the programme. The delivery of the scheme requires collaboration among three essential stakeholders: the apprentice, the training provider and the employer, ensuring successful completion of the programme.





Step Four



End Point Assessment (EPA)

EPA is the independent assessment as stated in the apprenticeship standard assessment plan. We will appoint an End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) to conduct the assessment.

The assessment for each standard will include:

Level 2 NDT Operator:

1. Review of portfolio of evidence and achievements.
2. Presentation of NDT project
3. Observational interview.

Level 3 Non-Destructive Technologies Technician:

1. Interview underpinned by portfolio of evidence.
2. Third advanced NDT method examination.

Step Five



Completion

Upon successful completion of the EPA process and the apprenticeship, your apprentice will be awarded the relevant certification.

We will ask to maintain contact to monitor their ongoing journey in developing their career and offer further support and progression onto other programmes, if required.

Level 2 NDT Operator

The Level 2 NDT Operator apprenticeship is designed to develop the apprentice in inspecting components, materials, welds and other items within the manufacturing processes. The apprentice will be qualified to inspect one NDT inspection method, within manufacturing, in-service inspection or specialised applications such as NDT equipment development.

Training and delivery of the programme



Delivery

- ☐ Monthly 3 hour training sessions with a dedicated NDT tutor.
- ☐ Basic NDT awareness and principles.
- ☐ Product Technology.
- ☐ British Values, Diversity and Inclusion, Health & Safety, teamwork and communication.
- ☐ Training on project management skills to create a report.
- ☐ Knowledge, skills and behaviours for one NDT method.
- ☐ Specific supplementary and aligned knowledge associated with the NDT method.
- ☐ The training delivery adopts a hybrid approach with a mixture of face-to-face and remote delivery.

Apprentices tasks to prepare for Endpoint Assessment

- ☐ Build the portfolio of evidence with witness statements, inspection reports, H&S certificates, annotated photographs of defects, written instructions, risk assessments, Gantt chart and toolbox talks.
- ☐ Record the planned off-the-job training hours towards their apprenticeship.
- ☐ Record supervised work experience to gain certification.
- ☐ Write a 3000 project report.
- ☐ Revise for the chosen NDT method course including completing online training modules.

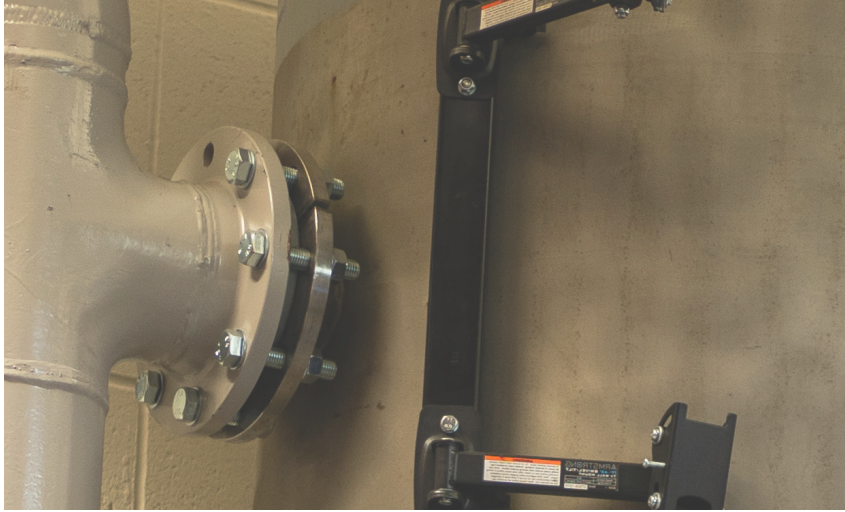
NDT Certification

Lavender International will provide the chosen specific NDT Method training and examinations at around 10 months.

This will take place in one of our dedicated training centres in Rotherham or Sheffield. The certification gained will be in accordance with national and international standards.

