



Funding for Access to HE Diploma courses 2016-17

The funding outlook for Access to HE Diplomas remains stable for 2016-17. Access courses are identified as being full Level 3 funded qualifications for 16-23 year olds (legal entitlement), and are eligible for Advanced Learner Loans for 19 – 24+ year olds. There are a number of SFA guidance documents that have been published in early 2016 in preparation for the next academic year by which time a number of changes may, or may not, have been implemented that

could have a profound impact on who holds the purse strings for FE and the way and type of courses that are funded.



For further details see:
[Adult Education Budget: Changing Context and Arrangements for 2016 to 2017](#) - January 2016 (a brief summary of the changes) – see page 5 re Access to HE.

For the full document see:
[Adult education budget funding rules Version 1 For the 2016 to 2017 funding year \(1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017\)](#). – a fuller version of the above.

The good news is that the Access to HE Diploma is clearly identified as a fundable and permanent feature of the funding methodology for the FE sector.



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Advanced Learner Loans funding rules

For the 2016 to 2017 funding year (1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017).

Version 1

Changes to Advanced Learner Loans for 2016-17

As announced in the [BIS Funding Letter to the SFA in December 2015](#), Access Diplomas can continue be used to obtain an Advanced Learner Loan and the age range has been reduced so that students aged 19 years and above can now apply for a loan. Colleges will need to provide applicants for Access courses in 2016-17 with clear advice on this change.

You can download the revised rules here: [Advanced Learner Loans funding rules For the 2016 to 2017 funding year \(1 August 2016 to 31 July 2017\).Version 1](#) – sections F34.2 and F39 (page 7)

Using the HUB for further details

Although LASER does not have details of the precise levels of funding for individual courses in each college, the SFA Hub provides further information on the funding rates and eligibility for each LASER Access to HE Diploma. For example technical subjects such as Engineering Access courses usually attract a higher level of funding than Social Sciences, Humanities etc. The link below should take you to an example LASER Access to HE Engineering Diploma

<https://hub.imservices.org.uk/Learning%20Aims/Search-results/Details/Pages/Key->

Additional Filters

Only one item can be selected at one time

Learndirect Classification System (LDCS)

Please select the dates required

Records Changed From: **To:**

Press the Ctrl key to select multiple items

Aim Type:

- Employability Award
- Functional Skills
- Access to Higher Education Diploma (from 2007)
- Diploma (14-19)

 HM Government

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Keyword or code:

Filter results

Type of Learning:

Teaching year:

Include: All Aims All Funded Aims

Only the following Aims

- 16-19 EFA 24+ Loan
- Adult Skills Apprenticeships
- Community Learning
- EFA Funding condition - English qualification validity
- EFA Funding condition - Maths qualification validity
- European Social Fund OLASS
- Other Standard Trailblazer
- Unemployed Offer

Start Date: **End Date:**

Level: Select all:

- Level 1 Level 1/2 Level 2
- Level 3 Level 4 Level 5
- Level 6 Level 7 Level 8
- Entry Level Higher Level Mixed Level
- Not Applicable/ Not Known

Awarding Org code or name:

Area Reviews

Some of you will be only too aware of the Post-16 [Area Reviews](#) being undertaken which are designed to:

“.. move towards fewer, larger, more resilient and efficient providers, and more effective collaboration across institution types. It will be important to create greater specialisation by establishing institutions that are genuine centres of expertise. “

We are concerned to support the interests of Access to HE provision within the outcomes of any changes that the Area Review process might produce. Despite the much higher profile of the Access to HE Diploma in recent years there are concerns that this essential and life-changing provision could become a casualty of the move to larger and more ‘specialised’ institutions. Access students usually need, for very good reasons, to have their courses offered within their local community.

If you have any queries or concerns about your Access to HE provision as a result of planned changes resulting from the review process then please contact David or Sue (see end of this update for details), especially if you think your college might be merging with another institution.

Contact Us:

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