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**Education, universities and childcare during coronavirus** 

Part of

Department for Education

retaking qualifications from summer

2. Summer term 2021

summer 2020

Guidance

### 2020 and summer 2021 **Updated 7 September 2021** Contents 1. Main points 1. Main points

'Exam centres' throughout this guidance refers to:

further education, sixth-form and tertiary colleges

Exam centre responsibility for students

qualification arrangements 3. Responsibility for entering state-funded schools and academies resitting students from

- 4. Responsibilities for paying fees
- 5. Responsibility for entering students for autumn exams
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• independent training providers who deliver vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs)

assessment in the workplace

state-funded adult and community learning providers

- non-state-funded centres entering a private candidate who the centre entered in summer, did not withdraw and did not charge any further fees for autumn entry - to
  - claim for any funding, the private candidate entry 'flag' must be applied for each applicable candidate
- There will also be an opportunity for students to sit exams in autumn 2021, or at the first available opportunity in 2022, for:

use the grades they receive in summer 2021 to move onto their next step.

In most cases, students entered for qualifications in the 2020/21 academic year will

apprenticeship providers who deliver functional skills qualification (FSQ)

• some vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs) • other general qualifications In the rest of the document, we refer to these opportunities collectively (for mainly GQs

in the autumn and VTQs in January and the spring) as autumn 2021, for ease of reference. Qualifications not regulated by Ofqual, such as iGCSEs and international A levels, are not within the scope of this guidance.

GCSEs

A levels

• some AS levels

2. Summer term 2021 qualification arrangements

arrangements.

2021

GCSEs

• AS and A levels

COVID-19 related disruption.

- Following the cancellation of 2019/20 academic year summer exams, students received their centre assessment grades, except where calculated grades were higher,
- in which case the calculated grades were awarded instead. These summer 2020 grades were formal grades, with the same status as grades

to move on to their next steps.

assessment of a range of evidence.

Students were able to sit them if, for example, they were unhappy with their summer grade, or if they needed an improved result to move onto the next stage of their education. The exams were also available to the group of students for whom there was not enough evidence for a grade to be awarded in the summer. However, a small number of students who wanted to improve their grade will not have

taken up the opportunity to sit the exams in autumn and will have planned to take

their grade and the earliest opportunity to do so was from January 2021 onwards.

Following the announcements on 5 January and 25 February 2021, these students

should now have the opportunity to receive a grade in summer 2021 based on teacher

exams in summer 2021 instead. For VTQ students, they may have wanted to improve

awarded in any other year, and the vast majority of students have been able to use them

There was an opportunity for students to sit exams in autumn 2020 and for some VTQs

in the spring 2021 term. These exams acted as a backstop to the summer

This guidance sets out the Department for Education (DfE) expectations in relation to exam centres entering students for the qualifications in scope, and how the cost of fees will be covered.

2.1 Students entering for qualifications in summer term

The following section of this guidance relates to all exam centres that are approved to

deliver the following exams and assessments whether or not they are state funded:

• VTQs, including FSQ Section 2 of this guidance applies to students who meet all of the following: • were entered for exams in summer 2020 • either did not receive a grade in summer 2020 or wish to resit exams to improve on their grade

entered but were unable to attend any exams in that subject in that series because

• did not enter for autumn 2020 or spring term 2021 exams in a subject or were

Students who partially meet these conditions (for example, students who did sit

autumn exams) can still be entered for qualifications this summer, and exam centres

may still choose to fund their entries at their discretion, but they cannot be included in

in a subject, but missed all the exams in that subject for a reason other than COVID-19

For those VTQs and FSQs in scope, exams officers should ensure they are familiar with

self-isolation or illness. This is because the offer for reimbursement applies only to

exam centres' claims. This also applies if a student was entered for autumn 2020 exams

they were self-isolating due to COVID-19 exposure or illness

relevant guidance published by the awarding organisations they are working with.