Select **ONE Level 2 method** from the following:

- ☐ **Magnetic Testing**
- ☐ **Penetrant Testing**
- ☐ **Visual Inspection**
- ☐ **Eddy Current**
- ☐ **Ultrasonic Testing**
- ☐ **Radiography**



End-Point Assessment

Review of portfolio of Evidence and Achievements

A review of all evidence and achievements will be carried out, including mapping the outcomes to the requirements of the Apprenticeship Standard. This includes reviewing the 3000 word project report, course attendance, end-of-course test, examination results, log book of on-the-job training, CPD, awards, certificates and employer's reports and assessments. The review of the portfolio of evidence and achievements will be tested at the observational interview (**professional discussion**).

Observational Interview (Professional Discussion)

The observational interview will ensure that the apprentice has achieved all aspects of the apprenticeship standard. This will include all technical requirements, behaviours and health & safety. Challenging the evidence provided in the 'Review of Evidence and Achievements'.

The panel will comprise two Engineering Council registrants, trained as interviewers and knowledgeable in NDT and the apprenticeship process.

Project Showcase - Presentation of NDT Project

The apprentice will give a comprehensive presentation of the NDT project. The presentation will establish that the project, which has been designed to encompass as many requirements of the apprenticeship standard as possible, has been completed and that the requisite knowledge and skills have been achieved.

The duration of the Endpoint Assessment will last from 1 - 2 hours.

