

Funding Focus – Learner and qualification eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17

4 April 2016

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

The rules around who and what will be eligible for 19+ funding change for 2016/17. This Funding Focus updates the previous version of this document (published on the 11 March) summarising in three tables who and what will be eligible for funding in 2016/17, and how qualifications will be made eligible.

Table 1: Learner eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17: Key changes:

- Unemployed 19+ year-olds can be fully funded, and employed 19+ year olds can be co-funded, for level 2 provision, even where they already have a full level 2.
- 'Local flexibility funding' will be used to fund this provision, and provision and Entry and level 1, and can fund qualifications, components and/or bespoke provision.
- Advanced learning loan approved qualifications can be offered to 19+ year-olds from 2016/17 (only available for 24+ year-olds in 2015/16).

Table 2: Qualification and unit eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17: Qualifications will now be made eligible for funding in four funding streams. Some will be automatically approved, others require submissions. Key changes:

- *English and maths entitlement qualifications* will include stepping stone qualifications and are automatically approved.
- *19+ Local flexibility qualifications, components and units* are automatically approved according to a set of principles.
- *19-23 Entitlement qualifications* at levels 2 and 3 will be aligned to 2018 16-18 performance tables and are automatically approved. These are referred to as 'core'. 'Non-core' qualifications (i.e. those not on tables) are also available in 2016/17. It will be difficult to have 'non-core' 19-23 Entitlement qualifications approved in the future and awarding organisations are likely to need to make submissions for qualifications not automatically approved. Entitlement qualifications will be automatically approved for local flexibility at level 2, and for loans at level 3.
- **2016/17 is a transition period as we move towards full skills devolution and the implementation of Technical and Professional Education (TPE) reforms. The SFA will work with the DfE and the EFA to introduce a single entitlement offer for 16-23 year-olds, a list of English and maths stepping stone qualifications, and a process to identify and confirm qualifications for public funding. As we move towards a single 16 to 23 entitlement only 'core' entitlement qualifications will remain 'full'.**
- *19+ Advanced learning loan qualifications* from 2016/17 can be at level 3 to level 6 (only available at levels 3 and 4 in 2015/16). Awarding organisations will need to make submissions for qualifications not automatically approved for loan funding.

Table 3: How qualifications and units will be made eligible for 19+ funding 2016/17

Table 1: Learner eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17

| Provision | 19-23 | | | | 24+ | |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|------------------|
| | Unemployed | | Other | | Unemployed | Other |
| English and maths entitlement funding, E to L2 <i>English and maths entitlement qualifications English and maths units for those progressing to L2.</i> | Fully funded <i>Without GCSE grades A* to C in English and maths (not apprentices)</i> | | | | | |
| 19-23 entitlement funding, L2 <i>19-23 entitlement qualifications</i> | Fully funded <i>Without full level 2</i> | No funding <i>With full level 2</i> | Fully funded <i>Without full level 2</i> | No funding <i>With full level 2</i> | No funding | |
| 19-23 entitlement funding, L3 <i>19-23 entitlement qualifications</i> | Fully funded <i>Without full level 3</i> | No funding <i>With full level 3</i> | Fully funded <i>Without full level 3</i> | No funding <i>With full level 3</i> | No funding | |
| Loan funding, L3 to 6 <i>Advanced learner loan qualifications</i> | Loan funded <i>With full level 3, otherwise level 3 can be funded under entitlement funding</i> | | | | Loan funded | |
| Local flexibility funding, L2 <i>Local flexible funding qualifications, units, and bespoke provision (includes ESOL up to and including level 2)</i> | Fully funded <i>And can be offered alongside 19-23 entitlement qualifications</i> | | Co-funded | | Fully funded | Co-funded |
| Local flexibility funding, E to L1 to progress to L2 <i>Local flexible funding qualifications, units, and bespoke provision</i> | Fully funded | | | | Fully funded | Co-funded |
| Traineeships, 19-24 | Fully funded <i>Without full level 3.</i> | | | | Fully funded, and loan funded (24 only) <i>Without full level 3. Learners aged 24 studying a full level 3 as the flexible element are required to take a loan.</i> | |

Table 2: Qualification and unit eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17

| Provision | 19+ English and maths, E to L2 <i>Qualifications and units Automatic approval</i> | 19+ Local flexibility, E to L2 <i>Qualifications and units Automatic approval</i> | 19-23 Entitlement, L2 and 3 <i>Qualifications only Automatic approval, and limited submissions</i> | 19+Advanced learning loan, L3 to 6 <i>Qualifications only Automatic approval, and submissions</i> |
|------------|--|--|---|--|
| Levels 4-6 | | | | ✓ |
| Level 3 | | | ✓ (subset of loan list) | ✓ |
| Level 2 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ (subset of local flexibility list) | |
| Level 1 | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Entry | ✓ | ✓ | | |

