



Skills Funding  
Agency

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The advanced learner loans programme continues to grow and establish its market within the FE Sector. We want to continue to support growth in 2016 to 2017 and beyond, so we have taken the opportunity to review our approach to agreeing growth requests.

We have now published the updated [advanced learner loans funding and performance management rules 2016 to 2017](#), which set out changes to the process for requesting an increase to providers' loans facility.

The changes will help us operate an effective performance management system that enables you to deliver and grow your loans offer in line with government policy.

We developed these changes after consultation and agreement with the Department for Education, Student Loans Company, the Association of Colleges and the Association of Employment and Learning Providers.

We will keep the arrangements under review.

## Summary of changes

Introduction of growth limits from 2 November 2016 as follows:

if your approved loans facility is £500,000 or less, as at 2 November 2016, a maximum growth limit of £250,000 will apply

- if your approved loans facility is £500,000 or more, as at 2 November 2016 a maximum growth limit of £750,000 or 50% of your 2016 to 2017 loans facility value, whichever is the lesser, will apply

To support your growth request, you must submit more information, including associated learner volumes and a short supporting statement providing the rationale and evidence for growth.

For those requesting over £250,000, you must demonstrate that you have the capacity and capability to deliver the volume of growth requested, and provide further assurances about the quality of delivery.

You can use the revised loan facility and bursary change request form immediately.

We will retain the current 'rolling' application approach so you can continue to apply for growth at any time. This will ensure we continue to be responsive to learner demand. We will process approvals on a monthly basis. For requests received within 4 working days of month-end, we will notify you of the outcome by the 10th working day of the following month.

As [announced](#) on 22 February 2016, from 1 August 2017 we will remove sub-contracting from the loans programme. The [2016 to 2017 loans funding and performance management rules](#) state that subcontracted loans-funded learning aims must be completed by 31 July 2017.

In preparation for this change, you must not apply for growth in your loans facility to deliver any subcontracted learning aims that will continue beyond 31 July 2017.

You must operate within your current loans facility value for the 2016 to 2017 funding year or financial year. If you exceed your loans facility without our permission, we will instruct the Student Loans Company to stop processing loan applications for your organisation with immediate effect.

If you have any queries regarding your loans facility or loans growth, please contact your provider manager.

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