



Funding Focus

Study programmes and the funding uplift

27 January 2015

Funding Focus provides quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system.

Introduction

Funding for full-time Study Programmes is based on a rate for 600 planned learning hours. When the methodology was first introduced in 2013 to 2014 Ministers recognised a small number of study programmes were much larger than 600 hours and in July 2014 Nick Boles MP set out the policy for a large programme uplift for the start of academic year 2016 to 2017. The requirements will be incorporated into the funding regulations for 2016 to 2017 but the details were released in July 2014 so institutions were aware of the arrangements when offering study programmes for the start of the academic year 2014 to 2015.

This guide explains the conditions under which the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will pay a large programme uplift in 2016 to 2017 academic year, and how the uplift will be paid. It also provides links to further information.

Summary of the large programme uplift

- The uplift reflects that some study programmes are much larger than 600 hours.
- The EFA is introducing the uplift for academic year 2016 to 2017 and beyond.
- Formula protection funding finishes after academic year 2015 to 2016.
- The uplift is only available for certain programmes, and only where certain grades are achieved.
- An uplift of either 10% or 20% to the full time national funding rate per student will be applied to large programmes that meet the criteria.
- The 10% and 20% uplifts will be calculated based on the national funding rate for the relevant academic year. For example, in the first year the uplift will be calculated at the national funding rate for the academic year 2016 to 2017.
- Large programmes taking longer than two years generate no additional uplift.
- There are no additional data collection requirements for the large programme uplift.

Students covered by the large programme uplift

- The uplift normally only applies to those 16 and 17 year olds studying on large programmes that meet the size and achievement criteria.
- Students aged 18 to 24 who have a Learning Difficulty Assessment (LDA) or an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) can qualify for the uplift.
- Students on traineeships, apprenticeships, and supported internships do not qualify for the uplift.

How the uplifts apply

Qualifications	Size	Grades required	Uplift	Approx glh*	Further details
Large A level programmes	5 full modular or linear A levels	Grade B or above	20%	1,800 hrs (5x360)	AS levels do not count towards the large programme uplift. Modular or linear A levels in General Studies and Critical Thinking are also not included. (In addition, if 5 full modular or linear A level qualifications are attempted but only 4 are achieved at grade B, the 10% uplift will apply.)
	4 full modular or linear A levels		10%	1,440 hrs (4x360)	
Large Pre U programmes	Within programme equivalent to 5 full modular or linear A levels	Grade M1 or above Pre U Principal or Research subject certificate, and grade Bs or above, in the remaining modular or linear A level	20%	1,900 hrs (5x380)	The programme can be all Pre U certificates or a mixture of Pre U certificates and A levels within a large programme. A Pre U Principal or Research subject certificate graded at M1 or higher (not including 1 year short programmes) is equivalent to 1 A level for the purpose of the uplift. The 1 year short programmes do not count. If the equivalent of 5 full modular or linear A level qualifications are attempted but only 4 are achieved at grade B, the 10% uplift will apply.
	Within programme equivalent to 4 full modular or linear A levels		10%	1,520 hrs (4x380)	
International Baccalaureate programmes	Full International Baccalaureate level 3 Diploma	28 or more points	20%	1,450-1,500 hrs	The full level 3 International Baccalaureate Diploma is necessarily a large programme. A pass with 24 points won't attract any uplift
Large TechBacc programmes (Tech level, level 3 maths qualification and Extended Project)	Extended Project, A level Maths, and a Tech level of minimum size 1,020 glh	Successfully completed	20%	1,500 hrs (120+360+1,020)	Prior to 2020 to 2021 allocations payment will be calculated on the number of students passing all three qualifications. The EFA are not planning to take into account the grade achieved for any of the elements of the TechBacc until grading is a requirement for all 3 types of qualification within the TechBacc measure.
	Extended Project, AS/Core Maths, and a Tech level of minimum size 1,170 glh			1,470 hrs (120+180+1,170)	
	Extended Project, A level Maths, and Tech level of minimum size 900 glh		10%	1,380 hrs (120+360+900)	Grading requirements for the large Tech level category of qualifications are expected to be published in autumn 2015 for courses starting in academic year 2016 to 2017.
	Extended Project, AS/Core Maths, and a Tech level of minimum size 1,050 glh			1,380 hrs (120+180+1,080)	

* Note that glh (guided learning hours) are awarding body recommended hours and are only used for the purpose of identifying large programmes. Funding is based on planned hours

How the uplift will be calculated

- The uplift will operate in the existing lagged system. I.e. lagged student numbers based on the previous academic year.
- The students attracting the large programme uplift will be identified from the last full year and split into those attracting the 10% uplift and those attracting the 20% uplift.
- Students will be identified through their learning aims recorded for year 12 and the uplift will be doubled to apply the uplift for two years.
- From this data a total uplift funding value will be calculated and added to the end of the funding formula. The uplift will be applied after retention, programme cost weighting and disadvantage has been applied to the national funding rate per student.
- The uplift will attract the area cost uplift where it applies.
- As the criteria for implementation of the uplift includes student attainment, which will rely on data matched in from the National Pupil Database, there will be a three year lag. This means, for example, that for allocations for the academic year 2016 to 2017 attainment data from 2013 to 2014 will be used.
- Institutions will receive detailed advice applicable to each academic year in the general advice note supplied with their allocation. For 2016 to 2017 allocations the EFA expect this to be in February 2016.

Useful links

EFA website, December 2014 – [16 to 19 funding: large programme uplift](#) includes details on data collection and reports, an example of how the uplift relates to the funding formula, and who to contact for further information.

DfE, July 2014 – [full ministerial statement](#).

DfE, December 2014 – [Technical and vocational qualifications for 14- to 19-year-olds](#) includes details about programmes which meet the TechBacc measure.

DfE, October 2014 – [Technical Baccalaureate measure for 16- to 19-year-olds](#) includes general information about the TechBacc policy and the list of approved core maths qualifications.

DfE, October 2014 – [16 to 19 accountability headline measures](#) includes 16-19 performance table measures

Education Funding Agency, March 2014 – [16 to 19 education: funding guidance](#). The requirements for large programme uplift will be incorporated into the funding regulations for 2016 to 2017 once published.

Siân Owen

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)