

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

3 June 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 summarises 1) learner eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17, 2) qualification and unit eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17, and 3) how qualifications and units will be made eligible for 19+ funding 2016/17. This revised summary includes an update to the previous version of this document (published on the 8 April) to clarify the restrictions on funding in the workplace (see Table 1 on page two for details).

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 in the classroom, for level 2 provision, where they have a full level 2.
- Eligible learners can be offered qualifications, components and bespoke provision at entry, level 1, and level 2.
- 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: Key changes:

- **English and maths** funding can deliver core and stepping stone qualifications.
- **19+ Local flexibility** funding can be used to deliver qualifications, components and bespoke provision.
- **19-23 Entitlement** funding is available for core and non-core qualifications approved for the 19-23 legal entitlement.
- **19+ Advanced learning loan** funding can be used to deliver qualifications at level 3 to level 6 (only available at levels 3 and 4 in 2015/16).

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 <i>Cannot be funded in the workplace</i>		Fully funded	Co-funded <i>Cannot be funded in the workplace</i>
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 <i>Cannot be funded in the workplace</i>
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 (All automatic approval) Approval rules and List of eligible qualifications (2 nd and 4 th documents)	19+ Local flexibility qualifications, and units, E to L2 (and ESOL) (All automatic approval) Approval rules (1 st document)	19-23 Entitlement qualifications L2 and 3 (Automatic approval, and potential submissions) Approval rules and List of eligible qualifications (2 nd and 3 rd documents)	19+ loan qualifications, L3 to 6 (Automatic approval, and submissions) Approval rules and List of eligible qualifications
Summary of approval rules	<p>Core qualifications</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 stone qualifications</p> <p>SFA worked with the DfE to create a single list of stepping stone qualifications from E to L1. Stepping stone qualifications are:</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 suitable for, and made eligible for, 19+ learners are not on the DfE list.</p> <p>Units of stepping stone qualifications are eligible for those progressing to level 2.</p> <p>No new qualifications can be added to the list at present.</p>	<p>All level 2 legal entitlement qualifications are approved for local flexibility funding.</p> <p>Other qualifications are eligible if they meet six eligibility principles:</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-confidence). <p>Components and units of qualifications are eligible unless they link to an employer's statutory responsibility or LtoP.</p> <p>New qualifications will be made eligible on a monthly basis. New units/components will be made eligible on a quarterly basis.</p>	<p>Core qualifications (automatic)</p> <p>'Core' qualifications automatically approved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A, AS-levels, GCSEs, and Access to HE • Tech Levels, Applied Generals, and Technical Certs on 2018 16-19 tables. • The SFA has also included some level 3 qualifications in the 2017 16-19 tables. <p>Non-core qualifications (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. • Were approved in 2015/16 as 'full'. <p>Non-core qualifications will be available for the 19-23 entitlement for 2016/17 but will not be considered for 2017/18.</p> <p>Non-core qualifications (submissions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unknown as yet if submissions will be accepted. 	<p>All level 3 legal entitlement qualifications are approved for loan funding.</p> <p>Other qualifications (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>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. <p>AOs can make submissions on a monthly basis, at the beginning of the month, and, if successful, loan funding will be confirmed at the end of the month.</p>

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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.