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Pearson UK – Funding News

3 June 2016

Funding News provides a regular round-up of 16-19, 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 can also be found on the [Pearson UK](#) website along with Funding Focus documents which provide quick summaries of recent funding developments, or particular aspects of the funding system.

In Funding News this week we include a reminder about the BTEC First and National qualifications eligible for funding in 2016/17, and an explanation of 19-23 learner eligibility for entitlement funding. We also include a reminder of who, and what, will be eligible for 19+ funding in 2016/17 which is outlined in a Pearson Funding Focus. This has also been updated to clarify the restrictions on funding in the workplace. We have no new news on the apprenticeship levy, but information has been released about the withdrawal of a further 60 apprenticeship frameworks. We also include a reminder of where you can find current key funding information.

Government departments

- BIS: 24+ advanced learning loans application information, May 2016
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- BIS and DfE: Reminder, Sainsbury review of technical and professional education, and the post-16 skills white paper
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Government departments

BIS: 24+ advanced learning loans application information, May 2016

At the end of May BIS released the [regular update](#) on the take up of advanced learner loans: the number of applications for 24+ advanced learning loans for the August 2015 to July 2016 academic year. 72,590 applications were received for the 2015/16 academic year, to April 2016, and 17,180 applications were received between February and April 2016. 62,460 applications were ready for payment for courses starting in the 2015/16 academic year, to April 2016, and 12,250 applications received between February and April 2016 were ready for payment.

This report is now published on a quarterly basis rather than monthly. The next report will be published on 25 August 2016, and will relate to applications submitted to the end of July 2016. It will include applications for the 2016/17 academic year, which opened on 16th May 2016. Advanced learning loans have of course been expanded for those aged 19 and over, and to levels 5 and 6, for those starting in 2016/17.

BIS (and SFA): Apprentices pay study

On 25 May BIS and the SFA announced the [2016 Apprenticeship Pay Survey](#); a research project providing information on training, hours and pay from current apprentices. The findings will be used by government to help BIS and the SFA look at wage levels nationally, measure changes with previous years, monitor whether employers are adhering to the rules on fair pay, set pay policy generally, and make improvements in apprenticeship training. IFF Research will be undertaking short telephone interviews with around 10,000 apprentices and will ask questions on pay and hours. Apprentices selected to take part in the survey will receive a letter prior to receiving a call from one of the researchers. A [similar survey was undertaken in 2014](#).

BIS and DfE: Reminder, Sainsbury review of technical and professional education, and the post-16 skills white paper

The Sainsbury review of technical and professional education expected in mid-May will not now be published until early July given we are now in the purdah period until 23 June. The post-16 skills white paper (or a 'Skills Plan' as it was referred to in the Queen's Speech) is also expected in July.

BIS: Reminder, update on the apprenticeship levy how it will work

BIS published this [update](#) on the 21 April on the apprenticeship levy and how it will work. There are still many unanswered questions but the update explains more about how the levy will work and sets out the dates when more information will be available. The update includes information on paying the apprenticeship levy, accessing money paid under the apprenticeship levy, buying apprenticeship training, what you can spend apprenticeship funding on, eligibility for training, and when further information will be available. A [Pearson Funding Focus](#) is available on apprenticeships funding which provides a brief update on the changes to apprenticeship funding.

Funding agencies

SFA: Apprenticeship standards approved for delivery, and approved for development

This week the SFA updated the [list](#) of all the apprenticeship standards approved and ready for employers and training organisations to use. They all include an approved assessment plan, an allocated funding cap, and the apprenticeship level. They also updated the [list](#) of all the occupations approved to develop an apprenticeship standard.



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SFA: Apprenticeship frameworks, live list

On 31 May the SFA updated the [list](#) of apprenticeships frameworks available for employers and training organisations. See below for the latest batch of apprenticeship frameworks being withdrawn; the plan is for the new employer-led apprenticeship standards to eventually replace the current frameworks, with as much as possible to take place by 2017/18, and all to take place by 2020.

SFA: Apprenticeship frameworks, withdrawal of a further 60 frameworks

In March the SFA we announced the [first batch](#) of apprenticeship frameworks to be removed. They have now published a [second batch](#) of 60 apprenticeship frameworks that will be withdrawn for new starts from 1 December 2016. The frameworks had a low number of reported starts in 2014/15 and 2015/16 or have provision covered by developing apprenticeship standards. This change will not affect apprentices currently completing apprenticeships on these frameworks.

As part of the apprenticeship reforms, no new SASE frameworks have been developed or issued since 31 August 2014 and new apprenticeship standards are being developed by groups of employers (Trailblazers). The plan is for the new employer-led apprenticeship standards to eventually replace the current frameworks, with as much as possible to take place by 2017/18, and all to take place by 2020.

