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## Funding Focus – Adult funding – Overview, and where to find out more

11 August 2016

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

### Introduction

This Funding Focus provides an overview of adult funding and shows you where to look for further information. It includes changes to adult funding in 2016/17, qualification eligibility, learner eligibility, using the funding hub, and the funding rules for 2016/17.

### Changes to adult funding in 2016/17

The SFA document published on the 28 January, [Adult Education Budget January 2016 Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016/17](#), provides a summary of the changes being made to the adult skills system with the creation of the adult education budget, following the publication of the [Skills Funding Letter](#).

### Qualification eligibility

- Qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement 2016/17: The list of qualifications approved for the 19+ English and maths entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (fourth document down). These are also 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 list of qualifications approved for the 19-23 level 2 and 3 entitlement in 2016/17 can be found [here](#) (third document down). These are also on the [funding hub](#). More on how the SFA approve qualifications for this entitlement can be found [here](#).

A [Pearson Funding Focus](#) shows which QCF, and new, BTEC Firsts and Nationals are approved for funding in 2016/17.

- Qualifications and components approved for local flexibility funding 2016/17: The SFA is not producing a list of qualifications eligible for local flexibility funding in 2016/17; these qualifications will be confirmed for funding on the [funding hub](#). 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 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](#).

A [Pearson Funding Focus](#) is available which provides links to further information about advanced learner loans, and the latest [Pearson monthly advanced learner loan submissions update](#) lets you know which qualifications Pearson have recently submitted, and are currently submitting, for advanced learner loan funding.



## Learner eligibility

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



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## Using the funding hub

To be eligible for 19+ funding a qualification:

- needs to be showing as valid for adult skills; i.e. the last date for new starts under the 'Funding' tab on the funding hub needs to be in the future, and
- needs to be checked for the category of funding it is eligible for; which can be found in the 'Category' tab in the funding hub.

The SFA has produced an [updated guide](#) on the definitions and guidance for each category on the [funding hub](#). New categories have been introduced for 2016/17 which helps 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.

## Funding rules 2016/17

The SFA's latest funding rules documents can all be found on the [SFA's funding rules 2016/17](#):

- [Skills Funding Agency: common funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeships: common funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship framework funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship standards funding rules](#)
- [Apprenticeship funding rules for higher education institutions](#)
- [Adult education budget funding rules](#)
- [Advanced learner loans funding rules](#)
- [SFA funding rules 2016 to 2017: summary of changes](#)

**Siân Owen**

Head of Stakeholder Engagement (Funding)  
sian.owen1@pearson.com