Skills Funding Agency

The Learning Aim Reference Service Categories

Version 2

This document provides the definitions and guidance for each category on the Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS).

March 2016

Of interest to colleges, training organisations, awarding organisations and employers

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Foreword

The Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS) contains the downloadable learning aim database and the learning aim search on the Hub.

We included Categories in the learning aim database in August 2015 and developed the learning aim search on the Hub in December 2015.

The purpose of the category search is to flag a group of aims whose criteria is defined by policy and programme. For example, identifying class code aims (generic aims to represent non-regulated learning).

The learning aim database has a parent-child relationship. This means common 'child' categories can be grouped together under a 'parent' category. For example, the parent category 'All Class Code Category' has 14 class code category children to identify different groups of 'class codes' such as Units.

To find out more about how to use the learning aim search on the Hub, refer to the learning aims search – guidance using the links on the learning aims search page.

This document describes the categories used within the LARS for the 2015 to 2016 and 2016 to 2017 funding years (1 August to 31 July).

Details of the categories being used

For each parent category, this document contains:

- what the category is being used for by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). We will update this document if we approve requests from other organisations.
- additional guidance where applicable
- the category name and code

Work Preparation

The purpose of this category is to identify learning aims which can be recorded to represent work preparation, and specifically work preparation for traineeships.

These categories are used for the Traineeship funding calculation, funding systems monitoring and validation, statistics and analysis.

For further guidance, refer to the Funding Rates and Formula 2015 to 2016 or the Funding Rates and Formula 2016 to 2017 document under the traineeships section.

The parent category is 'SFA Work Preparation' (code 1), which contains:

- 'Work Preparation – SFA Traineeships' (code 2).

Work Placement

The purpose of this category is to identify learning aims which can be recorded to represent work placement, and specifically work placement for Traineeships.

This category is used for the Traineeship funding calculation, funding systems monitoring and validation, statistics and analysis.

For further guidance, refer to the Funding Rates and Formula 2015 to 2016 or the Funding Rates and Formula 2016 to 2017 document under the Traineeships section.

The parent category is 'Class Code Category I: Work Experience / Placement' (code 31) , which contains:

- 'Work Placement – SFA Funded' (code 4).

Tech Levels (achieved in) 2017

This category identifies qualifications designated by the Department for Education as Tech Levels for the purposes of the 2017 '16 to 19 Performance Tables'.

This Tech Level category is used by the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary ('loans bursary') funding calculation in 2015 to 2016 only. They identify the maximum length which applies when a Tech Level is funded by an Advanced Learner Loan ('loan').

For further guidance, refer to the Funding Rates and Formula 2015 to 2016 document under the 'Maximum length of the loan' section.

The parent category is 'Tech Levels 2017' (code 6) which contains:

- 'Tech Levels 2017 – 2 Year Loan' (code 7)
- 'Tech Levels 2017 – 3 Year Loan' (code 8)

Early Years Educators (EYE) 2015 to 2016

The EYE category is used by the loans bursary funding calculation.

This category identifies when a learning aim is a Level 3 and 4 Early Years Educator and has been confirmed as 'full and relevant' by the National College for Teaching and Leadership. The loans bursary calculation applies this definition for 2015 to 2016 only when the learning aim is funded by a loan.

For further guidance, refer to the Funding Rates and Formula 2015 to 2016 document under the 'Maximum length of the loan' section.

The parent category is 'Early Years Educators 15/16' (code 9), which contains:

- 'Early Years Educators 15/16 - 2 Year Loan' (code 10)
- 'Early Years Educators 15/16 - 3 Year Loan' (code 11).

Loans Length (not Tech Levels 2017 or Early Years Educators 15/16)

The Loans Length categories are used by the loans bursary funding calculation in 2015 to 2016 only.

These categories are used for technical and professional qualifications which are not EYE qualifications or qualifications in the Tech Level category in the 2017 '16 to 19 performance tables'.

The categories identify the maximum length which applies when the learning aim is funded by a loan.

For further guidance, refer to the Funding Rates and Formula 2015 to 2016 document under the 'Maximum length of the loan' section.

