



End-Point Assessment Pricing Policy

Version	Date	Change(s) made	Section(s)	Publication source(s)
V1.0	May 2021	New Policy		Website

1. Purpose

This policy sets out Open Awards approach to pricing for end-point assessment (EPA) services. Open Awards aims to be clear and transparent in its practices and strives to offer value for money whilst maintaining its usual high level of service and quality.

2. Scope

This document relates to the provision of apprenticeship EPA services.

3. Regulatory Authorities

The relevant regulatory authorities are the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IFATE) and Ofqual. Every attempt has been made to ensure that the provisions of this document are consistent with the conditions of being on the Register of End-point Assessment Organisations (RoEPAO). Where the requirements change, or where inadvertently this policy conflicts with those conditions, the latter shall apply. Where the requirements of the conditions are amended and require changes to this document, such changes will be made as soon as practicable and Open Awards will inform stakeholders accordingly.

4. Audience

This policy is aimed at EPA customers, in particular employers and training providers but may be relevant to Open Awards staff, external quality assurance providers and regulators.

5. Approach to Setting Fees

In setting standard prices for EPA, Open Awards uses the relevant published Apprenticeship Standard and Assessment Plan to determine the assessment components required and with full consideration to deliverability and affordability. Assessment plans may indicate an expected cost as a percentage of the maximum funding band. EPA should not normally exceed 20% of the funding band and would normally be between 10% and 20%. Only eligible costs are included as per ESFA (Conditions for being on the register of end-point assessment organisations - GOV.UK) and a small element of profit as permissible by ESFA.

Eligible costs are costs:

- ✓ associated with the administration, registration and examination of EPA as set out in the standard(s), and their assessment plan(s)
- ✓ associated with providing guidance and support and the materials (non-capital items) used in the delivery of EPA (equipment or supplies necessary to enable the assessment to take place)
- ✓ associated with ensuring trained staff and appropriate premises are available to deliver EPA
- ✓ associated with the development and maintenance of assessment instruments and tools

- ✓ to support any special arrangements are put in place to ensure any apprentices with special educational needs, disabilities or with another temporary or permanent debilitating condition can fairly access EPA
- ✓ associated with any further assessment required by the apprentice to achieve EPA (for instance retakes or resits)
- ✓ associated with ensuring consistent and robust internal quality assurance (for instance moderation and standardisation of assessment instruments and tools, assessors and assessment decisions)
- ✓ including any EQA charges.

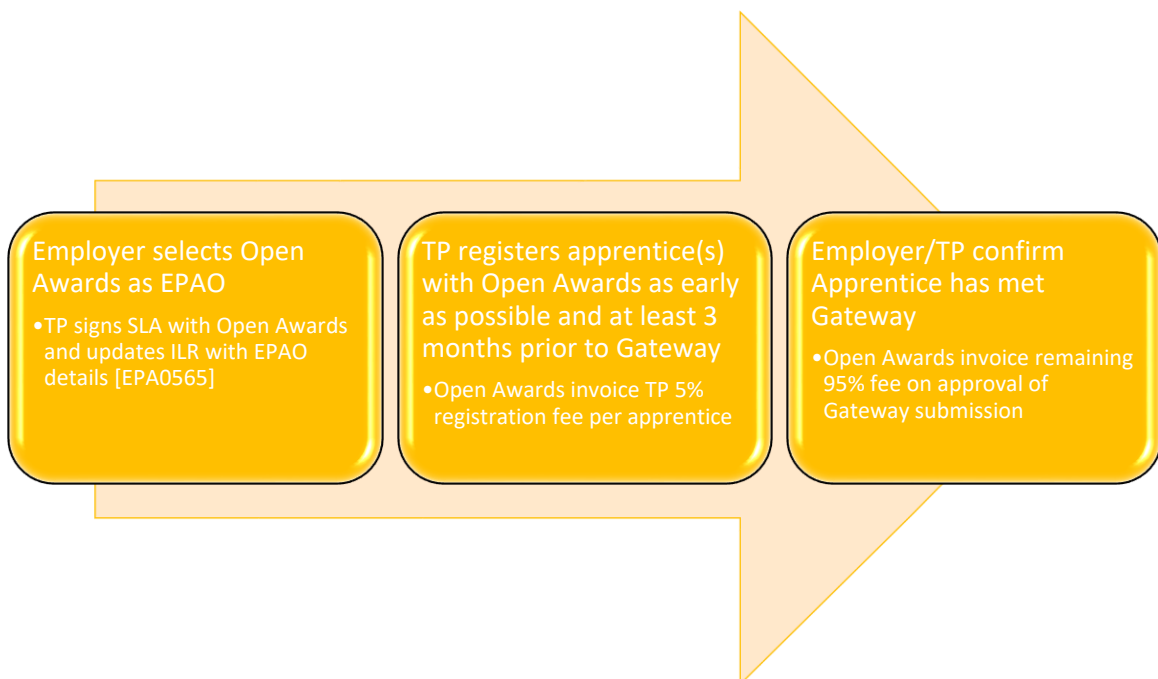
There are no provider approval fees included and any on-programme qualifications if applicable are charged separately.

