



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 296
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Welcome

In this issue of Update, our weekly round-up of business-critical and useful information to Skills Funding Agency (SFA) colleges, other training organisations and direct grant employers:

1. **IT Apprenticeship Framework Rates Review**
2. **FE Choices: Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning Surveys**
3. **Qualification Eligibility Principles 2016 to 2017**
4. **The Hub: Business Intelligence User Roles**
5. **Advanced Learner Loans: Maximum Amounts for Designated Qualifications**

Please share Update with your colleagues, who might like to register for [web alerts](#). This will notify them by email when we publish new editions of [Update](#) on [GOV.UK](#). If you have any feedback, please email [Update](#).

NOTE: Our [Business Cycle](#) sets out the key milestones from April 2015 to March 2016 and will help you plan ahead.

1. IT Apprenticeship Framework Rates Review

Information

We are changing the funding rate of the advanced apprenticeship framework in IT, Software, Web & Telecoms Professionals. This is part of our regular review of apprenticeship framework costs to ensure value for public funds.

From 1 April 2016, we will reduce the funding values for new apprenticeship starts only; those already on programme will remain on their existing rates. We will change the competency aims (not knowledge, English or maths aims) for the published rate from £8,673 to £6,650, a 23% reduction.

We will make the new funding rates available on the learning aims search on [the Hub](#) before the individualised learner record R07 opens on **Monday, 22 February**.

For further information, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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2. FE Choices: Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning Surveys

Information

The Learner Satisfaction and Community Learning surveys will close on 1 April. To achieve a representative sample and gain a valid score, please encourage your learners complete the relevant survey:

- a) Learners funded under the Adult Skills Budget, Advanced Learner Loans, and those aged 16 to 18 funded by the Education Funding Agency, must complete the [Learner Satisfaction survey](#).
- b) Learners funded under the Community Learning budget must complete the [Community Learning survey](#).

For further information, please refer to the [Information for Providers](#) page on [GOV.UK](#) or email the [Service Desk](#).

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3. Qualification Eligibility Principles 2016 to 2017

Information

We have published the [Qualification Eligibility Principles](#) document for the 2016 to 2017 funding year.

This identifies which qualifications and their components, will be eligible for funding as part of local flexibilities through the Adult Education Budget.

To support local area needs and delivery of agreed local outcomes, colleges and other training organisations will decide on the most appropriate form of training provision. This may or may not include qualifications. To support this, we have removed the requirement for all delivery we fund to be in the form of a qualification.

For further information, please email the [Qualifications](#) team.

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4. The Hub: Business Intelligence User Roles

Information

On **Monday, 29 February**, we will make provisional Qualification Achievement Rates (QARs) available through interactive dashboards on [the Hub](#).

Please make sure that your Hub 'super-users' have allocated business intelligence (BI) user roles to the relevant staff. This will enable them to access the dashboards.

BI users should also familiarise themselves with the training dashboard, which will help them navigate the interactive dashboard.

For help and advice on the Hub user roles, please email the [Service Desk](#).

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5. **Advanced Learner Loans: Maximum Amounts for Designated Qualifications**

Information

We have published the Maximum Loan Amounts for Advanced Learner Loans Designated Qualifications 2016 to 2017 [document](#).

This confirms the methodology we will use to calculate maximum Loan amounts. It also confirms what the maximum Loan amounts are for designated qualifications, where learners start these qualifications from 1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017 (inclusive).


We will begin to add qualifications designated for 2016 to 2017 to the learning aims section of [the Hub](#) and the [Advanced Learner Loans Qualifications Catalogue](#). We will do this by the end of February.

We will update the information regularly as we add new designated qualifications to the Loans offer.

For further information, please email [Advanced Learner Loans](#).

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