You should also refer to the <u>Awarding qualifications in summer 2021</u> guidance.

students from summer 2020 For students who match the scope outlined in section 2.1, we expect the exam centre that entered them for a qualification in the 2020 summer series to enter them for that qualification in summer 2021, should the student wish them to do so. In the great majority of cases, the exam centre that the student attended will: know them • have existing links with the relevant awarding organisation

We expect exam centres to extend these arrangements to those students who:

• were not on roll but for who they had made, or intended to make, an exam entry

• is unable to provide a private candidate with a teacher assessed grade this year

We expect the exam centre to provide private candidates with a refund for their summer

• did not provide the private candidate with a centre assessed grade in summer 2020,

• did not enter the private candidate for autumn 2020 or spring term 2021 exams in a

agree different local arrangements between themselves. This will often be sensible, for

example where a student has moved and it is a better experience and more practical for

them to enter for qualifications at the new institution. Where a different arrangement is

made, we expect the original exam centre to refund the student any fees paid for the

### subject, or the private candidate was unable to attend any exams in that subject in that series because they were self-isolating due to COVID-19 exposure or illness We appreciate that there will be cases where students and exam centres will want to

established educational providers. 3.1 Funding for students retaking qualifications from

We expect exam centres to pay fees for all students who are in the scope of this

Where a candidate paid for their qualification in summer 2020, they should not be

Qualifications in scope for reimbursement for DfE are all GCSE, AS and A levels, and

students received exam centre assessment or calculated grades in summer 2020 and

intended to resit as part of a scheduled assessment opportunity for the qualification in

those VTQ and other general qualifications at level 1/2, level 2 and level 3, where

either the autumn 2020 or spring term 2021 series.

centres do not incur a net loss, taking into account:

• their fees for exams in autumn 2020

December 2021.

autumn exams

education, employment or training.

fees for qualifications in summer 2021

4. Responsibilities for paying fees

guidance, rather than passing the cost of the entry fee on to students or their families.

JCQ guidance. Exam centres should read the <u>JCQ summer 2021 arrangements</u>

guidance for more detail on the use of evidence from other exam centres and

We expect exam centres to pay fees for students in the scope of this section of the guidance who are entering for qualifications, whether or not those students are on their roll. Exam centres should not face additional costs for fees for such students, over and above what they would have paid had summer 2020 exams gone ahead. DfE will provide funding for qualifications in scope, if it is needed, to ensure that exam

• any rebates or credit notes they receive in respect of summer 2020 exams together

summer 2020 rebates will cover the cost in almost all cases. Where this does not apply,

exam centres will be able to request reimbursement from DfE. The value would be the

total cost of fees for the eligible entries in autumn 2020 and summer 2021, minus the

situation, any centres believing they can claim a reimbursement must contact DfE via

online form, clearly marking their correspondence as relating to 'resitting students in

summer 2020' and for the attention of the 2021 Qualifications team, by no later than 31

This will also apply to fees incurred for entering students in the spring term 2021 to sit

VTQs in scope, for which they received calculated or exam centre assessment results in

2020 summer rebate. As a very small number of students are expected to be in this

the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) enquiry form - customer type - DfE

We expect a very small number of entries to be covered by this guidance and the

summer 2020. Where private candidates in the scope of this guidance have already paid an administrative fee for summer 2020, we would not expect them to be charged twice.

5. Responsibility for entering students for

In January 2021, the government announced it was no longer fair for GCSE, AS, A level

and some VTQ exams to proceed as planned. Instead, students who were due to sit

Students will also have the option to sit GCSE, A level and some AS level exams in

2022. Students can sit exams if they are not satisfied with their summer teacher

autumn 2021. Some VTQ students will be able to sit exams in autumn 2021 and spring

assessed grade or if they need an improved result to move onto the next stage of their

1. were entered for a teacher assessed grade (TAG) in summer 2021, or would have

For students who are continuing at the exam centre that had made, or intended to

make, an exam entry for a qualification in the 2021 summer series, we expect that

2. any student who was aged at least 16 on 31 August 2021 can take the GCSE English

intended to enter had exams gone ahead (this includes private candidates)

exams have received teacher assessed grades this summer.

This section applies to students who meet these criteria:

language and maths exams in the November series

the autumn exams will differ depending on their circumstances.

If a student has registered at another centre, the new centre (that is the one they are currently registered with) should enter them for autumn exams. If a student is entering English or maths this autumn as a condition of funding student (they did not achieve a GCSE grade 4 or above) the exam centre they will be continuing their qualification(s) with is responsible for entering them for the autumn exams where If a student left a centre and is not registered anywhere else, the centre that entered them in summer should enter them. This includes private candidates (candidates who were not on roll but for whom the centre had made summer exam entries by 20 March

5.1 Funding for students entering autumn exams

2021, they should not be charged again.

