



Transparency data

Centres for Excellence in Maths Programme funding conditions

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The Centres for Excellence in Maths Programme aims to improve maths teaching for students aged 16 to 19 studying towards GCSE or Functional Skills in the further education sector. It aims to do this by:

- trialling new teaching approaches
- building teachers' skills
- sharing best practice across maths networks

The programme is managed by the [Education and Training Foundation](#), with delivery partners:

- University of Nottingham
- Association of Colleges
- Pearson
- Touchconsulting

The programme will be independently evaluated by ICF.

Grant funding

These are the conditions under which the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will pay the Centres for Excellence in Maths grant funding in the 2021 to 2022 financial year.

Centres for Excellence in Maths programme activity in the 2021 to 2022 financial year comprises:

- action research
- whole college approach change management
- networking
- continuing professional development (CPD) activity

Funding of up to £212,000 is available to the college this financial year for participation in those activities. This is subject to the delivery partner and the Department for Education (DfE) approving agreed action plans.

In addition to the funding set out in table 1, some centres are also leading a group of teachers to take part in a national randomised controlled trial. This is taking place in the 2021 to 2022 academic year from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022.

All centres and their partners taking part in the trial will receive additional grant funding. Further information on the amount of funding available and payment dates will be published in summer 2021.

Payments for financial year 4 (1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022) of the Centres for Excellence in Maths grant will be paid by the department in the below instalments. The payment is in arrears for activity that takes place in the financial year 2021 to 2022.

Table 1: grant funding payment schedule for Centres for Excellence in Maths

Department payment date	Amount	Activity type
On or before 20 July 2021	Up to £57,096 has previously been agreed by the delivery partner and the department	All activity
On or before 20 November 2021	Up to £92,942 subject to approval of action plans by the delivery partner and the department	Action research, networking and CPD activity
On or before 20 March 2022	Up to £61,962 subject to approval of action plans by the delivery partner and the department	Action research, networking and CPD activity

For payments on or before 20 July 2021, the exact payment amount for the college was confirmed by the department in an email dated 18 February 2021.

For payments on or before 20 November 2021, or on or before 20 March 2022, an earlier partial payment (in arrears) may be agreed with the college if required. Any request for earlier payment will be at the ESFA's discretion and subject to ESFA being satisfied with the evidence provided to justify the request.

It is a condition of payment of the Centres for Excellence in Maths grant funding that the college use the grant funding to pay for activities related to Centres for Excellence in Maths programme. The college must not use the grant funding or any part of it to support other areas of college activity.

Centres for Excellence in Maths grant funding for the financial year 2021 to 2022 must not be used to fund programme activity that takes place after 31 March 2022.

Grant conditions

Total eligible costs may include irrecoverable VAT. However, no grant funding in excess of the agreed payment amount will be provided in relation to any VAT.

Grant requirements

The college will not be restricted to a predetermined list of activities. The Education and Training Foundation (the delivery partner) will provide additional support and guidance in relation to appropriate activities and projects. They will assist with planning throughout.

The college may, in principle, include proposals for a wide variety of activities and projects that can:

- help improve the quality of maths provision and attainment at the College
- help improve the quality of maths provision and attainment within their maths networks
- address key improvement needs

Examples of activities could include:

- a diagnosis of the college and the maths network's quality, challenges and development of a programme of work to address these
- professional development activities for teachers, managers, the senior leadership team and governors time release for teachers and staff at the college and maths network to allow them to participate in the Centres for Excellence of Maths programme of work (in such cases funding may cover temporary replacement of that staff member)
- hiring of additional staff members whose time will be fully dedicated to the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme
- the collation or development and trialling of new maths teaching resources in the college and subsequent roll-out across the network
- the creation, co-ordination and management of a maths network, or expansion of an existing network
- evaluation of the college's programme

The following activities cannot be funded through the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme:

- capital expenditures and spending on the purchase of assets, for example buildings, furniture, fittings – this includes the purchase of information technology that is treated as capital expenditure for accounting purposes
- IT expenditure, for example software, that can be appropriately accounted for as revenue spend is permitted but must demonstrate good value for money and be agreed by DfE and the delivery partner in advance
- restructuring recommended by DfE/ESFA
- staff restructuring
- independent business reviews
- any activities that are not related to the provider's basic maths skills provision
- any activities that the college would otherwise be able to access free of charge

Further information on activity that will not be funded by the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme is detailed in the action plan guidance provided by the delivery partner.

Formal grant conditions will be managed and monitored by the department's conditions of funding agreement for each institution.

Payment and repayment of funding

All Centres for Excellence in Maths grant payments will be made by the department to the centre in line with the instalments detailed above.

The grant will become repayable (through a future reduction in department funding) if:

- the grant funding is not spent in the funding period specified in the table above (or by an alternative date agreed in advance with the department)
- the grant funding is not spent on eligible activities outlined in the approved action plans (or variants thereof agreed with the department, using the process described)
- the college does not provide its required contribution
- reports on expenditures and outcomes are not submitted

Audit and financial assurance

Accounting officers at the college will be required to sign an assurance statement, also known as Annex G, accompanied by a final report for each academic funding year, to confirm that monies have been used for the purposes intended, and that expenditure complies with the terms and conditions of the grant.

The college will need to retain evidence of expenditure as this may be requested by the department.

All purchases made in connection with this grant must be in line with the college procurement policies and procedures.

Colleges are expected to account for costs incurred in relation to this grant separately. All expenditure must be accounted for to the same standards, rules and procedures as set out in your current [Education and Skills conditions of funding agreement \(college\)](#). It must be capable of independent verification and audit.

Evidence relating to expenditure against this grant must be kept separately by the college. Regular expenditure reporting and forecasts must be provided to the delivery partner.

Monitoring

Over the course of its grant-funded activity, the college will work with the delivery and evaluation partners to monitor its programme of work.

Each centre must provide details to the delivery partner on how they intend to monitor the impact of networking and locally delivered CPD funded by the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme. The delivery partner will provide additional support and guidance in relation to monitoring and evaluation. They will assist centres with planning throughout. Plans must not identify individuals unless explicit permission is gathered in advance.

Grant recipients will be expected to work alongside ICF, the evaluation partner, to ensure that evaluation can be completed correctly and efficiently. The evaluation partner will also conduct research with those involved in the project, to increase our understanding of the impact of the teaching approaches and to identify any lessons learned.

Contact us

Send enquiries to centres.forexcellence@education.gov.uk.

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