



Skills Funding  
Agency

Update

Issue 291  
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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. **Funding Claims 2015 to 2016**
2. **College Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016**
3. **Advanced Learner Loans**
4. **Performance-management Point 1: 16 to 18 Apprenticeships and Traineeships Growth Requests**
5. **National Apprenticeship Week 2016: Toolkits**

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. Funding Claims 2015 to 2016

## Information

We have published the [Funding Claims 2015 to 2016](#) guidance document for the 2015 to 2016 funding year. This is for colleges and other training organisations that are:

- Adult Skills Budget grant-funded
- Discretionary Learner Support grant-funded
- Advanced Learner Loans Bursary grant-funded
- Community Learning-funded

The document contains information on completing the new digital funding claim forms. Please read the guidance together with the [Funding Rules 2015 to 2016](#) and the [Performance Management Rules 2015 to 2016](#).

Funding claims are due on **Monday, 8 February**. The claims form will include your individualised learner record R06 information and will not be available to you until **Friday, 5 February**.

For further information, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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# 2. College Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016

## Information

We have published the [College Accounts Direction 2015 to 2016](#). This sets out the Education Funding Agency's and our requirements in relation to colleges' annual reports and financial statements for the year ending 31 July 2016.

This document is one of three documents that make up the requirements. We will publish the Accounts Direction Handbook and the Finance Record Template later in the year.

For further information, please email the [Provider Financial Management](#) team.

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### 3. **Advanced Learner Loans**

#### **Information**

We will expand the eligibility criteria for [Advanced Learner Loans](#) (formerly 24+ Advanced Learning Loans) in the 2016 to 2017 academic year.

The Loans will be available to those learners aged 19 or over and for study at Level 3 to Level 6. This will not affect the entitlement to full funding for the first full Level 3 qualification for those aged 19 to 23.

The expanded remit is available for applications from May 2016 for courses starting on or after **1 August**.

For further information, please email [Advanced Learner Loans](#) or refer to the [Advanced Learner Loans](#) page on [GOV.UK](#).

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### 4. **Performance-management Point 1: 16 to 18 Apprenticeships and Traineeships Growth Requests**

#### **Information**

Thank you to those colleges and training organisations that submitted a growth request for 16 to 18 apprenticeships and/or 16 to 18 traineeships. This was part of our performance-management point 1 in December 2015.

We are not yet in a position to confirm support for your request. We apologise for this delay and will confirm the position as soon as we can.

For further information, please contact your Central Delivery Service adviser.

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## 5. National Apprenticeship Week 2016: Toolkits

### Information


National Apprenticeship Week 2016 (NAW 2016) will take place from 14 to 18 March. It will celebrate apprenticeships and the positive impact they have on individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

We have created toolkits, which are available to download from the [campaign resource site](#) or on [GOV.UK](#). The toolkits contain information and suggestions about how you can support NAW 2016.

For further information, please email [The Week](#) or visit [GOV.UK/NAW2016](#); we will add more resources shortly.

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