

New College
of the Humanities

Northeastern
University

Ignite Transformation
with Talent

Attendee Welcome Pack

Tuesday 9 February, 2021. 12:00 – 16:00

National Apprenticeship Week 2021. 8th – 14th February

[JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)

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Introduction

The Ignite Transformation with Talent event will explore the diversity of opportunity and value that apprenticeships bring, highlighting how they can help individuals and employers build their future.

The event will present engaging stories of apprentices' progression – the increase in their confidence, skills, knowledge and how apprenticeships have kick-started incredible careers. Employer advocates and line managers will showcase the business benefits and return on investment of employing apprentices, how businesses are using apprenticeships to fill skills gaps, upskill and revitalise their workforce ensuring they are future proof.

The past twelve months have been extremely challenging for businesses, for individuals hoping to build their careers, and for those facing uncertainty in the workplace. Meanwhile, as many businesses go virtual, and more people work from home, the demand for digital skills continues to grow.

We believe it is important, now more than ever, to raise the profile of degree apprenticeships as a way of rapidly and cost-effectively delivering the digital skills needed by organisations of all types and sizes, while simultaneously offering opportunities to help individuals to build the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career.

We want to use the opportunity of National Apprenticeship Week 2021 to celebrate with all the apprenticeship community, to promote the benefits of apprenticeships, and showcase the resilience of apprentices and employers during the pandemic, extending our thanks to you for being part of NCH London's National Apprenticeship Week celebrations.

Joining Instructions

Joining is simple. The event will be hosted as a Zoom webinar, click [this attendee link](#) to join the event.

The link is the same for the whole event, whichever sessions you wish to join, so keep it somewhere safe and use it to rejoin us after the breaks.

As the event will use a webinar format, there is no need for you to use a camera or microphone. This means you are welcome to bring some lunch to enjoy during the event and there's no need to worry about any of your work from home colleagues stealing the spotlight.



Event experience and wellbeing

Please do come armed with questions and ideas and use the Q&A function throughout to contribute to discussions and share experiences. As our panelists can't see your faces, they will really welcome questions and feedback to make sure they are hitting the mark.

There will be regular breaks throughout the afternoon, so you will not be away from your inbox too long, we hope you will be able to relax and enjoy the event.

Treasure Hunt

Listen out for treasure hunt questions and clues throughout the event, you only need a pen and paper to take part, all will be revealed during the afternoon, and there are prizes to be won!

IT/Event support

The NCH London Apprenticeships Team will be on hand during the event, should you have any technical issues. You can contact them at apprenticeships@nchlondon.ac.uk.

Agenda

Session One:

Apprenticeships and Workforce Development

12:00-13:10

Welcome

Opening Keynote: How apprenticeships have changed our workforce strategy

Ann Gaskell, Executive Director, Methods

Apprenticeship myths busted

Emma Kelly, Head of Business Development, NCH London

Apprenticeships policy and sustainable recruitment

Gareth Preece, Workforce Development Specialist and Apprenticeships Consultant, NCH London

BREAK

Session Two:

The Apprentice Experience

13:20 – 14:30

Introduction to the Virtual Learning Environment and off-the-job training

Peter Embleton-Smith, Assistant Programmes Manager and Learning Technologist, NCH London

Dr Carolyn Barker, Data Science Programme Director, NCH London

Meet the employers and apprentices

Q&A with current apprentices and their line managers

BREAK

Session Three:

Spotlight on Digital Transformation

14:40 – 16:00

In context: the importance of tech apprenticeships

Nimmi Patel, Policy Manager for Skills, Talent and Diversity at techUK

ServiceNow: Innovating Degree Apprenticeships

Laurent Briant, Director of Government NextGen programs, ServiceNow

Nick Winham, Program Manager EMEA, NextGen Programs

Igniting Digital Transformation: Experiential Learning at BCG Digital Ventures

Ashkan Afkhami, Managing Director and Partner, Boston Consulting Group, New York

Host

Professor Scott S. P. Wildman BSc (Hons), PhD, FHEA, Director of Apprenticeships & Workforce Development

Professor Scott Wildman, a Professor of Higher Education and Human Physiology, is the Director of Apprenticeships & Workforce Development at New College of Humanities. He was previously Director of Apprenticeships at the University of Kent and has held academic appointments at the Royal Veterinary College, UCL, Johns Hopkins University, and Imperial College London.



