



University of Exeter

Degree Apprenticeships

Delivered online

New programme

Introducing the Improvement Leader Higher Apprenticeship

Improvement Leaders are responsible for developing improvement strategy. They manage a team who deploy the strategy and lead improvement projects. They work closely with all functions of the business to support the setting and achievement of business goals, often accountable for improvement activities within the largest-scale and highest priority programmes of work.

The Improvement Leader Apprenticeship

An innovative programme designed to equip improvement leaders with the skills, knowledge, and behaviours they need to lead transformational change and continuous improvement across their organisations. This programme is aimed at both new and experienced leaders with responsibility for shaping vision and direction, identifying strategic opportunities, and fostering sustainable, high-performing cultures. Participants will develop and lead improvement strategies, coach and mentor others, and use data analytics, statistical methods and experimentation to deliver complex initiatives at scale.

Specialised Pathways

Applicants can choose to specialise in either: **Applied Responsible Leadership** or **Applied Digital Leadership**.

Qualifications and Progression

Upon successful completion, apprentices will achieve:

- MSc Applied Responsible Leadership / MSc Applied Digital Leadership
- Improvement Leader Apprenticeship (Skills England)

Apprentices will develop the following skills through completion of the core modules:

- Develop self-awareness, teamwork, leadership, communication, and coaching skills.
- Use data analysis, statistical methods and experimentation to inform, influence, and improve organisational decisions.
- Develop and apply improvement strategy, evidence, and innovation to drive organisational progress.
- Plan, manage, and evaluate effective organisational improvement projects.
- Connect academic theory to real-world professional practice.
- Conduct independent, original research demonstrating advanced critical understanding.

Programme Delivery

This programme is delivered entirely online.

This apprenticeship offers an unparalleled opportunity for organisations to invest in their strategic leaders and empower them to deliver meaningful, measurable, and sustainable improvements across the business.

Entry Requirements*

Applicants should have:

- A second-class honours degree or equivalent and a **minimum of three years** of relevant management or leadership experience.

OR

- At **least five years'** experience in a management or leadership role, if no prior degree is held.

Applicants must have:

- GCSE level 6 or above in Maths and GCSE Level 4 or above in English or equivalent
- Experience working in a role that involves managing or delivering improvement or transformation projects

* If you already hold titles such as Lean Master, Senior Lean Leader, Master Black Belt, or similar senior qualifications, you may not be eligible for this programme.