



Department  
for Education

# **Advanced learner loans**

## **Application information**

### **Quarter 1 2017/18 Academic Report**

## Main Headlines

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<b>Applications received</b>	<b>54,900</b> applications were received for the 2017/18 academic year, to October 2017 (compared to 66,000 this time last year for 2016/17), with <b>41,010</b> applications being received between August and October 2017 (compared to 49,570 for this period this time last year – a decrease of 17.3 per cent).
<b>Applications ready for payment</b>	<b>45,920</b> applications were ready for payment for courses starting in the 2017/18 academic year, to October 2017 (compared to 54,780 for this period this time last year).
<b>Provision type</b>	Level 3 Diploma qualifications continue to receive the most applications, with <b>19,130</b> received between August and October 2017 (compared with 25,960 this time last year for 2016/17), and <b>25,020</b> received overall for the 2017/18 academic year (33,400 this time last year for 2016/17). Access to Higher Education qualifications also received a large amount of applications, with <b>16,520</b> being received to October 2017 (17,740 this time last year for 2016/17).
<b>Applicant demographics</b>	From 2016/17 advanced learner loans were extended to those 19 and older (previously 24 and older). <b>14,020</b> applications have been received from the 19-23 age group for the 2017/18 academic year to October 2017 (compared to 16,100 this time last year for 2016/17). However the 24-30 year old age group continues to have the most applications with <b>15,650</b> (compared to 19,630 this time last year for 2016/17).

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## Changes to this statistical first release

In response to a review of the further education and skills statistical first release, its associated data cascade, and user feedback, We are proposing changes to the content, structure and periodicity. Headline advanced learner loans applications data will be subsumed into the main Statistical First Release on a bi-annual basis as part of the FE data library. The next SFR, and as a result the next data on applications, will be in March 2018.

This standalone publication will therefore cease production after this release.

For further information and details on these proposed publication changes please refer to *Annex: Proposed changes to further education, skills and apprenticeship statistics*.

## Further Education & Skills Advanced Learner Loans

**Release Date:** 30 November 2017

**Coverage:** 2017/18: England; 19+, Level 3 and above

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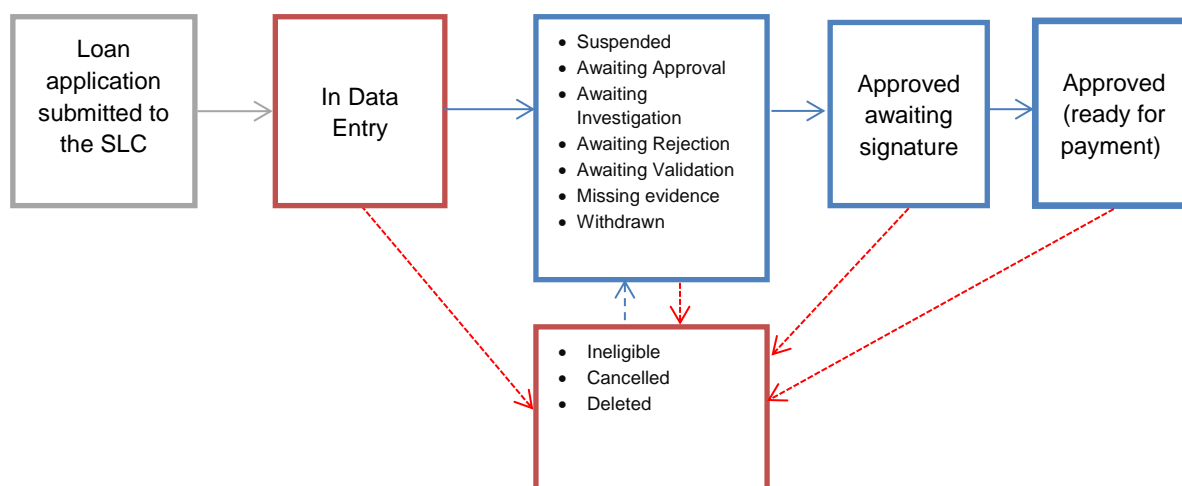
1. This is a Department for Education report for the Advanced Learner Loans system and contains information relating to courses starting in the 2017/18 academic year. The previous 24+ advanced learning loans were expanded to those aged 19 and over starting in the 2016/17 academic year and have been renamed to 'Advanced Learner Loans'.
2. The report contains an outline of the data source, headline information and tables presenting application and processing figures. Information presented is as given in application forms and is subject to change.
3. This release of Advanced Learner Loans Application Information covers applications submitted between 1 August and 31 October for the 2017/18 academic year. Applications for the 2017/18 academic year opened on 15 May 2017.

