



Department  
for Education

# **Advanced learner loans**

## **Application information**

**Quarter 4 2016/17 academic year report**

## Main Headlines

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### Advanced Learner Loan applications received

**94,400** applications were received for the 2016/17 academic year<sup>1</sup>, to July 2017.

**8,550** applications were received between May 2017 and July 2017.

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### Applications ready for payment

**82,500** applications were ready for payment for courses starting in the 2016/17 academic year<sup>1</sup>, to July 2017.

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### Applications by provision type

Level 3 Diploma qualifications continue to receive the most applications, with **6,610** received between May 2017 and July 2017 and **53,020** received overall for the 2016/17 academic year<sup>1</sup>. These accounted for **56.2 per cent** of all applications.

Access to Higher Education qualifications also received a large amount of applications, with **20,010** being received overall for the 2016/17 academic year<sup>1</sup>. These accounted for **21.2 per cent** of all applications.

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### Applicant demographics

From 2016/17 advanced learner loans were extended to those 19 and older (previously 24 and older). **21,370** applications have been received from the 19-23 age group for the 2016/17 academic year<sup>1</sup>, to July 2017.

The 24-30 year old age group continue to have the majority of applications with **27,510** recorded, followed by the 31-40 year old age group with **26,320** applicants.

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1. The 2016/17 academic year covers August 2016 to July 2017

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## Further Education & Skills Advanced Learner Loans

**Release Date:** 26 October 2017

**Coverage:** 2016/17: England; 19+, Level 3 and above

**Statistician:** Praful Whiteman

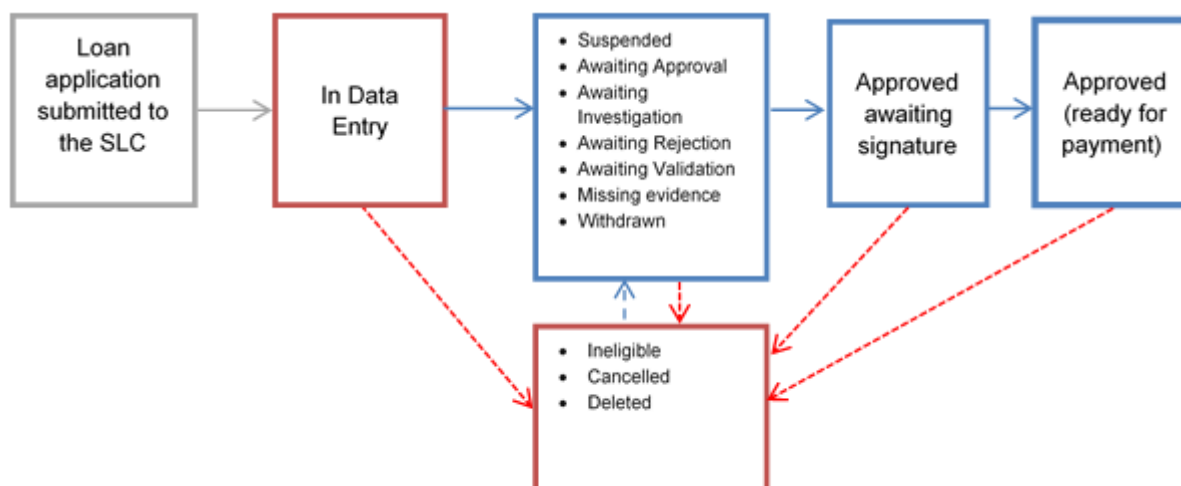
1. This is a Department for Education report for the Advanced Learner Loans system and contains information relating to courses starting in the 2016/17 academic year. The previous 24+ advanced learning loans have been expanded to those aged 19 and over starting in the 2016/17 academic year and have been renamed to 'Advanced Learner Loans'.
2. The report contains an outline of the data source, headline information and tables presenting application and processing figures. Information presented is as given in application forms and is subject to change.
3. This release of Advanced Learner Loans Application Information includes applications submitted between 1 August 2016 and 31 July 2017 for the 2016/17 academic year. Applications for the 2016/17 academic year opened on 16 May 2016.
4. This report was also released alongside the figures for Quarter 3 and the final year data for the academic year 2016/17.
5. We are reviewing this publication and its uses so we would welcome feedback from users on their requirements and the usefulness of this along with any other relevant Department for Education data we publish.