Table 3: How qualifications and units will be made eligible for 19+ funding 2016/17

| Provision | 19+ English and maths entitlement qualifications and units, E to L2 | 19+ Local flexibility approved qualifications, and units, E to L2 (Including ESOL) | 19-23 Entitlement qualifications L2 and 3 | 19+ loan approved qualifications, L3 to 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>Summary of approval rules</p> | <p>Automatic</p> <p><i>2016/17 is a transition period as we move towards full skills devolution and the implementation of TPE reforms. The SFA will work with the DfE and the EFA to introduce a single entitlement offer for 16-23 year-olds, a list of English and maths stepping stone qualifications, and a process to identify and confirm qualifications for public funding.</i></p> <p>Core</p> <p>The English and maths core offer is made up of GCSE English and maths, and functional skills in English and maths.</p> <p>Stepping stones</p> <p>SFA are working with DfE to create a single list of stepping stone qualifications from E to L1. Stepping stone qualifications will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawn from RQF. • Modular (unitised). • Focus on aspects of English and maths to support progression to GCSE or FS. <p>Some 'stepping stone' qualifications are not on the DfE list; these will be added for learners aged 19+.</p> <p>Units of stepping stone qualifications will be made eligible for those progressing to level 2.</p> | <p>Automatic</p> <p>To be eligible, new qualifications need to have, on Ofqual's portal, GL as part of TQT, and new qualifications need to have minimum GLH. Qualifications with TQT only will be reviewed on case by case basis.</p> <p>Six eligibility principles then applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available in England for 19+learners. • AO must have signed PLR. • LtoP/stand-alone: must not link to statutory employer requirements unless concession agreed (some qualifications eligible for certain learners– see rules). • Must not link to UK Visa requirements (does not apply to ESOL Skills for Life). • Must not be vendor qualification linked to particular employer/commercial system. • Appropriate content: should not be used to recognise activity already part of learner's experience or better delivered as non-qualification (e.g. record of work experience, induction, self-improvement/confidence). Where qualifications support independent living skills they also need to focus on progression in education and work. <p>Components and units of qualifications will also be made eligible unless they link to an employer's statutory responsibility or LtoP. We will need to enter all the component/unit information in Ofqual's portal in order for these to be made available.</p> | <p>Automatic, and limited submissions</p> <p><i>2016/17 is a transition period as we move towards full skills devolution and the implementation of TPE reforms. The SFA will work with the DfE and the EFA to introduce a single entitlement offer for 16-23 year-olds, a list of English and maths stepping stone qualifications, and a process to identify and confirm qualifications for public funding. As we move towards a single 16 to 23 entitlement only 'core' qualifications will remain 'full'.</i></p> <p>Core (automatic)</p> <p>'Core' qualifications automatically approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A, AS-levels, GCSEs, and Access to HE • 2018 Tech Levels, Applied Generals, and Technical Certs (i.e. on 16-18 tables). <p>Non-core (automatic)</p> <p>'Non-core' qualifications take into account the impact of removing certain qualifications from the entitlement. Funded where they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are min 300 GL at L3, 150 GL at level 2. • Do not replicate title or significant amount of content of a 'core' qualification. • Map to SOC and therefore support entry to job role or occupational area. • Were approved in 2015/16 as 'full'. <p>Non-core (submissions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval rules to be published in May. | <p>Automatic, and submissions</p> <p>Core (automatic)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A, AS-levels, GCSEs, and Access to HE • 2018 Tech Levels and Applied Generals (i.e. on 16-18 tables). <p>Where submission for 16-18 tables has been made, SFA will confirm approval when process complete.</p> <p>Other (submissions)</p> <p>Qualifications need to be designed to support progression to and through higher-level technical and professional education and skills which have a clear focus on a particular occupational area, direct entry to a specific job role, continuing professional development in an occupation., or up-skilling or re-skilling in an occupational area.</p> <p>The SFA are keen for loans to support government industrial strategies and industrial partnerships, STEM subjects, and individuals to undertake higher-level skills (including digital skills).</p> <p>Three steps then applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remit: available in England for 19+learners, no LtoP or vendor quals. • Size: 150 GLH or 15 credits, exceptions considered with employer evidence. • Information (statement of purpose): explain outcomes to learners taking loan. |

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|--|---|---|---|--|
| Provision | 19+ English and maths entitlement qualifications and units, E to L2 Automatic | 19+ Local flexibility approved qualifications, and units, E to L2 (Including ESOL) Automatic | 19-23 Entitlement qualifications L2 and 3 Automatic, and limited submissions | 19+ loan approved qualifications, L3 to 6 Automatic, and submissions |
| Process/ timelines for approval | Unknown as yet but possibly on a monthly basis. | Monthly Approved qualifications will be added to the Hub in April and then the monthly eligibility process will start and will run in parallel with EFA Section 96 process. The eligibility principles will also be applied to qualifications caught up in the moratorium (in place since September 2015). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly download from Ofqual on last Tuesday of each month. Application of principles. Eligible qualifications added to the Hub. Components/units will be added to the Hub on a quarterly basis. Every quarter SFA will review significant changes to qualifications that affect funding, to decide whether to amend funding. | Core and non-core (automatic) Unknown as yet but for automatic qualifications possibly on a monthly basis. Non-core (submissions) Approval rules to be published in May. <i>New BTEC Nationals have been submitted to the DiE for inclusion in performance tables. Where these are accepted on performance tables they will be automatically approved.</i> <i>The QCF BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma and Diploma in Music Technology, the BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Extended Certificate and Diploma in Business, and in Sport are not currently approved for 19+ legal entitlement funding in 2016/17. We are in discussions with the SFA about these qualifications.</i> | Monthly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AOs submit forms on first Tuesday of each month. If successful, on third week hub updated to include new qualifications. On the fourth week of month the Student Loans Company application portal and Loans catalogue will be updated. |
| Links to guidance, submission forms and qualification lists | Approval rules Version 2 List of qualifications in English and maths in the legal entitlements | Approval rules Version 1.1 | Approval rules Version 2 List of qualifications at level 2 and 3 in the legal entitlements | Approval rules Submission form Advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue |
| Traineeships | Qualifications and units approved under the funding streams above can be delivered as part of Traineeships where eligible. | | | |

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