The parent category is 'Loans length (not Tech Levels 2017/EYE)' (code 12), which contains:

- 'Loans Length - 2 Year (not Tech Lvl 2017/EYE)' (code 13)
- 'Loans Length - 3 Year (not Tech Lvl 2017/EYE)' (code 14).

Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives

The Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives category is used for the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) validation rules.

For further guidance, refer to the Southampton and Portsmouth City Deal document and ILR specification, validation rules and appendices 2015 to 2016.

- The parent category is 'Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives' (code 17)
- The category is 'LEP – Solent LEP 2014/15 pilot' (code 18).

Trades Union Congress

This category is used for funding systems monitoring and validation, ILR validation rules, statistics and analysis.

Trade Union Congress (TUC) learning aims which are undertaken by Trade Union representatives are fully funded. These learning aims are not available for Advanced Learner Loans for 2015 to 2016.

The category is 'Trades Union Congress' (code 19).

'Standalone' and Licence to Practise

These categories identify qualifications that are:

- 'standalone' qualifications in fork lift-truck, food hygiene, health and safety and first aid at work
- Licence to Practise qualifications at Level 2 in security guarding, door supervision and CCTV operations (public space surveillance)

These categories are used within funding monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.

For further guidance, refer to the Qualifications Eligibility Principles document and ILR specification, validation rules and appendices 2015 to 2016.

The parent category is 'Standalone and Licence to Practise' (code 20)

- 'Standalone' (code 21)
- 'Licence to Practise – Security' (code 22)

Class codes - Individualised Learning Record (ILR)

The following categories are grouped to flag class codes as defined by the ILR Specification, Appendix H, learning aim class codes.

For further guidance, refer to the [ILR specification 2015 to 2016: version 3 (29 July 2015)](#) and [ILR specification 2015 to 2016 appendix H, learning aim class codes: version 2 (19 November 2015).](#)

The parent category is 'All Class Code Categories' (Code 3), which contains:

- Class Code Category A: Non Regulated Provision (SFA Formula Funded) (Code 23)
- Class Code Category B: Non Regulated English, Maths, and ESOL Provision (SFA Formula Funded) (Code 24)
- Class Code Category C: Components of Units of Adult Basic Skills Certificates (historically known as 'NQF units') (SFA Formula Funded) (Code 25)
- Class Code Category D: Innovation Code (Code 26)
- Class Code Category E: Non Regulated Provision (not Community Learning or SFA Formula Funded) (Code 27)
- Class Code Category F: Non Regulated Provision (Community Learning) (Code 28)
- Class Code Category G: Non Regulated English, Maths and ESOL Provision (not SFA Formula Funded) (Code 29)
- Class Code Category H: Components of qualifications (also know as 'NQF units')(Code 30)
- Class Code Category I: Work Experience / Placement (Code 31)
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- Class Code Category K: Programme Aim (Code 33)
- Class Code Category L: ESF Co-financed (Code 34)
- Class Code Category M: Conversion Codes between Higher National Qualifications (Code 35)
- Class Code Category O: Education Assessments (Code 36)

Legal Entitlement – Level 2

This category is available for starts from 1 August 2016. This category shows level 2 qualifications that can be fully funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 2. These qualifications are also available for local flexibilities where a 19-23 year old learner is not undertaking a first qualification at level 2, or if the learner is 24 years old or above.

For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.

The category is 'Legal Entitlement – Level 2' (code 37).

Legal Entitlement – Level 3 (not available for delivery as part of local flexibilities)

This category is available for starts from 1 August 2016. This category shows level 3 qualifications that can be fully-funded for 19-23 year olds if they are studying for a first qualification at level 3. These qualifications are not available as part of local flexibilities.

For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.

The category is 'Only for Legal Entitlement at Level 3' (code 38).

Legal Entitlement – English and Maths

This category is available for new starts from 1 August 2016. This category shows the English and maths qualifications and their components (previously called units) that are available as part of the English and maths entitlement.

For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.

The category is 'Legal Entitlement – English and Maths' (code 39).