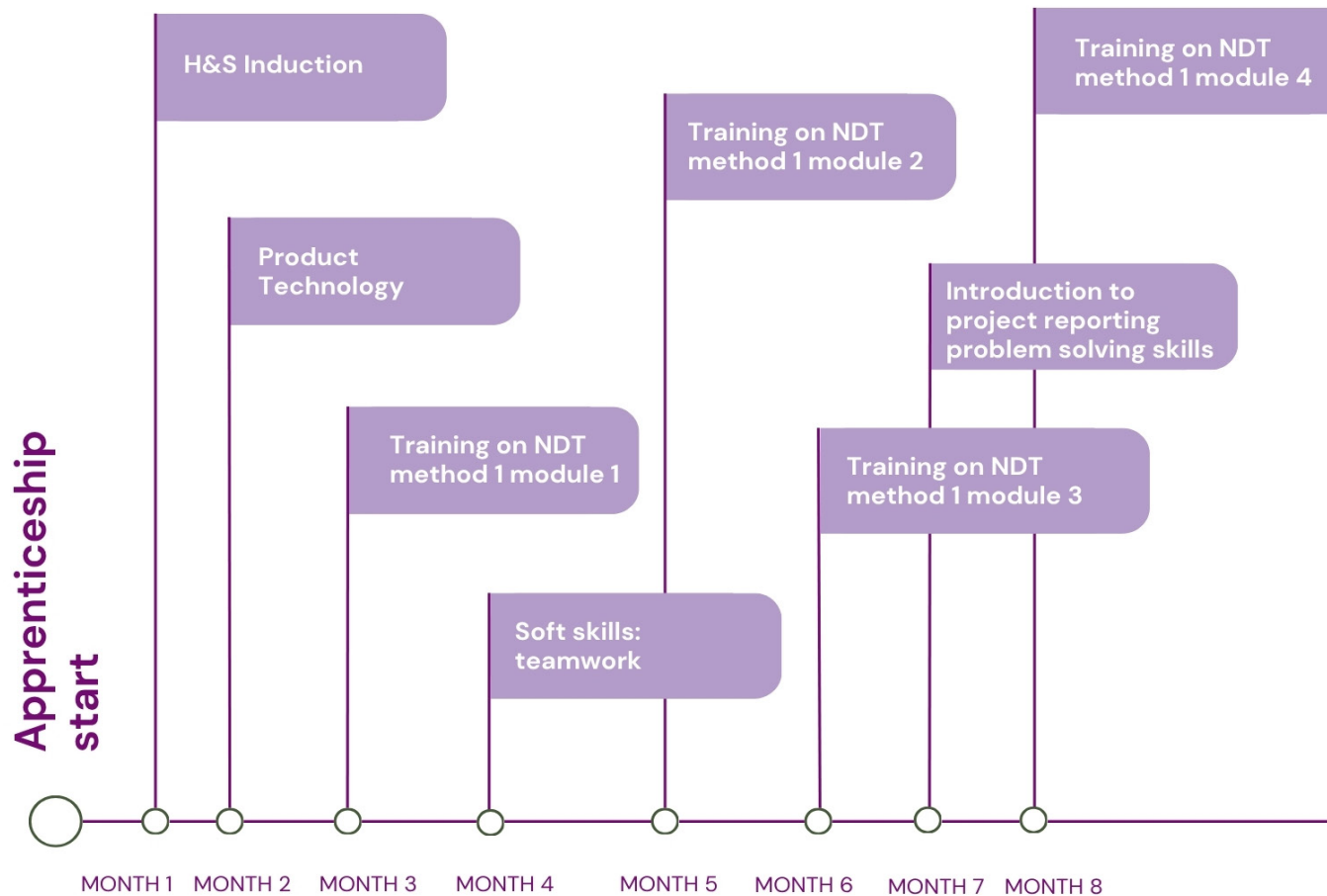


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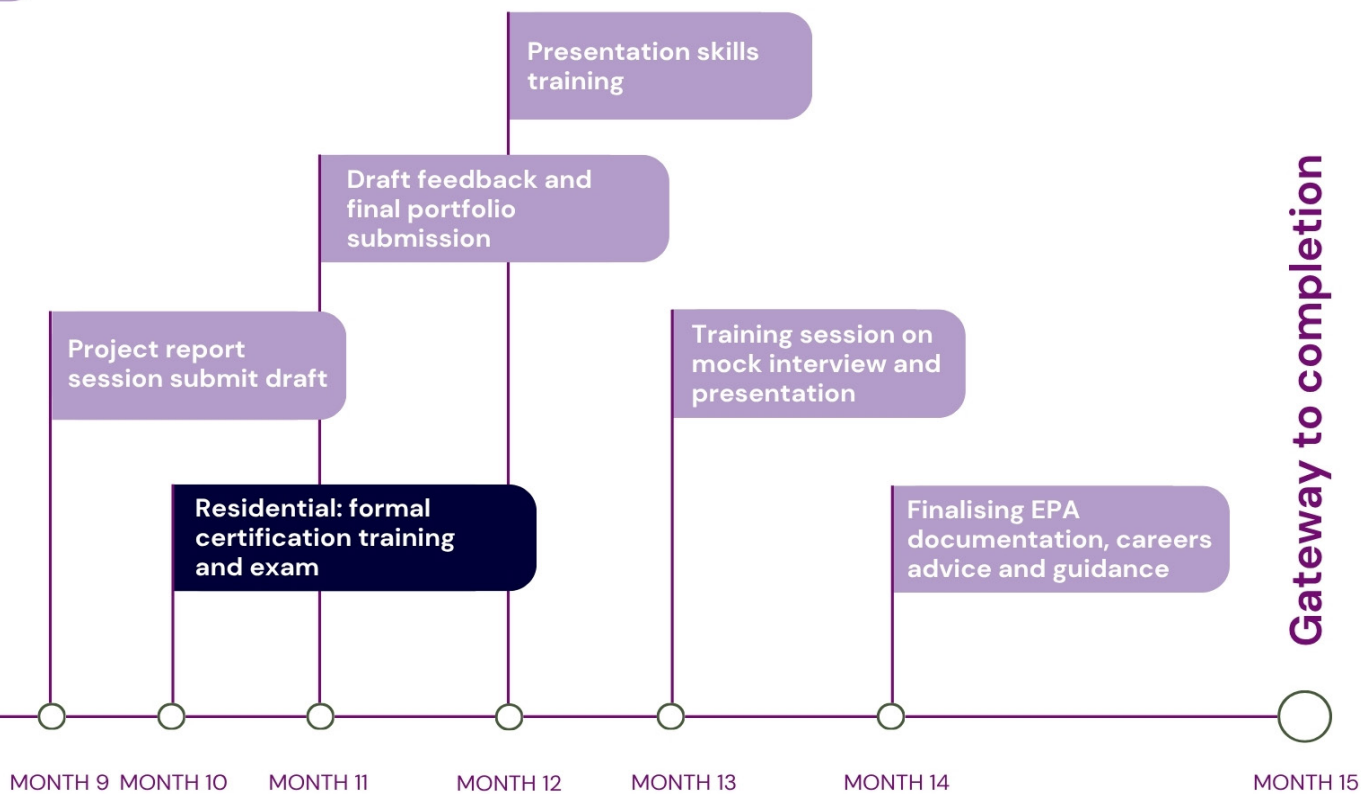
Delivery Milestones