We expect exam centres to pay fees for all students who are in the scope of this

guidance (as outlined in section 4), rather than passing the cost of the entry fee on to

We also encourage centres to consider entering students in autumn for subjects they

studied a community language but the centre was not able to provide a TAG for that

would have entered in summer 2021 but were unable to, for example where the student

Where a student was entered in an exam in summer 2020 and did not receive a grade or

wished to improve their grade but was not entered into the autumn 2020 exams, if they

were entered in summer 2021 their centre is deemed to have fulfilled the obligation to

provide the student with an opportunity to receive a grade in 2021 at no additional cost.

The centre is therefore not expected to also enter them in autumn 2021 at no extra cost

students or their families. Where a candidate paid for their qualification in summer

meet the cost of fees if they want to enter in autumn 2021 to improve their summer 2021 grade, or because they were entered for summer 2021 (and not withdrawn) but could not be awarded a grade. We expect exam centres to pay fees for students in the scope of this guidance who are

Exam centres should not face additional costs for fees for such students, over and

DfE will provide funding for qualifications in scope, if it is needed, to ensure that exam

entering for qualifications, whether or not those students are on their roll.

above what they would have paid had summer 2021 exams gone ahead.

• any rebates or credit notes they receive in respect of summer 2021 exams

We expect a very small number of students to be covered by this guidance and the

centres do not incur a net loss, taking into account:

their fees for exams in autumn 2021

fees for qualifications in summer 2021

However, the government is clear that given the unique circumstances arising from

summer 2021 awarding, students themselves and their families should not have to

expect exam centres to charge administrative fees to students who were on their roll in summer 2021. Where private candidates in the scope of this guidance have already paid an administrative fee for summer 2021, we would not expect them to be charged twice.

Check what you need to do

# 3. Responsibility for entering resitting

• be aware of any reasonable adjustments that are needed

2020 fee, if this has not already happened, if the exam centre:

• were private candidates in summer 2020,

were on their roll or

summer 2020

charged again.

and

summer 2020 exam, where this has not already happened. This does not apply where the student's new exam centre has been funded to support their resits, for example where the student is required to retake GCSE English or Maths as a condition of funding. Where the student is working with a new exam centre, but the original exam centre may

have some pre-existing evidence that could be used to inform the student's grade, the

original exam centre is expected to cooperate with the new exam centre in line with

exams. However, the government is clear that given the unique circumstances arising from summer 2020 awarding, students themselves and their families should not have to meet the cost of fees if they want to enter in summer 2021 to improve their summer 2020 grade and did not enter in autumn 2020, or missed the autumn exams due to COVID-19, self-isolation or illness.

The awarding organisations are responsible for their own approach to charging fees for

these as usual via their ESFA funding agreements. DfE will not provide funding in relation to any administrative fees charged by exam centres, over and above the fees charged by the awarding organisations. We do not expect exam centres to charge administrative fees to students who were on their roll in

summer 2020. This does not apply to FSQ assessment fees, as providers will cover

centre to enter them in the autumn exams, should the student wish them to do so. We expect exam centres entering students who are continuing at the same centre to extend these arrangements to those students who: were private candidates in summer 2021 • were on their roll If a student has left a centre at the end of the summer, the arrangements for entering

to the student. Qualifications in scope for reimbursement for DfE are all GCSE, AS, and A levels, and those VTQ and other Ofqual-regulated general qualifications at level 1/2, level 2 and level 3, where students received teacher assessed grades in summer 2021 and intended to resit as part of a scheduled assessment opportunity for the qualification in either the autumn 2021 or spring term 2022 series. Condition of Funding entries are also covered.

summer 2021 rebates will cover the cost of autumn exam entries in almost all cases. Where this does not apply, exam centres will be able to request reimbursement from DfE. Further detail on the claims process is available in the <u>DfE exam support service</u>: autumn exam fees, sites and invigilators guidance. This will also apply to fees incurred for entering students in the spring term 2022 to sit VTQs in scope, for which they received teacher assessed grades in summer 2021. This does not apply to FSQ assessment fees, as providers will cover these as usual via their ESFA funding agreements.

## relevant. 2021).

subject.

- 5.2 Responsibilities for paying fees The awarding organisations are responsible for their own approach to charging fees for exams.
- DfE will not provide funding in relation to any administrative fees charged by exam

centres, over and above the fees charged by the awarding organisations. We do not

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