



Skills Funding
Agency

Title	Guidance for recording A and AS Levels on the ILR for 2015 to 2016
Purpose	To provide detailed information on how to record ILR data for learners undertaking AS and A levels in 2015 to 2016.
Intended audience	This document is aimed at those responsible for making data returns; data specification implementation; and MI system design (including MI managers, commercial software suppliers and own software writers)
Version	1

If you have any technical queries about this document please contact: dataqueries@sfa.bis.gov.uk

Document History

Version 1: Published 12 February 2015

Guidance for recording A and AS Levels on the ILR for 2015 to 2016

The following guidance applies to all learners who start an AS or A level learning aim from 1 August 2015. This includes all learners who took an AS qualification in 2014 to 2015 and are continuing with an A level in the same subject in 2015 to 2016. It applies to all A levels, including those that are not being reformed until 2016 or 2017.

What is changing?

From August 2015, new linear A levels will be introduced in a number of subject areas with all external assessment at the end of the course. The AS will be decoupled from the A level, which means that AS marks will not count towards the A level. See <https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/reforming-qualifications-and-the-curriculum-to-better-prepare-pupils-for-life-after-school/supporting-pages/a-and-as-level-reform> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/reform-of-as-and-a-level-qualifications-by-ofqual> for further information.

How will this affect ILR recording?

- From 1 August 2015 the use of A2 learning aims will be discontinued.
- A2 learning aims will not be available in LARS or recorded on the ILR, apart from where the learner started the A2 learning aim before 1 August 2015 and has not yet completed it.

In all cases, providers should accurately record the learning aim that a learner is working towards; either an AS or A level learning aim.

Where a learner takes an AS qualification and continues with further study to take the A level qualification in the same subject, both the AS learning aim and A level learning aim must be recorded.

Are there any funding implications?

For Skills Funding Agency funded A levels, if a learner undertakes both an AS and an A level in the same subject, the provider will need to record a funding adjustment on the ILR for the A level, to take into account the prior learning completed for the AS learning aim.

For EFA funded A levels, no funding adjustment is required, as these are funded through the EFA's funding per student methodology which uses planned hours for the year to determine funding levels.

AS and A levels that are financed by a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan

Learners will be able to apply for a 24+ Advanced Learning Loan for both AS and A levels to enable them to undertake up to 4 A levels funded with a Loan. Loans for A2 learning aims will be discontinued. Where a learner applies for a loan for an A level after sitting the AS in the same subject, the provider must reduce the fee for the A level to take into account the prior learning completed for the AS learning aim.

Recording AS level outcomes

AS qualifications in the subjects that have been decoupled from the A level will no longer be recorded as cashed or uncashed in the Outcome field of the ILR.

Transfers and withdrawals

Where a learner changes the AS or A level learning aim that they are working towards, or withdraws from the learning aim, this should be recorded in the usual way on the ILR - as detailed in the ILR Provider support manual.

Examples

The following examples illustrate how some different scenarios should be recorded, and assume that an AS qualification is studied over one year and an A level over 2 years:

Example A: Learner starts intending to do only an AS-level. They complete the AS level as planned and do no further study in this subject in year 2

	Year 1	Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1		
From 1 Aug 2015	AS Level Subject 1		No change to current approach

Example B: Learner starts intending to do only an AS-level. Following the AS results they decide to take the A level in year 2

	Year 1	Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1	A2 Level Subject 1	
From 1 Aug 2015	AS Level Subject 1	A Level Subject 1	A2 level no longer recorded. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for A level for SFA funded learners

Example C: Learner starts intending to do only an A-level, and does not enter for the AS level. They complete the A level as planned

	Year 1	Year 2	Notes
Current System	AS Level Subject 1	A2 Level Subject 1	
From 1 Aug 2015	A-level Subject 1		

Example D: Learner starts intending to do both an AS-level and an A level. They complete both learning aims as planned

	Year 1	Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1	A2 Level Subject 1	
From 1 Aug 2015	AS Level Subject 1	A Level Subject 1	A2 level no longer recorded. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for A level for SFA funded learners

Example E: Learner starts intending to do only an A-level, but during year 1 decides to enter for the AS level as well

	Year 1		Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1		A2 Level Subject 1	
From 1 Aug 2015	A-level Subject 1			The A level learning aim is closed and transferred to an AS level. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for AS level for SFA funded learners in year 1. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for A level for SFA funded learners in year 2
		AS Level Subject 1	A-level Subject 1	

Example F: Learner starts intending to do only an A-level, but during year 1 decides to transfer to the AS level. They do not go on to take an A level in this subject

	Year 1		Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1			
From 1 Aug 2015	A-level Subject 1			The A level learning aim is closed and transferred to an AS level. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for AS level for SFA funded learners.
		AS Level Subject 1	Study for the AS level may continue into year 2 for some students	

Example G: Learner starts intending to do an AS level, and during year 1 decides to transfer to an A-level and does not sit the AS level

	Year 1		Year 2	Notes
Current system	AS Level Subject 1		A2 Level Subject 1	
From 1 Aug 2015	AS Level Subject 1			The AS level learning aim is closed and transferred to an A-level. Funding adjustment for prior learning required for A level for SFA funded learners
		A-level Subject 1		

Example H: Learner starts intending to do only an A-level, and withdraws completely from this subject during year 1

	Year 1		Year 2	Notes
Current System	AS Level Subject 1			
From 1 Aug 2015	A-level Subject 1			The A level learning aim is recorded as withdrawn