■ Level 2 NDT Operator



METHOD DELIVERY

- NDT Method 1: The programme includes four modules, two of which are practical. If an advanced method is chosen, the programme will be extended by one month and will comprise five modules in total.



Apprenticeship Assessment – two components:

1. Project showcase presentation on project report (20 minutes)
2. Interview and Q&A underpinned by portfolio (1 hour)

Endpoint Assessment Process

EPA will cover a project showcase presentation on project report and an Interview and Q&A underpinned by portfolio.

Once both assessments have been completed the apprenticeship will be graded and awarded.

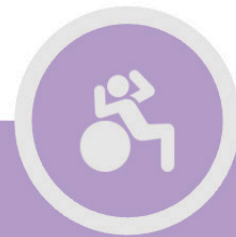
Pre-gateway



STEP A

Portfolio submitted and presentation completed in preparation for delivery.

A mock interview will also be conducted to prepare for the endpoint assessment.



STEP B

Tutor to conduct gateway review with apprentice and employer on final day of training

Learner enters gateway

Level 2 NDT Operator



Gateway



STEP 1

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The EPAO will contact the apprentice to arrange a date for your Endpoint Assessment, which is typically scheduled within one month of gateway approval.



STEP 2

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EPA will cover:

1. Project showcase presentation on project report (20 minutes)
2. Interview and Q&A underpinned by portfolio (1 hour)



STEP 3

.....

EPAO will mark the Endpoint assessment.

Apprenticeship is graded and certificate awarded.

TOTAL DURATION FOR EPA: 1 MONTH

Level 3 Non-Destructive Technologies Technician

This apprenticeship is designed for NDT Technicians organise and co-ordinate the NDT activity. They test equipment, establish resources needed and assess the asset's condition. They collect samples, conduct NDT tests and analyse the outputs. NDT technicians' complete documentation, write reports and also coach and support other team members.

Training and delivery of the programme



Lead Provider Assessment

- ☐ Basic NDT awareness and principles.
- ☐ Environmental awareness, technological development and innovation in the engineering sector.
- ☐ Product Technology.
- ☐ **Producing an improvement plan.**
- ☐ British Values, Diversity and Inclusion, Health & Safety, Teamwork, Leadership and Project Management skills.
- ☐ Knowledge and practical skills for **three NDT methods.**
- ☐ The training adopts a hybrid approach with a mixture of face-to-face and remote delivery.

Apprentices tasks to prepare for EPA

- ☐ Build the portfolio of evidence with witness statements, inspection reports, H&S courses, online research on new technologies in NDT, gantt chart, risk assessments, CAD drawings, written instructions and annotated photographs.
- ☐ Record the planned off-the-job training hours towards their apprenticeship.
- ☐ Record supervised work experience to gain certification.
- ☐ Write an improvement plan on an area of the business.
- ☐ Revision for the chosen NDT methods including completing online training modules.