Scott provides strategic leadership, and day-to-day management, for NCH's provision of workforce enhancement solutions, including higher and degree apprenticeships. He is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is nationally recognised for Widening Access & Outreach (2020; Guardian University Award) and Employer Engagement (2018; Times Higher Education Leadership and Management Award), and was a Finalist at the National Apprenticeship Awards (2018).

SPEAKER PROFILES

Session One: Apprenticeships and Workforce Development

Opening Keynote

Ann Gaskell, Executive Director of Business and Technology, Methods

Ann is an experienced Director of Business Technology and is currently Executive Director of Business and Technology at Methods where she leads the delivery of outsourced and managed services and the management of complex business change across a wide range of public sector partners.

Ann is a proactive champion of apprenticeships and digital skills, including opening up routes into the industry for individuals from diverse backgrounds, and has recently been involved in the development of industry-led apprenticeship training.

Methods is the leading digital transformation partner for the UK public sector, with partners across central government departments and agencies. Methods is committed to the application of digital thinking to make sure the future of our public services is centred around citizens. Prior to joining Methods, Ann held a range of senior positions, including at Siemens IT Solutions and Services and Sopra Steria.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Session One

Gareth Preece, Strategic Workforce Planning Specialist and Apprenticeships Consultant, NCH London

Gareth Preece is a specialist in strategic workforce planning, skills and growth. By viewing organisational growth through a 'people strategy' lens, Gareth has built a reputation of effective delivery across skills, education and business growth engagements.



His passion for aligning progression of the individual with growth for business has enabled him to transform higher education provision, organisational development across the public and private sector and local skills brokerage and economic growth services.

Following almost ten years of providing expert advice and support to inward investors in the UK on behalf of the Department for International Trade, Gareth provides consultancy services and is employed as an apprenticeships and workforce development consultant at NCH London.

Gareth Preece is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute for Personnel and Development, an Associate Member of the Institute for Export and International Trade (and Member of the Academic Board).

Emma Kelly, Head of Business Development, NCH London

Emma is responsible for the promotion of workforce planning, lifelong learning, and higher and degree apprenticeships to employers across all sectors, championing, inspiring and communicating opportunities for business collaboration.



Emma has years of extensive experience of working with apprenticeships across many sectors. With a passion for both vocational and academic learning, Emma has supported an abundance of employers with the introduction, facilitation, and recruitment of apprentices. She brings to NCH a solid understanding and knowledge of apprenticeships including; funding rules, knowledge of multiple frameworks and standards, and the introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy.

Emma is an ardent supporter of the UK's long-term plan for improved workforce development and believes apprenticeships have the potential to make a greater impact for the future.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Session Two: The Apprentice Experience

Peter Embleton-Smith, Assistant Programmes Manager and Learning Technologist, NCH London

Peter is the Assistant Programmes Manager and Learning Technologist for Apprenticeships and Workforce Development, responsible for programme and course development. He is a qualified teacher with a strong interest in technology and how it can be used to enhance teaching and learning. Having taught in Kent for several years, he completed a UCL-IoE MSc in Learning Technologies in 2018, bringing together his background in pedagogy and interest in technology.



Peter worked as a Distance Learning Technologist at the University of Kent, developing distance-learning material for the Apprenticeship Centre with a focus on high quality learner experience.

