



Department
for Education

Advanced learner loans

Application information

November 2016

Main Headlines

Applications received	66,000 applications were received for the 2016/17 academic year, to October 2016, with 49,570 applications being received between August and October 2016.
Applications ready for payment	54,780 applications were ready for payment for courses starting in the 2016/17 academic year, to October 2016.
Provision type	Level 3 Diploma qualifications continue to receive the most applications, with 25,960 received between August and October 2016, and 33,400 received overall for the 2016/17 academic year. Access to Higher Education qualifications also received a large amount of applications, with 17,740 being received to October 2016.
Applicant demographics	From 2016/17 advanced learner loans were extended to those 19 and older (previously 24 and older). 16,100 applications have been received from the 19-23 age group for the 2016/17 academic year to October 2016, however the 24-30 year old age group continue to have the most applications (19,630).

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Further Education & Skills Advanced Learner Loans

Release Date: 24 November 2016

Next Update: 23 February 2017

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

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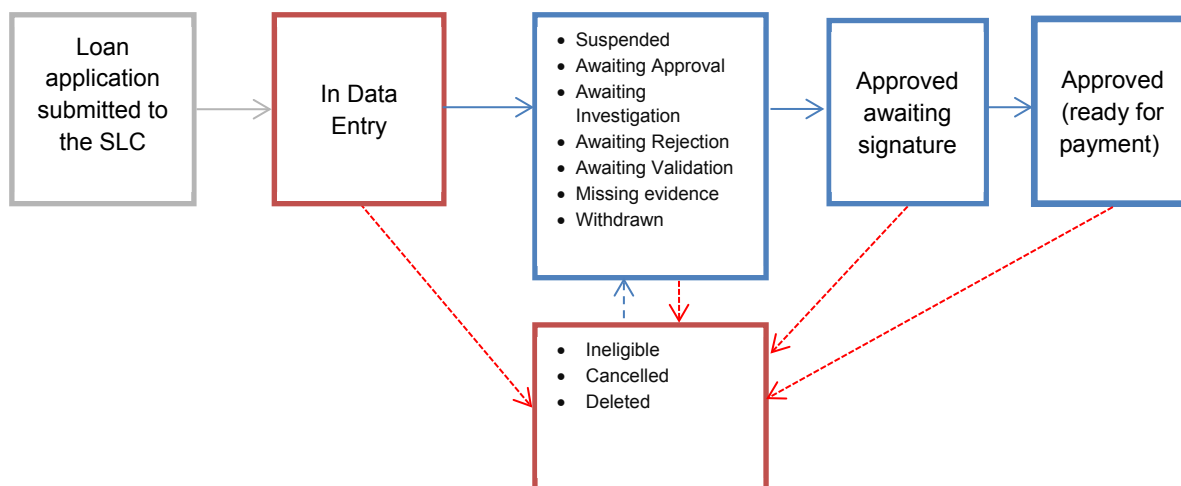
1. This is a Department for Education report for the Advanced Learner Loans system and contains information relating to courses starting in the 2016/17 academic year. The previous 24+ advanced learning loans have been expanded to those aged 19 and over starting in the 2016/17 academic year and have been 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 covers applications submitted between 1 August and 31 October for the 2016/17 academic year. 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 23 February 2017, and will relate to applications for the 2016/17 academic year submitted to the end of January 2017.

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 October 2016 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 17 November 2016, the Department for Education 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](#)). Figures on learner participation include learners whose course started in previous academic years (2013/14 and 2014/15) that continued into 2015/16, so figures are not comparable to those in this report.

The Student Loans Company also published their [Advanced Learner Loans Paid in England](#) publication on 6 Oct 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.

2016/17 Academic Year

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

	Total 1 August to 31 October	Total 2016/17
Total applications received (excludes ineligible)	49,570	66,000
Total processed (includes ineligible)	43,500	59,640
Awaiting further information from learner	5,710	5,940
In progress/work in hand	1,600	1,990

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

	Total 1 August to 31 October	Total 2016/17
Total Processed (includes ineligible)	43,500	59,640
Ineligible	1,250	1,570
Waiting for customer signature	3,250	3,290
Ready for payment	39,010	54,780

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 2016/17 is as at 31 October 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 3 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2016/17, by Provision Type

	Total 1 August to 31 October	Total 2016/17
Total	49,570	66,000
A Level	530	600
QAA Access to HE	12,200	17,740
Level 3:		
Certificate	4,580	5,970
Diploma	25,960	33,400
Vocational Qualification	2,760	3,720
Level 4+:		
Certificate	430	510
Diploma	1,650	2,300
Vocational Qualification	1,320	1,600
Unknown	150	150

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

	Total 1 August to 31 October	Total 2016/17
Grand Totals	49,570	66,000
19-23	12,020	16,100
24-30	14,610	19,630
31-40	13,430	17,980
41-50	6,970	9,080
50+	2,490	3,160
Unknown	40	40
Male	14,890	19,130
Female	34,680	46,870
UK National	40,610	54,790
Non-UK National	8,950	11,210

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 October 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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