NDT Certification

Apprentices will be expected to undertake their first basic method certification at month 7. The second basic method will be taken at month 14 and the final complex method training will take place in month 22. Once the apprentice has entered 'gateway' they will sit their exam.

Select Three Level 2 methods (two basic, one complex) from the following:

- ☐ **Magnetic Testing**
- ☐ **Penetrant Testing**
- ☐ **Visual Inspection**
- ☐ **Eddy Current**
- ☐ **Ultrasonic Testing**
- ☐ **Radiography**
- ☐ **Phased Array**
- ☐ **TOFD**



End-Point Assessment

Review of portfolio of Evidence and Achievements

A review of all evidence and achievements will be carried out. This includes reviewing the improvement plan, course attendance, end-of-course test, examination results, log book of on-the-job training, CPD, awards, certificates and employer's reports and assessments.

The interview underpinned by a portfolio of evidence is taken, followed by the PCN or EN4179 Level 2 complex non-destructive technologies assessment. Once both assessments have been completed and the results are known and combined, the apprenticeship will be graded and awarded.

Interview underpinned by a portfolio of evidence

The interview will be structured to give the apprentice the opportunity to demonstrate the KSBs. They will assess competence against: planning work, project management, H&S, sustainability, equipment and materials, quality assurance, teamworking, leadership, digital and information technology and CPD.

The duration of the interview will last at least 75 minutes.

The panel will comprise of two interviewers knowledgeable in NDT and the apprenticeship process.

Level 2 complex non-destructive technologies qualification

This will be a two to three week assessment which will examine theory and practical tests associated with PCN or EN4179 Level 2 complex method.