SFA: Updated list of apprenticeship training agencies

At the end of last week the SFA published an updated [list](#) of approved apprenticeship training agencies (ATAs). ATAs recruit, employ and arrange training for apprentices on behalf of employers who cannot currently commit to the length of time needed for a full apprenticeship. [Guidance \(and the application form\)](#) is available for any organisation looking to become a recognised ATA.

SFA: Financial assurance, monitoring the funding rules 2015/16

This [document](#), published last week, lists the current areas the SFA is monitoring, and working with the sector on, during the course of the funding year. It gives the SFA assurance that provision they buy meets the published funding rules.

SFA: Reminder, funding hub guidance, new 'categories' to identify qualifications eligible for funding

The SFA has produced this [updated guide](#) on the definitions and guidance for each category on the [funding hub](#). New categories have been introduced for 2016/17 which help colleges and providers identify qualifications eligible for funding:

- **Legal entitlement level 2:** shows the level 2 qualifications that can be fully funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 2. These qualifications are also available for local flexibilities where a 19-23 year old learner is not undertaking a first qualification at level 2, or if the learner is 24 years old or above.
- **Legal Entitlement level 3:** shows level 3 qualifications that can be fully-funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 3.
- **Legal Entitlement English and Maths:** shows English and maths qualifications and their components that are available as part of the English and maths entitlement.
- **Local Flexibility entry to level 2:** shows qualifications at entry to level 2 and their components which can be delivered as part of local flexibilities.

The guide also explains the categories already in place and these include work preparation and work placement (for traineeships), Tech Levels achieved in 2017, Early Years Educators (EYE) 2015/16, loans length for qualifications which are not EYE or Tech Levels which identifies the maximum length which

applies when the learning aim is funded by a loan, Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives, Trades Union Congress, 'Standalone' and Licence to Practise, and class codes.

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Reminder and update: BTEC Firsts and Nationals approved for funding in 2016/17

In Funding News Last week we included important information on funding for the new BTEC Firsts and Nationals and the QCF BTEC Nationals. We have repeated this here as a reminder, and included new information explaining **19-23 eligibility for entitlement funding**.

All the information below, including the new information explaining **19-23 eligibility for entitlement funding** is available in the updated document: *160603 Funding Focus - Updated - BTEC Firsts and Nationals - Adult funding in 2016 17* which will shortly be available on the [Pearson funding website](#).

Additional QCF BTEC Nationals eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2016/17

- In mid May the SFA updated the [list of 19-23 entitlement qualifications at level 2 and 3](#).
- The list has been updated to include: qualifications automatically approved for 19-23 entitlement funding as they are on 2018 16-19 tables, and additional qualifications approved on 2017 16-19 tables.
- It means a number of additional QCF BTEC Nationals are now eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2016/17.

Learners who turn 19 during their study programme

- Learners who turn 19 during their study programme are subject to the EFA funding end dates and therefore can continue to be enrolled on the QCF BTEC qualifications until 31 December 2017.
- This is because of the way the EFA define learner age for funding eligibility. A 16-18 year-old learner is any learner who is aged 16, 17 or 18 on 31 August 2016. A learner who was 16-18 at the start of the funding year when they began a learning programme, as recorded on their learning agreement, continues to be funded as a 16-18-year-old student if they become 19 years old during their learning programme.

19-23 entitlement qualifications in 2016/17 and 2017/18

- The SFA have approved qualifications for the 19-23 entitlement in 2016/17 as 'core' or 'non-core'. Core qualifications include all qualifications on 2018 tables and some qualifications on 2017 tables. Non-core qualifications are included to take into account the impact of removing qualifications from the 19-23 entitlement.
- As the SFA move towards a single 16-23 entitlement offer, only core qualifications will remain eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding.
- This means that non-core qualifications will not be considered for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2017/18, and core qualifications should continue to be funded by the SFA in 2017/18. (Subject to 2017/18 funding confirmation by the SFA).

19-23 learner eligibility for entitlement funding

19-23 year-olds have an entitlement to full funding for an entitlement qualification **at level 2 if they don't already hold a full level 2**, and for an entitlement qualification **at level 3 if they don't already hold a full level 3**.



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Full Level 2 is the level of attainment demonstrated by:

- A GCSE in five subjects, each at grade C or above, or grade 4 or above, or
- A Technical Certificate on the 2018 16-19 performance tables, or
- Other technical and professional qualifications listed as level 2 legal entitlement qualifications which must be at least 150 glh
- Qualifications previously designated as full for the purposes of the level 2 legal entitlement (this will be clarified in versions 3 of the SFA's funding rules due out shortly).

Full Level 3 is the level of attainment demonstrated by:

- An A level in two subjects, or an AS level in four subjects, or
- A QAA Access to HE Diploma at Level 3, or
- A Tech level; or Applied general on the 2018 16-19 performance tables, and a number of Tech levels and Applied generals from the 2017 16-19 performance tables, or
- Other technical and professional qualifications listed as level 3 legal entitlement qualifications which must be at least 300 glh
- Qualifications previously designated as full for the purposes of the level 3 legal entitlement (this will be clarified in versions 3 of the SFA's funding rules due out shortly).

