



Skills Funding
Agency

Funding rates for 24+ Advanced Learning Loans designated qualifications 2015 to 2016

Version 1

This document sets out the details about our funding formula for establishing maximum amounts for 24+ Advanced Learning Loans designated qualifications.

February 2015

Of interest to colleges and training organisations

Introduction

This Addendum contains the maximum amounts for 24+ Advanced Learning Loans for designated qualifications (by designated we mean that the course has been through the Skills Funding Agency's [SFA's] approval process). It refers to learners who start qualifications between 1 August 2015 and 31 July 2016.

Qualifications designated by the SFA for Advanced Learning Loans are published with their maximum loan amount on the [Hub](#). This is updated regularly as we add newly designated qualifications to the database.

Establishing the maximum loan amount

We use the funding matrix (in Annex 2) to establish the maximum loan amount for designated qualifications. The matrix uses two key pieces of information to decide upon the appropriate amount for each individual qualification:

- the size and type of the qualification
- the programme weighting for the qualification (see annex 1) which is based on the subject sector area code

We group sector subject areas into programme weightings which recognise the relative costs of delivering provision in different sectors and subjects.

Annex 1 – Sector subject areas (SSAs) by programme weighting category

1. Programme weightings recognise the relative costs of delivering provision in different sectors and subjects.
2. Programme weightings are set by referring to the SSA, according to the table below, along with a limited number of exceptions we have set. For all qualifications the SSA used is that decided by the awarding organisation as part of the accreditation or regulation process and available on the Register of Regulated Qualifications, operated by [Ofqual](#).

SSA	SSA Tier-2 description	Programme weighting
1	Health, public services and care	B – Low
1.1	Medicine and dentistry	B – Low
1.2	Nursing and subjects and vocations allied to medicine	B – Low
1.3	Health and social care	B – Low
1.4	Public services	A – Base
1.5	Child development and well being	B – Low
2	Science and mathematics	A – Base
2.1	Science	B – Low
2.2	Mathematics and statistics	A – Base
3	Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	B – Low
3.1	Agriculture	E – Specialist
3.2	Horticulture and forestry	E – Specialist
3.3	Animal care and veterinary science	E – Specialist
3.4	Environmental conservation	B – Low
4	Engineering and manufacturing technologies	C – Medium
4.1	Engineering	C – Medium
4.2	Manufacturing technologies	C – Medium
4.3	Transportation operations and maintenance	C – Medium
5	Construction, planning and the built environment	C – Medium
5.1	Architecture	C – Medium
5.2	Building and construction	C – Medium
5.3	Urban, rural and regional planning	C – Medium

SSA	SSA Tier-2 description	Programme weighting
6	Information and communication technology	B - Low
6.1	ICT practitioners	C – Medium
6.2	ICT for users	B – Low
7	Retail and commercial enterprise	A – Base
7.1	Retailing and wholesaling	A – Base
7.2	Warehousing and distribution	A – Base
7.3	Service enterprises	B – Low
7.4	Hospitality and catering	C – Medium
8	Leisure, travel and tourism	A – Base
8.1	Sport, leisure and recreation	B – Low
8.2	Travel and tourism	A – Base
9	Arts, media and publishing	A – Base
9.1	Performing arts	B – Low
9.2	Crafts, creative arts and design	C – Medium
9.3	Media and communication	B – Low
9.4	Publishing and information services	A – Base
10	History, philosophy and theology	A – Base
10.1	History	A – Base
10.2	Archaeology and archaeological sciences	B – Low
10.3	Philosophy	A – Base
10.4	Theology and religious studies	A – Base
11	Social sciences	A – Base
11.1	Geography	B – Low
11.2	Sociology and social policy	A – Base
11.3	Politics	A – Base
11.4	Economics	A – Base
11.5	Anthropology	A – Base
12	Languages, literature and culture	A – Base
12.1	Languages, literature and culture of the British Isles	A – Base
12.2	Other languages, literature and culture	A – Base
12.3	Linguistics	A – Base
13	Education and training	B – Low

