



Pearson UK – Funding News

19 June 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.

Internal and external colleagues can sign up to receive Funding News directly to their inbox by subscribing [here](#).

Funding news this week includes details of the national post-16 courses database; the announcement by the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills that the term 'apprenticeship', and commitment to create 3 million by 2020, will be protected in law; the financial planning handbook and template from the Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency; traineeships and new validation rules, business cycle information, and the course directory, from the Skills Funding Agency and the usual reminder from Pearson about the 2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue and the latest Policy Watches from Steve Besley.

Department for Education

- National post-16 courses database

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

- Term 'apprenticeship' and commitment to create 3 million by 2020, to be protected in law

Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency

- Updated financial planning handbook and template

Skills Funding Agency

- Traineeships and new validation rules for the 2014 to 2015 ILR
- Business cycle – useful dates
- Course directory – May update

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- 2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue – the usual reminder
- Steve Besley's Policy Watches

Department for Education

National post-16 courses database

The DfE expects all post-16 education and training providers funded by EFA to supply information by the end of September 2015, about the courses they plan to offer to 16 to 19 year-olds in 2016 to 2017. Post-16 providers can now submit course information in one of 3 ways which are listed below. Those who already have a provider portal account to upload post-19 course information should continue to access and upload post-16 data using the same account. Further details can be found on the [provider portal](#).

- EFA-funded providers who have [DfE Secure Access](#) accounts can access the database by selecting the 'post-16 portal' option.
- SFA or EFA-funded providers who don't have a Secure Access account can submit course information direct to the [National Careers Service Course Directory](#) provider portal.
- Providers can nominate a third party organisation to input course data on their behalf. More information can be found in the [help guide](#).

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills

Term 'apprenticeship' and commitment to create 3 million by 2020, to be protected in law

On 14 June the government [announced](#) that the Skills Minister will legally protect the term 'apprenticeship' through the Enterprise Bill and the commitment to create 3 million apprenticeships by 2020 will also be enshrined in law. The government also announced that public bodies will now be set targets to take on more apprentices. The [Enterprise Bill](#) was announced in the Queen's speech on 27 May 2015 and will be introduced to Parliament in the Autumn when the exact requirement on individual public bodies will be set out.

Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency

Updated financial planning handbook and template

The [financial planning handbook](#) provides guidance for further education colleges on financial planning information that the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency require by 31 July each year. It provides a single document to which colleges can refer when completing their financial plans. It aims to readily accommodate changes in generally accepted accounting principles and other guidance issued by the funding bodies. The financial plan template shows the income, expenditure and cash-flows associated with the projected levels of activity and will be of interest to all colleges that are required to provide financial plans to the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency.

Skills Funding Agency

Traineeships and new validation rules for the 2014 to 2015 ILR

New validation rules are being added to the R11 ILR return to ensure the completion of destination and progression data for learners who have completed a traineeship programme. The information must be reported for all traineeship learners and needs to be included in ILR returns before the R11 submission. The Agency has produced a [technical guidance note](#) and advised that any queries should be sent to dataqueries@sfa.bis.gov.uk.

Business cycle – useful dates

On 18 June the Agency published information about when they plan to publish important information relevant to the further education sector in the 2015 to 2016 financial year. The [business cycle](#) sets out key milestones from April 2015 to March 2016 to help colleges, other training organisations, direct grant employers' and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) plan ahead. Please note that the dates are indicative and may change.

Course directory – May update

On 18 June the Agency published the [May course directory](#). This course directory contains information from over 900 organisations including colleges, training providers and local education authorities and is updated monthly. Courses featured include adult further education, adult community learning, Apprenticeships, courses co-funded by the European Social Fund, and courses aimed at people aged 16 to 18.

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2015 to 2016 simplified funding rates catalogue – the usual reminder

The latest list of qualifications approved for 19+ funding (and loan funding) can be found on the Skills Funding Agency's [simplified funding rates catalogue](#). The funding [Hub](#) is the key source of confirmation of funding eligibility but the Agency also publishes the catalogue to ensure providers know as soon as possible when a qualification is confirmed for 19+ funding. Awarding bodies now have to make a submission for every qualification to be approved for 19+ funding on a quarterly basis and the next update of the catalogue will be on 1 July.

On 1 May 2015 we published an [update](#) confirming the final situation on funding for 19+ learners in England studying BTEC First qualifications. There are BTEC First qualifications available in each sector, which are funded for pre- and post-19 learners. This means that you can co-teach 16-18 and 19+ students on the same qualification, which will be funded for the academic years 2014-15 and 2015-16. The only exception is in the Vehicle Technology sector where our qualifications do not meet the minimum learner threshold required to be eligible for 19+ funding. A sector-by-sector list of funded qualifications is provided.

Steve Besley's Policy Watches

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Eye - week ending June 12 2015](#), [Policy Eye - week ending June 5 2015](#), and [Pocket Watch – Unravelling the Education Bill](#). Find these and more on the [Pearson UK](#) website.

Siân Owen

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)

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.