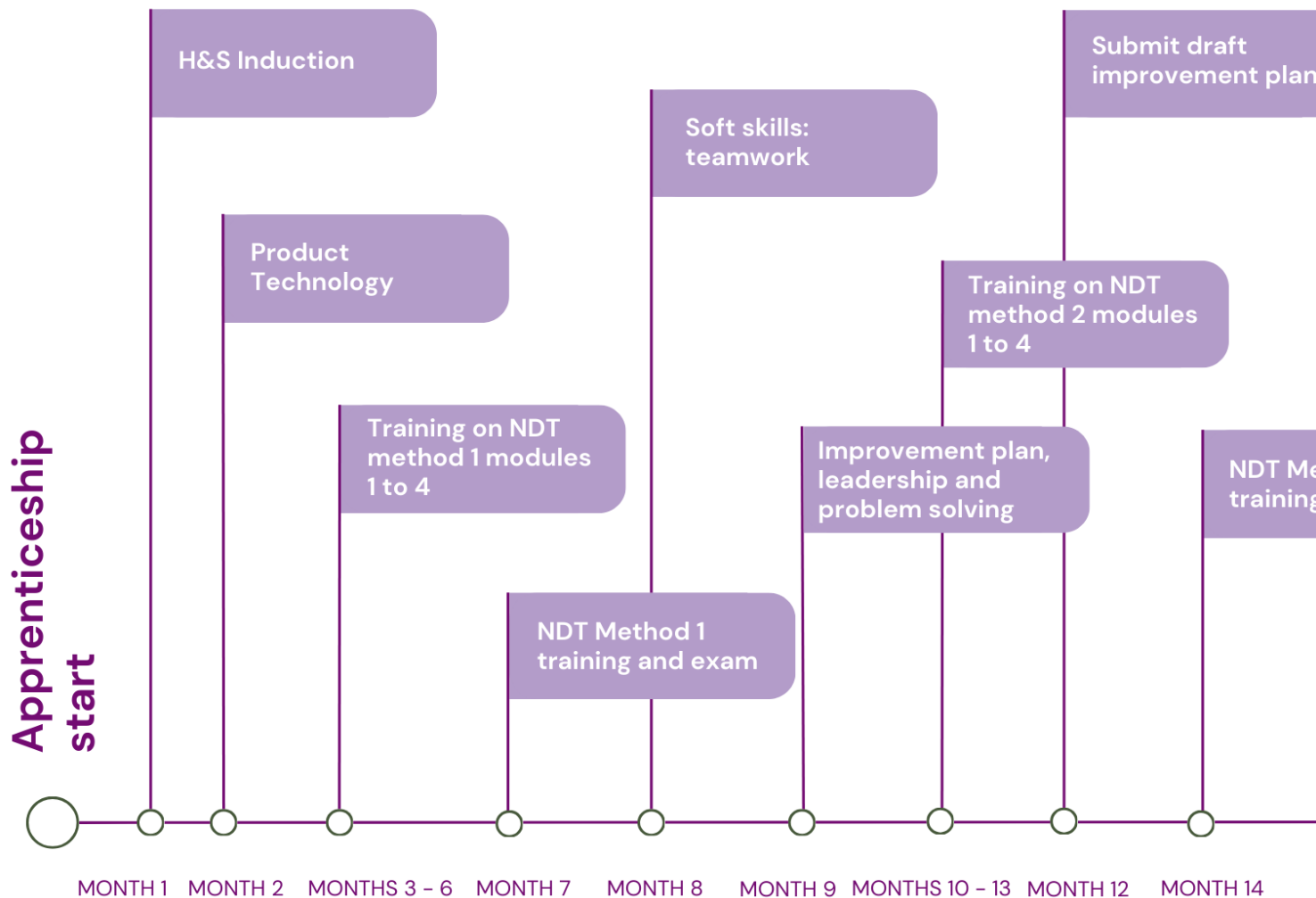


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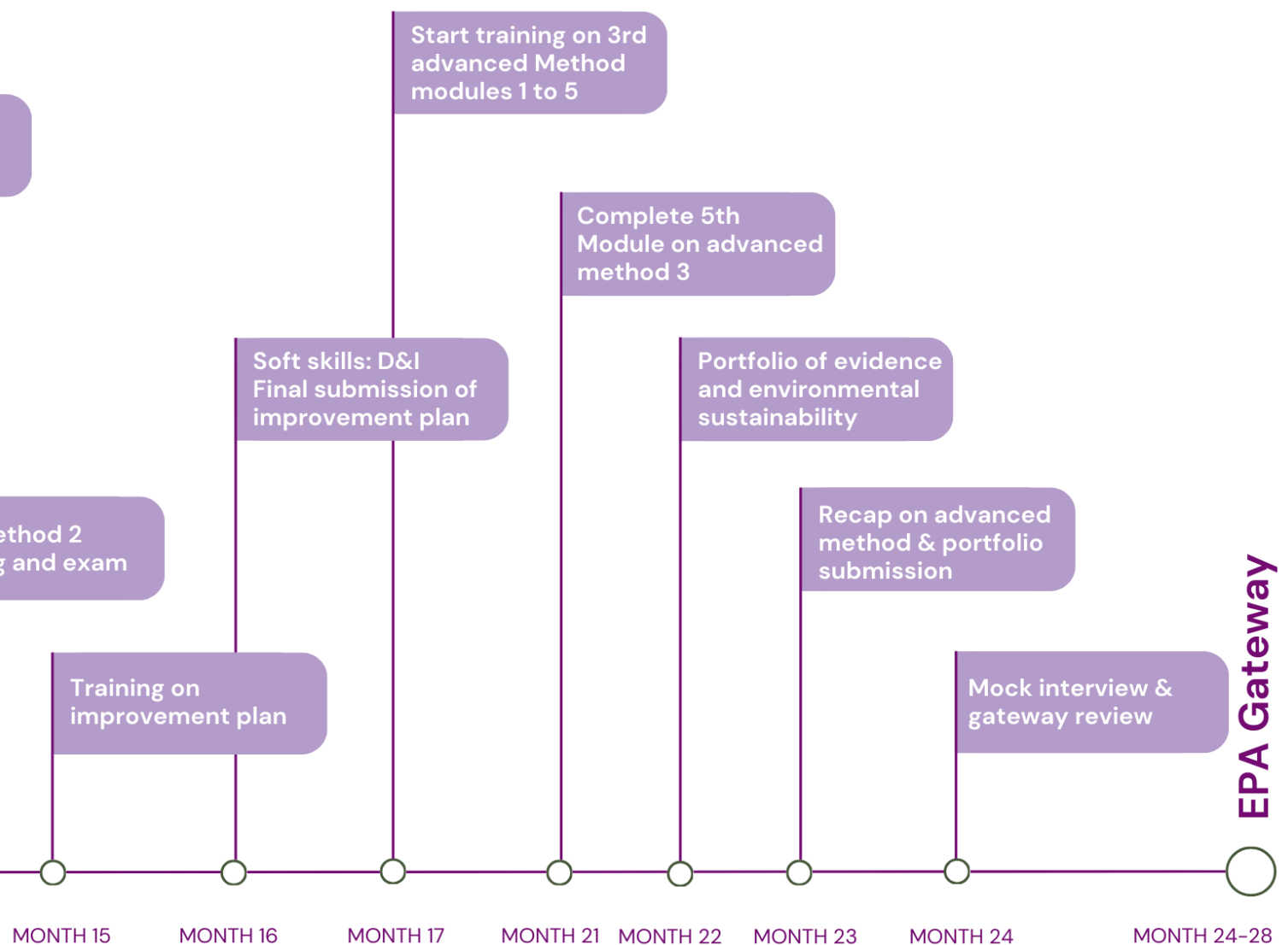
Delivery Milestones