SSA	SSA Tier-2 description	Programme weighting
13.1	Teaching and lecturing	B – Low
13.2	Direct learning support	B – Low
14	Preparation for life and work	A – Base
14.1	Foundations for learning and life	A – Base
14.2	Preparation for work	A – Base
15	Business, administration and law	A – Base
15.1	Accounting and finance	A – Base
15.2	Administration	A – Base
15.3	Business management	A – Base
15.4	Marketing and sales	A – Base
15.5	Law and legal services	A – Base

There are four exceptions to the table shown above:

- Waste management and recycling in SSA 1.4 is weighted at B – Low
- Hair and beauty in SSA 7.3 is weighted at C – Medium
- Music technology in SSA 9.1 is weighted at D – High
- Music practitioners in SSA 9.1 is weighted at E – Specialist

Annex 2: The Funding Matrix

3. There is a single set of maximum loan amounts for all eligible provision, no matter how that provision is delivered. The process of setting rates uses a 'matrix' (table). In the matrix, the rows represent the funding band and the columns represent the programme weighting. Funding bands reflect the different sizes of qualifications, and programme weightings reflect the relative costs of delivering them in different sectors and subjects. Where qualifications are credit bearing their funding band is set using their credit value. Otherwise qualifications have their funding band set using their Guided Learning Hours (GLH). The matrix below is based on the credit value and GLH recorded on the Register of Regulated Qualifications operated by [Ofqual](#).
4. Access to Higher Education Diplomas are approved by the [Quality Assurance Agency](#) and are funded based on their historically recorded GLH to set the funding band and details of the qualifications can be found at the Access to Higher Education [website](#).
5. The maximum loans amounts matrix for learners commencing qualifications between 1 August 2015 to 31 July 2016 is below:

Qualification type/size	Maximum loan amount according to programme weighting*				
	A - Base	B - Low	C - Medium	D - High	E - Specialist
Certificate (13 to 24 credits)	£724	£811	£941	£1,159	£1,246
Certificate (25 to 36 credits)	£1,265	£1,417	£1,645	£2,025	£2,176
Diploma (37 to 48 credits)	£1,987	£2,225	£2,583	£3,179	£3,417
Diploma (49 to 72 credits)	£2,573	£2,882	£3,345	£4,117	£4,425
Diploma (73 to 132 credits)	£4,170	£4,670	£5,421	£6,671	£7,172
Diploma at (133 credits or more)	£6,602	£7,395	£8,583	£10,564	£11,356
Access to Higher Education Diploma	£3,022	£3,384	£3,928	£4,835	£5,197
GCE AS Level	£724	£811	£941	£1,159	£1,246
GCE A Level	£1,987	£2,225	£2,583	£3,179	£3,417

*The qualification sector subject areas (SSAs) which are within each programme weighting category are shown in Annex 1

6. Where funding bands are set by any form of GLH the following mapping applies:

GLH for non-credit-based qualifications	Funding band (credits)
101 to 196	Certificate (13 to 24)
197 to 292	Certificate (25 to 36)
293 to 388	Diploma (37 to 48)
389 to 580	Diploma (49 to 72)
581 to 1060	Diploma (73 to 132)
1061 or more	Diploma (133 or more)

7. Five dance and drama diplomas (two at Level 5 and three at Level 6) have bespoke maximum loan amounts, which are set out below. Further details are available on the [Hub](#).

Qualification	Level	Learning Aim Reference	Maximum Loan Amount
Diploma in Professional Acting (QCF) – 150 credits	Level 5	60009457	£7,395
Diploma in Professional Dance (QCF) – 255 credits	Level 5	60009470	£14,790
Diploma in Professional Musical Theatre (QCF) – 420 credits	Level 6	60009482	£22,185
Diploma in Professional Dance (QCF) – 420 credits	Level 6	60009731	£22,185
Diploma in Professional Acting (QCF) – 420 credits	Level 6	60009743	£22,185



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