## Data Source

The data used to produce this report are sourced from the live Student Loans Company (SLC) application database. The data refer to all applications received for Advanced Learner Loans, which include both unprocessed and processed applications, but exclude those ineligible, cancelled, deleted and in data entry. The live database provides information on applications, and is updated on an ongoing basis due to applications being processed, therefore data presented throughout the academic year are subject to change. A database snapshot provides data on applications (including application state) as it was held for any given date. This report uses application data on the 31 July 2017 for the 2016/17 academic year. Data presented in this report may also change for particular applications at some point in the future.

Figure 1 provides an overview of different application states. The state of an application can depend on various factors, including how much progress has been made processing the application, as well as the accuracy of the information and supporting evidence provided. In the Advanced Learner Loans report, the definition of applications received exclude those that are in data entry, ineligible, cancelled or deleted.

**Figure 1 – Process map of application states**



Applications move between different states on an ongoing basis. For example, an application may be in data entry and move to awaiting approval or an application that has been approved may move into the cancelled, deleted or in data entry state. It is therefore possible that the number of applications received could decrease from one month to the next if a large amount of applications move to the states in the red boxes and are no longer classed as an application received. Also, due to the changing of states, the sum of monthly application states over the course of the academic year will not equal the total for the full academic year.

## Other Related Statistics

On 12 October 2017, the Department for Education published the [Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release](#), which contains provisional full year figures relating to the number of learners participating in FE who are funded through the Advanced Learner Loans system (see Table 11 and 26 from the most recent release). Figures for 2016/17 include some learners whose course started in the 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 academic years that continued into the 2016/17 academic year, and so these figures are not comparable to those in this report.

The Student Loans Company also published their [Advanced Learner Loans Paid in England](#) publication on 12 October 2017, which includes information on payments made to FE providers on behalf of loans-funded learners during the 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. Data presented relates to learners who are participating on a further education course funded by an Advanced Learner Loan, and hence are not directly comparable to the application figures presented in this report.

On 15 June 2017, the Student Loans Company published [Debt and Repayment statistics for England](#), which included figures debt and repayment relating to some Advanced Learner Loans for the 2016/17 financial year.

**Table 1 - Overall Processing Position of Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17**

	Total 1 May 2017 to 31 July 2017	Total 2016/17
<b>Total applications received (excludes ineligible)</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>94,400</b>
Total processed (includes ineligible)	7,430	85,810
Awaiting further information from learner	960	1,180
In progress/work in hand	340	10,040

**Table 2 - Further Breakdown of Advanced Learner Loans Processed Applications for Academic Year 2016/17**

	Total 1 May 2017 to 31 July 2017	Total 2016/17
<b>Total Processed (includes ineligible)</b>	<b>7,430</b>	<b>85,810</b>
Ineligible	190	2,640
Waiting for customer signature	620	670
Ready for payment	6,630	82,500

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible (except where stated).
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Total 2016/17 is as at 31 July 2017.
5. Applications in progress/work in hand include those that have been suspended or withdrawn, but not yet cancelled or deleted.
6. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2016/17 if the course start date was deferred.

**Table 3 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17, by Provision Type**

	Total 1 May 2017 to 31 July 2017	Total 2016/17
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>94,400</b>
A Level	20	670
QAA Access to HE	530	20,010
<b>Level 3:</b>		
Certificate	520	8,710
Diploma	6,610	53,020
Vocational Qualification	290	5,320
<b>Level 4+:</b>		
Certificate	150	990
Diploma	300	3,380
Vocational Qualification	100	2,240
Unknown	40	60

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible.
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Applications received for courses of an unknown provision type will be followed up to obtain further information from the learner.
4. The Vocational Qualification category has been created in the Student Loans Company database and is gradually being used to group vocational qualifications (including Certificates and Diplomas). Due to this transition, users should be cautious when comparing the number of applications for certificates, diplomas and vocational qualifications between academic years.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Total 2016/17 is as at 31 July 2017.
7. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2016/17 if the course start date was deferred.



**Table 4 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17, by Age, Gender and UK/Non-UK Nationality Status**

	<b>Total 1 May 2017 to 31 July 2017</b>	<b>2016/17</b>
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>8,550</b>	<b>94,400</b>
19-23	1,590	21,370
24-30	2,400	27,510
31-40	2,490	26,320
41-50	1,450	14,110
50+	580	5,040
Unknown	30	60
Total Male	2,890	27,840
Total Female	5,660	66,550
Total UK Nationals	6,640	78,030
Total Non-UK Nationals	1,910	16,370

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible.
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Applications received from candidates of unknown age will be followed up to obtain further information from the learner.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Total 2016/17 is as at 31 July 2017.
6. UK national status is based on the nationality of the applicant, not the domicile.
7. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2016/17 if the course start date was deferred.



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