



Pearson UK – Funding News

16 February 2015

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-18, 19+ and apprenticeship funding, and related news from government departments, funding agencies and other relevant organisations.

Funding News this week is dominated by the Skills Funding Agency’s publications of the 2015/16 Funding Rules, and the 2015/16 Funding Rates and Formula. It also includes a letter from Peter Mucklow from the Education Funding Agency with an update on the funding of education and training for young people in the academic year 2015/16, and an update to the EFA’s guidance on English and maths in study programmes. Lastly, there has been a change to the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE).

Skills Funding Agency – Funding Rules for 2015/16, and summary of changes

The 139-page [Funding Rules for 2015/16](#) has been released by the Agency which includes rules for apprenticeship funding. They have also released an accompanying 7-page document outlining the main [Funding Rules changes](#). The Agency’s Funding Rules can now all be found in one place. Their [webpage](#) lists the guidance by funding year and, as an alternative to downloading the pdf documents, the Rules are also available as webpages on the [SFA Funding Rules 2015 to 2016 collection](#).

Skills Funding Agency – Funding Rates and Formula for 2015/16, and summary of changes

The Agency has also released the 31-page [Funding Rates and Formula for 2015/16](#) alongside a 7-page [summary of the Funding Rates and Formula changes](#). Key information from the summary of changes document includes:

- The funding matrix, on which all rates are based, will remain unchanged from 2014 to 2015.
- To incentivise the take up of English and maths GCSE providers that deliver these qualifications to adults aged 19 and over, outside apprenticeships, will receive a higher rate of funding of £811 instead of £724. The increased rate applies to learner starts from 1 August 2015.
- The Agency is no longer funding English and maths QCF Level 2 qualifications for starts from 1 August 2015.

For apprenticeships based on **frameworks** the Agency will continue to use the existing apprenticeship funding methodology and the funding rates will remain unchanged for 2014 to 2015. The new guidance includes a worked example of provider earnings within an apprenticeship framework. A new funding model for [Trailblazer apprenticeship standards](#) is being trialled in 2014 to 2015 and this trial will continue into 2015 to 2016.

Skills Funding Agency – Qualifications information guide

The Agency has released the 2015/16 version of their [Qualifications Information Guide](#). It covers the publicly-funded offer within the Adult Skills Budget (ASB) and Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) and contains a summary of the rules the Agency use to approve qualifications outside of apprenticeships. It also describes unit delivery, the Innovation Code, and how the Agency fund non-regulated training provision.

Skills Funding Agency – Employer guide to apprenticeships

The Agency released a 20-page [employer guide to apprenticeships](#) last week. It gives employers information about apprenticeships, and explains the benefits of recruiting apprentices to their business. It covers the business benefits, looks at what an apprenticeship is, employer responsibilities, who is involved, case studies, and explains the funding available. It covers Higher Apprenticeships, and looks at Traineeships. It also includes a page on the Apprenticeship reforms.

Education Funding Agency – Letter from Peter Mucklow to EFA funded post-16 providers

On 6 February Peter Mucklow, National Director for Young People at the Education Funding Agency, [wrote](#) to EFA funded post-16 providers to provide an update on the funding of education and training for young people by the EFA in the academic year 2015 to 2016. The letters covers national funding rates, data accuracy and study programmes, the English and maths condition of funding, sub-contracting, charitable and commercial providers, and allocations, high needs students and allocations, Traineeships and the government response to the technical consultation, free meals for disadvantaged students in FE and allocations, the Residential Support Scheme, and improved information for institutions.

In 2015/16 the national funding rate for full-time 16 and 17 year-olds will be maintained at £4,000 and the rate for full-time 18 year-olds at £3,300. The rates for part-time students will also be unchanged.

Education Funding Agency – Update on English and maths

The EFA updated their guidance on [the English and maths condition of funding](#) for 16-19 year-olds on 10 February. Qualifications that can be taught that meet the condition of funding now include A and AS levels, and the EFA has set out details of this. They have also provided more information on IGCSEs and clarified advice on continuing students.

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Department for Education – Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE)

On 12 February BIS and the DfE published a [revised Specification Of Apprenticeship Standards for England \(SASE\)](#). The SASE sets out the minimum requirements to be included in a recognised English apprenticeship framework. This is the third version of the statutory SASE and it incorporates modifications to the *specification of Functional Skills/GCSE/Other Alternatives*. The changes to requirements for English and maths (and ICT where appropriate) will come into effect on 6 April 2015 and will only apply to new starts from this date. They mean that qualifications need *not* have been gained within the past 5 years to count, and that IGCSEs can now count, towards the English and maths requirement of an apprenticeship.

Pearson – Steve Besley’s Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - week ending February 13 2015](#). Find this and the archives on the [Pearson UK](#) website.

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Information is correct at the time of writing and is offered in good faith. No liability is accepted for decisions made on the basis of information given.