



Skills Funding
Agency

Update

Issue 294
3 February 2016

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. **Individualised Learner Record R06 2015 to 2016: Closes Thursday, 4 February**
2. **FE Choices: Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016**
3. **Funding Rules 2016 to 2017: Online Forum**
4. **Apprenticeship Standards Funding Model 2016 to 2017**
5. **Advanced Learner Loans Prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017**
6. **Community Learning: IT Equipment**
7. **Apprenticeship Grant for Employers 2016**

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. Individualised Learner Record R06 2015 to 2016: Closes Thursday, 4 February

Action

The individualised learner record R06 data collection for the 2015 to 2016 funding year will close at **6.00pm** on **Thursday, 4 February**.

The R06 is a mandatory return; you **must** submit your data to [the Hub](#).

We publish a [maintenance schedule](#), which lists collection dates and proposed system maintenance.

For further information, please refer to the [Payments and Data](#) page on [GOV.UK](#).

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2. FE Choices: Employer Satisfaction Survey 2015 to 2016

Action

Shortly, we will send information about this year's employer satisfaction survey to all in-scope colleges and other training organisations.

The survey starts on **29 March** with a '**provider-led**' phase. During this phase, colleges and other training organisations can contact their employer customers to encourage them to respond to the survey.

Colleges and other training organisations must complete a number of [actions](#) before the survey starts.

For further information, please refer the [Employer Satisfaction](#) pages on [GOV.UK](#) or email the [Service Desk](#).

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3. **Funding Rules 2016 to 2017: Online Forum**

Information

Last week, we published version 1 of our [Funding Rules 2016 to 2017](#). Currently, we are hosting an online forum on [feconnect](#) to answer your questions, comments or requests for clarification on the Funding Rules.

We will use your feedback to inform version 2 of the Funding Rules, which we will publish in March. The forum will close on **Friday, 12 February**.

For further information, please refer to the [Help Section](#) on [feconnect](#).

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4. **Apprenticeship Standards Funding Model 2016 to 2017**

Information

Following a review of the funding model, we will introduce an additional maximum funding cap on the core government contributions for each apprenticeship standard. We will set this at a maximum of £13,000.

From 1 August, the number of funding caps will increase from five to six. Please refer to the [Apprenticeship Standards Funding Rules 2016 to 2017](#) for more details.

For standards that have been allocated to one of the existing five funding caps by 31 July 2016, the cap allocated will continue into the 2016 to 2017 funding year. This is part of the apprenticeship standards funding pilot arrangements.

For further information or related queries, please email [Trailblazer Funding Enquiries](#).

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5. **Advanced Learner Loans Prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017**

Information

We have published an updated version of our Advanced Learner Loans (Loans) **Prospectus 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017: Designating Qualifications**. It sets out a simplified and more regular process to designate technical and professional qualifications that are eligible for Loans.

The updated prospectus provides the following information:

- a) The qualification eligibility for the 2016 to 2017 funding year.
- b) The process for updating the **Loans Qualifications Catalogue** for both the 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 funding years.

For further information, please email the **Qualifications** team.

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6. **Community Learning: IT Equipment**

Information

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) is reinvesting Community Learning funding reclaimed from colleges and other training organisations that did not spend their 2014 to 2015 allocation.

It has commissioned The Tinder Foundation to allocate and distribute IT equipment to eligible colleges and other training organisations in direct receipt of Community Learning funding.

This equipment is to improve the digital skills of socially and economically disadvantaged Community Learning learners.

To find out if you are eligible to apply, please refer to [UK Onlinecentres.com](http://UKOnlinecentres.com).

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7. Apprenticeship Grant for Employers 2016

Information

The [Apprenticeship Grant for Employers](#) (AGE) 16 to 24 programme will continue for apprenticeships that start in 2016. We will issue contracts for the period from 1 January until the end of the programme, currently July 2017.

This 19-month contract will cover two separate phases:


- a) From 1 January to the end of the 2015 to 2016 financial year.
- b) From 1 April onwards.

All claims up to 31 March must comply with the existing eligibility criteria. We have revised the AGE documents on GOV.UK to reflect the changes.

For related queries, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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