Peter's specific areas of creative expertise include working in Film, Photography and Graphic Design. After successfully completing the BA (Hons) Digital Media at Canterbury Christ Church University, he subsequently worked within these fields

Dr Carolyn Barker, Programme Director Data Science, NCH London

Carolyn leads the academic delivery of the Data Science degree apprenticeship programme and has a masters degree in computer science and a PhD in Computational Chemistry (UCL). She spent ten years at Pfizer Global Research and Development with the newly formed cheminformatics department, developing and applying data science techniques for drug discovery, for which she won a Pfizer global achievement award.



Carolyn has spent the last decade working in higher education (University of Kent), and has designed and led the academic delivery of a number of higher and degree apprenticeships, informed by her industry experience.

Apprentices and their line managers will also be taking part in a panel Q&A during this session.

SPEAKER PROFILES

Session Three: Spotlight on Digital Transformation

Closing Keynote

Ashkan Afkhami, Managing Director & Partner, Boston Consulting Group, New York

Ashkan Afkhami is the Global Leader for the Health Care practice at Boston Consulting Group Digital Ventures. Ashkan also serves on the Investment Committee and Commercial Operating Committee for BCG Digital Ventures in North America.



Ashkan is passionate about making a global change through technology and new solutions, including voice, digital, blockchain, and virtual and augmented reality. He has worked with clients across industries in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Before joining BCG, Ashkan started and ran several businesses, including a venture accelerator program called IDEA @Northeastern and was Founder and CFO of a technology startup called GHC (acquired by The Capital Network).

Laurent Briant, Director of Government NextGen programs, ServiceNow

With a background in helping governments transform the way they work through digital workflow solutions, Laurent joined ServiceNow in 2019. As part of the NextGen team, he works with governments and charities to help address digital skills shortages and to provide better access to education for under-represented groups. Laurent is now working with Northeastern University to extend the Technology Degree Apprenticeships outside of the U.K.

Nimmi Patel, Policy Manager for Skills, Talent and Diversity at techUK

Nimmi Patel is the Policy Manager for Skills, Talent and Diversity at techUK. She works on all things skills policy, focusing on upskilling and retraining. She is committed to embedding diversity in the UK tech pipeline from classroom



to boardroom working with partners such as the Tech Talent Charter and the WISE Campaign.

Prior to joining the team, she worked for the UK Labour Party and New Zealand Labour Party and holds a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics from the University of Manchester and is currently studying MA Strategic Communications at King's College London.

National Apprenticeship Week 2021 “Build the Future”

NAW2021 aims to encourage everyone to consider how apprenticeships help individuals to build the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career.

The 14th annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, taking place across England, will showcase the impact apprenticeships can have on communities, local businesses and regional economies and how they all benefit from the impact of apprenticeships.

To support this theme, the NCH London event has been developed to focus on sharing of stories, experiences and ideas across the three NAW 2021 core topics:

TRAIN apprentices, and future proof workforces and careers;

RETAIN apprentices, gaining the skills and knowledge needed by businesses, and seeing apprentices thrive, whilst having impact;

ACHIEVE a real return on investment from apprentices; realising the business benefits of apprenticeships, with apprentices progressing in their chosen careers.

As a result of the pandemic and many individuals relying on technology and virtual meetings more than ever, National Apprenticeship Week 2021 will be different, but just as exciting. NAW2021 will celebrate the motivating stories of how apprentices have helped business adapt and build during a difficult year.

“Apprenticeships are a fantastic way to learn while you earn, opening up new and exciting career paths that can transform lives. It’s been a tough year for everyone, but we want the theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2021 to be a springboard to look ahead to how apprenticeships can futureproof workforces and boost careers.” – Minister for Apprenticeships and Skills, Gillian Keegan

NCH London Apprenticeships

Experiential learning is
part of our DNA.

Leveraging Northeastern University's deep competency in experiential learning has strongly positioned NCH London as a leader in providing business and industry education. Our expertise brings valuable insight into learning and development strategies. NCH London is listed on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers as NCH London, with cohorts starting in October, January, April and July.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

You'll find NCH London on the Register of apprenticeship training providers as NCH at Northeastern Ltd.



nchlondon.ac.uk



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