Prices are published on the Open Awards website and will be reviewed annually. Any changes will be communicated to providers in advance of the effective date of 1st August should there be a change.

6. Invoicing Timeline and Responsibility

The employer is responsible for funding the apprenticeship training and EPA either from their apprenticeship levy account, or for non-levy payers by co-investment (currently 5%) with government funding (95%).

Actual payments will be routed through the training provider who will have signed a service level agreement with Open Awards for provision of EPA services and who will be responsible for payment of invoices on behalf of the employer.



5% of the total price will be invoiced when the apprentices are registered with Open Awards. This will allow training providers and employers to have access to guidance documents and practice assessments and allow Open Awards to plan in a timely manner for EPA.

The 95% balance will be invoiced at Gateway stage once the declaration and submission of evidence has been confirmed.

Standard Price	Registration	Gateway
Prices for each apprenticeship standard can be found on our website	Apprentices should be registered as early as possible and at least 3 months prior to EPA	The remaining balance will be invoiced on approval of the Gateway declaration/ submission
Example: £1000	5% £50	95% £950
	Invoiced the month following registration	Invoiced the month following approval of Gateway

7. Resits and retakes

Resits and retakes are an additional cost to the standard price invoiced as above. The price for a resit/retake of an assessment component can be found alongside the main EPA price for each standard on www.openawards.org.uk.

Invoices for resits will be issued to the training provider, on behalf of the employer, when the assessment booking is made. Resits and retakes are ineligible costs and not funded by the ESFA.

8. Cancelling or rescheduling a booking

Provisional bookings can be re-scheduled or cancelled at no charge. Confirmed bookings can be re-scheduled at no charge up to 10 working days before the assessment day.

Confirmed bookings cancelled or re-scheduled with less than 10 working days' notice will incur relevant costs associated to the booking.

The 5% apprentice registration fee is non-refundable regardless of withdrawal date.

10. Enquiries and Appeals

Please refer to the Enquiries and Appeals Policy for full details of the process and Open Awards Pricing Information for current prices. Any outcome that results in a grade being amended or an appeal upheld will result in a refund of the original fee.

11. Invoice Format

Open Awards will create a customer account for every approved provider. All invoices will be emailed to the finance contact email address specified in the Expression of Interest Form, or an alternative address which has been confirmed in writing. All invoices will contain the following information:

- Open Awards company name and address
- Customer name and address
- Contact details
- Invoice date
- Invoice number
- Purchase Order number (if provided)
- Customer account number
- Description of charges - with a more detailed report attached where necessary
- Invoice amount
- Payment terms
- Bank details for payment
- Company number
- Charity number
- Website address for pricing information

12. Payment Terms

All invoices are payable within 30 days of invoice date. Statements will be issued where payments fall overdue. Open Awards reserves the right to withhold services for non-payment of invoices.

13. Purchase Orders

Purchase order numbers will be quoted on invoices where provided. If a provider requires an order number to be quoted on their invoice it should be entered at registration in the appropriate field so that it will generate automatically within the invoice summary report.

14. Payment details

All payment details are contained within the invoice template. Open Awards preferred payment method is BACs or online bank transfer. Payment by debit/ credit card and cheque is also accepted.

15. Retention of Invoices and Data Protection

Open Awards will retain invoices and supporting documentation for six years from the end of the financial period. Open Awards will comply with requirements of Data Protection legislation in relation to all personal or sensitive data. The data collected from customers will only be used for the purpose for which it has been collected and will not be disclosed to any unauthorised person or body. Personal data will be processed in accordance with the Open Awards registration under the Data

Protection Act. Open Awards will not disclose information if to do so would breach a duty of confidentiality or any other legal duty.