Level 3 Non-Destructive Technologies Technician



METHOD DELIVERY

- NDT method 1, 4 x modules (including two practical)
- NDT method 2, 4 x modules (including two practical)
- NDT method 3, 5 x modules and 1 recap (including two practical)



EPA - two components:

- 1. Interview underpinned by portfolio of evidence**
- 2. 3rd advanced NDT assessment conducted**

Endpoint Assessment Process

The interview underpinned by a portfolio of evidence is taken, followed by the PCN or EN4179 Level 2 complex non-destructive technologies assessment.

Once both assessments have been completed and the results are known and combined, the apprenticeship will be graded and awarded.

Pre-gateway



Level 3 Non-Destructive Technologies Technician



Gateway



STEP 3

Complex Qualification assessment is taken once the apprentice has passed the interview.

The duration of this assessment is 3 to 4 weeks.



STEP 4

Results of complex qualification released. At this point any re-sits required for the qualification will be known, organised and carried out.

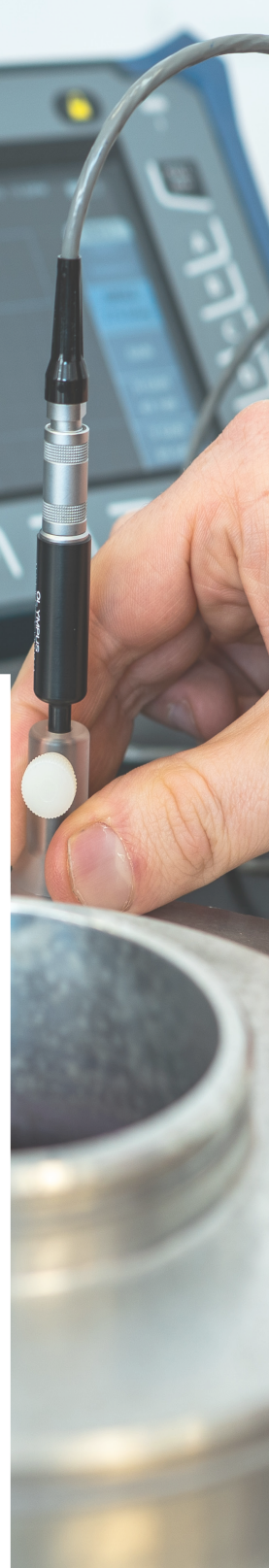


STEP 5

EPAOs receive complex qualification results and combine with interview results.

