



Department
for Education

Advanced learner loans

Application information

August 2016

Main Headlines

Applications received

82,990 applications were received for the 2015/16 academic year, to July 2016, with **4,050** applications being received between May and July 2016.

19,450 applications were received for the 2016/17 academic year to July 2016.

Applications ready for payment

71,780 applications were ready for payment for courses starting in the 2015/16 academic year, to July 2016.

11,590 applications received to July 2016 were ready for payment for the 2016/17 academic year.

Provision type

Diploma level 3 qualifications continue to receive the most applications, with **11,610** received between May and July 2016 for the 2015/16 academic year.

Diploma level 3 qualifications received **8,820** applications between May and July 2016 for the 2016/17 academic year, compared to the **6,630** applications received for Quality Assurance Agency access to Higher Education (QAA access to HE) qualifications (the second highest).

Applicant demographics

The highest number of applications received in 2015/16 were from the 24-30 age band (**31,840**), closely followed by the 31-40 age band (**29,250**).

From 2016/17 the advanced learner loans were extended to those 19 and older (previously 24 and older). **5,140** applications have been received for the 2016/17 academic year to July 2016 from the 19-23 age group.

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Further Education & Skills Advanced Learner Loans

Release Date: 25 August 2016

Next Update: 24 November 2016

October 2016 – Final 2015/16 report

Coverage: 2015/16 and 2016/17: England; 19+, Level 3 and above

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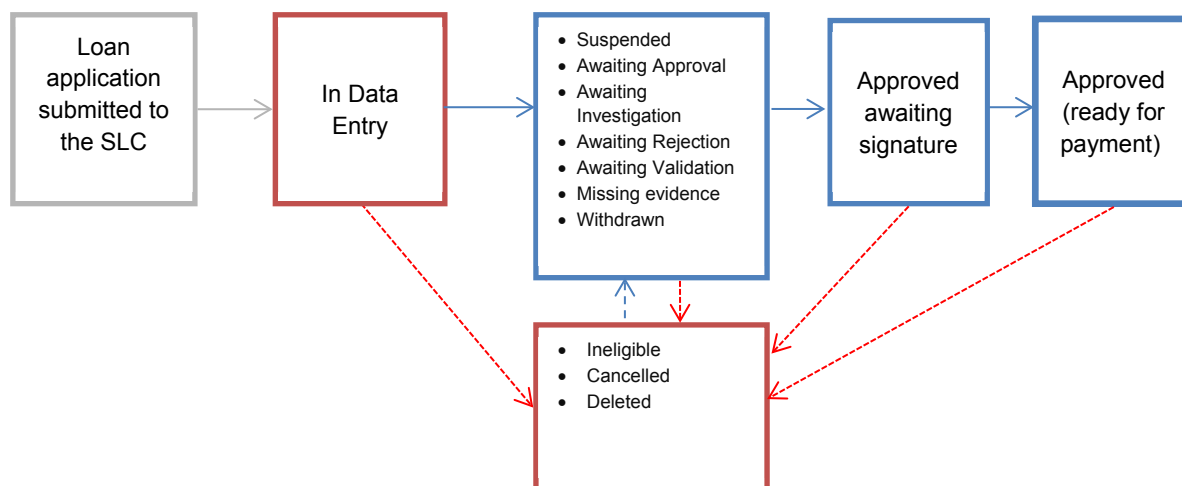
1. This is a Department for Education report for the Advanced Learner Loans system and contains information relating to courses starting in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. The previous 24+ advanced learning loans have been expanded to those aged 19 and over starting in the 2016/17 academic year 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 covers applications submitted between 1 May and 31 July 2016 for courses starting in the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. Applications for courses starting in the 2015/16 academic year closed at the end of July 2015 (although changes can be made after July through change of circumstances). Applications for the 2016/17 academic year opened on 16 May 2016.
4. The next release of Advanced Learner Loans report will be published on 24 November 2016, and will relate to applications for the 2016/17 academic year submitted to the end of October 2016. A final end of year report for the 2015/16 academic year will be published in October 2016.

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 2016 for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 academic years. 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 23 June 2016, the Department for Business Innovation and Skills published the [Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release](#), which contains 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](#)). Figures for 2015/16 include some learners whose course started in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years that continued into the 2015/16 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 23 June 2016, which includes information on payments made to FE providers on behalf of loans-funded learners during the 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 academic years. Data presented here 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 Thursday 16 June 2016, 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 2015/16 financial year.

2015/16 Academic Year

Table 1 - Overall Processing Position of Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2015/16

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2015/16
Total applications received (excludes ineligible)	14,050	82,990
Total processed (includes ineligible)	12,150	77,330
Awaiting further information from learner	2,160	2,280
In progress/work in hand	590	8,050

Table 2 - Further Breakdown of Advanced Learner Loans Processed Applications for Academic Year 2015/16

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2015/16
Total Processed (includes ineligible)	12,150	77,330
Ineligible	840	4,660
Waiting for customer signature	840	890
Ready for payment	10,470	71,780

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 2015/16 is as at 31 July 2016.
5. Applications in progress/work in hand include those that have been suspended or withdrawn, but not yet cancelled or deleted.

Table 3 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2015/16, by Provision Type

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2015/16
Total	14,050	82,990
A Level	-	420
QAA Access to HE	320	17,060
Level 3:		
Certificate	1,250	9,090
Diploma	11,610	51,380
Vocational Qualification	110	150
Level 4+:		
Certificate	170	910
Diploma	430	3,830
Vocational Qualification	60	60
Unknown	90	100

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. A ‘-’ indicates less than 5 applications.
6. Total 2015/16 is as at 31 July 2016.

Table 4 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2015/16, by Age, Sex and UK/Non-UK Status

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2015/16
Grand Totals	14,050	82,990
24-30	4,570	31,840
31-40	4,990	29,250
41-50	3,160	16,200
50+	1,290	5,650
Unknown	50	60
Total Male	5,620	24,840
Total Female	8,430	58,150
Total UK	9,640	66,690
Total Non-UK	4,420	16,300

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 2015/16 is as at 31 July 2016.

2016/17 Academic Year

Table 5 - Overall Processing Position of Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2016/17
Total applications received (excludes ineligible)	19,400	19,450
Total processed (includes ineligible)	15,380	15,430
Awaiting further information from learner	4,020	4,020
In progress/work in hand	540	540

Table 6 - Further Breakdown of Advanced Learner Loans Processed Applications for Academic Year 2016/17

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2016/17
Total Processed (includes ineligible)	15,380	15,430
Ineligible	530	540
Waiting for customer signature	3,300	3,300
Ready for payment	11,540	11,590

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 2016.
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 7 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17, by Provision Type

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2016/17
Total	19,400	19,450
A Level	80	80
QAA Access to HE	6,630	6,640
Level 3:		
Certificate	1,590	1,590
Diploma	8,820	8,850
Vocational Qualification	1,050	1,050
Level 4+:		
Certificate	100	100
Diploma	730	730
Vocational Qualification	300	300
Unknown	100	100

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. A ‘-’ indicates less than 5 applications.
6. Total 2016/17 is as at 31 July 2016.
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 8 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17, by Age, Sex and UK/Non-UK Status

	Total 1 May to 31 July	Total 2016/17
Grand Totals	19,400	19,450
19-23	5,130	5,140
24-30	5,790	5,810
31-40	5,270	5,280
41-50	2,410	2,420
50+	800	800
Unknown	-	-
Total Male	5,060	5,080
Total Female	14,340	14,370
Total UK	16,550	16,590
Total Non-UK	2,860	2,860

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 2016.
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.



Department
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