List of additional QCF BTEC Nationals eligible for 19-23 entitlement funding in 2016/17

Animal management

- 6010563X Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Animal Management (QCF)

Applied Science

- 50067266 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Applied Science (QCF)
- 50067254 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)
- 60058493 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Applied Science (QCF)

Business

- 50067485 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Business (QCF)
- 50067503 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Business (QCF)
- 60038895 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Business (QCF)
- 50067461 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business (QCF)

Engineering

- 50081561 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Engineering (QCF)
- 50078410 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering (QCF)
- 60038883 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Engineering (QCF)
- 50077995 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering (QCF)

Enterprise and entrepreneurship

- 50062451 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Understanding Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (QCF)
- 6010501X Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (QCF)
- 60105021 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship (QCF)



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Health and social care

- 50093174 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)
- 60061789 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Health and Social Care (QCF)

Information technology

- 50091487 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in IT (QCF)
- 60038871 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in IT (QCF)

Performing arts

- 50069202 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Performing Arts (QCF)
- 50069196 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)
- 6003953X Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)
- 50068726 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts (QCF)

Sport

- 50067539 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Sport (QCF)
- 50067515 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport (QCF)
- 50067552 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport (QCF)

Sport and exercise science

- 50067655 Pearson BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences (QCF)
- 60039309 Pearson BTEC Level 3 90-credit Diploma in Sport and Exercise Sciences (QCF)

Update: Learner and qualification eligibility for 19+ funding 2016/17

The rules around who, and what, will be eligible for 19+ funding change for 2016/17. An updated Funding Focus document is available which 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 (published on the 8 April) to clarify the restrictions on funding in the workplace. It will shortly be available on the [Pearson funding website](#).

Reminder: How to find qualifications approved for adult funding in 2016/17

Qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement 2016/17

- The SFA's list of qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (fourth document down). These are also showing on the [funding hub](#).
- More on how the SFA approve qualifications for this entitlement can be found [here](#).

Qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement 2016/17

- The SFA's latest list of qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (third document down).
- More on how the SFA approve qualifications for this entitlement can be found [here](#).



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Qualifications and components approved for local flexibility funding 2016/17

- The SFA are not producing a list of qualifications eligible for local flexibility funding in 2016/17; these qualifications will be confirmed for funding just on the [funding hub](#). Components (or units) of qualifications started to be uploaded this month (June).
- More on how the SFA approve qualifications for local flexibility funding can be found [here](#).

Qualifications approved for loan funding 2015/16 and 2016/17

- The SFA's latest list of qualifications approved for advanced learner loans can be found in the [advanced learner loans catalogue](#). These are also showing on the [funding hub](#).
- More on how the SFA approve qualifications loan funding can be found [here](#).

'Do read' document from the SFA

The document published by the SFA on the 28 January, [Adult Education Budget January 2016 Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016/17](#), provides a very useful outline of the changes the SFA are making to the adult skills system with the creation of the adult education budget, following the publication of the Skills Funding Letter. It includes information on the move to full devolution and the funding streams.

Weekly advanced learner loan submissions update

Last week we introduced the new weekly learner loan submissions update to let you know which qualifications Pearson are currently submitting for advanced learner loan funding. This, and future updates, will be available on the [Pearson funding website](#). The full update includes information on the submission process, qualifications eligible for loans, the extension of the loan offer in 2016/17, and further information and links.

If you wish to make a request for Pearson to submit a qualification for loan funding that isn't on this list, or isn't already confirmed for loan funding on the [funding hub](#) or in the SFA's [Advanced learner loans qualifications catalogue](#), please email funding@pearson.com

Pearson's current advanced learner loan submissions

No additional submissions have been added since last week

QN	Title	Qualification specification	Status
600/1490/8	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Certificate in Providing Financial Services (QCF)	Click here	Submitted in May Approved and on SFA loan catalogue
600/3994/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Wall and Floor Tiling (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/9097/2	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Decorative Finishing - Painting and Decorating (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/3263/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Plastering (Construction) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
500/9771/4	Pearson Edexcel Level 6 NVQ Diploma in Senior Site Inspection (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
601/6283/1	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Recruitment Practice (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
601/6188/7	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Recruitment (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July



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600/0872/6	Pearson BTEC Level 3 Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles (Professional Cookery) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/3924/3	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Sales Professional) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July
600/4105/5	Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Diploma in Retail Skills (Management) (QCF)	Click here	Plan to submit in July

Steve Besley's Policy Watch

The latest from Steve Besley includes [Policy Tracker – Keeping track of what happened in the world of education in May 2016](#), and [Policy Eye - Highlights of week ending Friday 27 May 2016](#). See the latest from [Policy Watch](#) for these and more.

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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.