Apprenticeship is graded and certificate awarded.

**TOTAL DURATION FOR EPA: 4 MONTHS
(ALLOWING FOR RESITS)**



Maths & English



What is Functional Skills?

Functional skills focus on practical, real-life vital skills in Mathematics and English that are equivalent to GCSE.

- ❑ Apprentices without Level 2 Maths and/or English aged 16-18 will have to complete an English and Maths functional skills qualification.
- ❑ If an apprentice has not already achieved GCSE grade 4-9 (A-C) or equivalent, we can work with them to achieve their Functional Skills at Level 2 in one or both subjects.
- ❑ We carry out a diagnostic via our online learning tool BKSB, this will identify the level at which they are functioning and identify which areas need to be worked on. This will also determine what programme is most suited to the apprentices needs.
- ❑ The apprentice will then attend remote tutorials with our experienced Maths and English Tutor until they are ready to sit the exam.
- ❑ Depending on the apprentice's needs, we may provide intensive Maths and English sessions to support knowledge retention and help prepare for the examinations.

Why are these skills relevant to NDT?

Mathematics is essential in NDT, helping technicians perform accurate calculations, from determining magnetic currents to applying Snell's Law in Ultrasonic Testing for precise angle measurements.

Strong **English** skills are equally important, enabling clear communication, effective teamwork, and the ability to confidently read and understand technical standards and procedures. These skills are key to both workplace success and passing NDT exams.

Meet our dedicated functional skills tutor: Laura Young

Laura holds a Bachelor's degree in English and a PGCE with Qualified Teacher Status. With over 15 years of experience, she has taught learners of all abilities, including those with SEND and SEMH needs, across Key Stages 3 to 5.

She delivers engaging, well-structured lessons designed to motivate students and make learning objectives clear, using interactive and creative teaching methods.

At Lavender, Laura leads sessions in English and Maths, as well as essential soft skills such as teamwork, communication, and diversity and inclusion.



Examination Requirements

Functional Skills Maths

The Maths Functional Skills exam consists of two key elements:

Non-Calculator Examination

Calculator Examination

The exam is taken together, lasting 2.5 hours. It can be completed online or on paper, based on the apprentice's preferred learning style.

SEND learners will receive additional support as needed.

This includes extra time if required.

Functional Skills English

The English Functional Skills exam consists of three key components:

Speaking and Listening: Presentation and assessment

Writing: Written examination (1 hour)

Reading: Reading comprehension examination (1 hour)

The writing and reading exam can be taken together or on separate days. It can also be completed either online or on paper, depending on the apprentice's preferred learning style. SEND learners will receive additional support as needed.



When an apprentice has already achieved a GCSE grade 4-9 (A-C) or equivalent we will continue to support the improvement of their Maths and English skills.

The BKSB assessment will determine each individual's current skill level and provide a diagnostic report highlighting any areas for improvement. Based on this, the assigned NDT tutor will support the development of their English and Maths skills throughout the technical training. This will include topics such as geometry, physics, and trigonometry to support the analysis of materials and structures, along with exercises to enhance their ability to interpret data and communicate findings clearly and accurately.



LEARN THE LAVENDER WAY

UK Headquarters
Unit 7, Penistone Station
Sheffield
South Yorkshire
S36 6HP
T: +44(0) 1226 765769
E: apprenticeships@lavender-ndt.com

Advanced Manufacturing Park
Technology Centre, Brunel Way,
Rotherham
S60 5WG
T: +44(0) 1226 765769
E: apprenticeships@lavender-ndt.com



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