## Data Source

The data used to produce this report are sourced from the live Student Loans Company (SLC) application database. The data refer to all applications received for Advanced Learner Loans, which include both unprocessed and processed applications, but exclude those ineligible, cancelled, deleted and in data entry. The live database provides information on applications, and is updated on an ongoing basis due to applications being processed, therefore data presented throughout the academic year are subject to change. A database snapshot provides data on applications (including application state) as it was held for any given date. This report uses application data on the 31 October 2017 for the 2017/18 academic year. Data presented in this report may also change for particular applications at some point in the future.

Figure 1 provides an overview of different application states. The state of an application can depend on various factors, including how much progress has been made processing the application, as well as the accuracy of the information and supporting evidence provided. In the Advanced Learner Loans report, the definition of applications received exclude those that are in data entry, ineligible, cancelled or deleted.

**Figure 1 – Process map of application states**



Applications move between different states on an ongoing basis. For example, an application may be in data entry and move to awaiting approval or an application that has been approved may move into the cancelled, deleted or in data entry state. It is therefore possible that the number of applications received could decrease from one month to the next if a large amount of applications move to the states in the red boxes and are no longer classed as an application received. Also, due to the changing of states, the sum of monthly application states over the course of the academic year will not equal the total for the full academic year.

## Other Related Statistics

On 23 November 2017, the Department for Education published the [Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release](#), which contains full year figures relating to the number of learners participating in FE who are funded through the Advanced Learner Loans system ([see Table 11](#)). Figures on learner participation include learners whose course started in previous academic years (2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16) that continued into 2016/17, so figures are not comparable to those in this report.

The Student Loans Company also publish their [Advanced Learner Loans Paid in England](#) which includes information on payments made to FE providers on behalf of loans-funded learners during from the 2013/14 academic year onwards. Data presented here relates to learners who are participating on a further education course funded by an advanced learner loan, and hence are not directly comparable to the application figures presented in this report.

On Thursday 15 June 2017, the Student Loans Company published [Debt and Repayment statistics for England](#), which included figures debt and repayment relating to some Advanced Learner Loans for the 2016/17 financial year.

## 2017/18 Academic Year

**Table 1 - Overall Processing Position of Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2017/18**

	<b>Total 1 August to 31 October</b>	<b>Total 2017/18</b>
<b>Total applications received (excludes ineligible)</b>	<b>41,010</b>	<b>54,900</b>
Total processed (includes ineligible)	36,970	50,940
Awaiting further information from learner	4,230	4,350
In progress/work in hand	1,380	1,840

**Table 2 - Further Breakdown of Advanced Learner Loans Processed Applications for Academic Year 2017/18**

	<b>Total 1 August to 31 October</b>	<b>Total 2017/18</b>
<b>Total Processed (includes ineligible)</b>	<b>36,970</b>	<b>50,940</b>
Ineligible	1,560	2,230
Waiting for customer signature	2,750	2,800
Ready for payment	32,660	45,920

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible (except where stated).
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Total 2017/18 is as at 31 October 2017.
5. Applications in progress/work in hand include those that have been suspended or withdrawn, but not yet cancelled or deleted.
6. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2017/18 if the course start date was deferred.

**Table 3 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2017/18, by Provision Type**

	<b>Total 1 August to 31 October</b>	<b>Total 2017/18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,010</b>	<b>54,900</b>
A Level	360	430
QAA Access to HE	11,820	16,520
Level 3:		
Certificate	3,200	4,220
Diploma	19,130	25,020
Vocational Qualification	3,430	4,620
Level 4+:		
Certificate	560	680
Diploma	1,480	2,210
Vocational Qualification	900	1,070
Unknown	140	140

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible.
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Applications received for courses of an unknown provision type will be followed up to obtain further information from the learner.
4. The Vocational Qualification category has been created in the Student Loans Company database and is gradually being used to group vocational qualifications (including Certificates and Diplomas). Due to this transition, users should be cautious when comparing the number of applications for certificates, diplomas and vocational qualifications between academic years.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. A '-' indicates less than 5 applications.
6. Total 2017/18 is as at 31 October 2017.
7. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2017/18 if the course start date was deferred.



## Table 4 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received for Academic Year 2017/18, by Age, Gender and UK/Non-UK Nationality Status

	Total 1 August to 31 October	Total 2017/18
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>41,010</b>	<b>54,900</b>
19-23	10,570	14,020
24-30	11,570	15,650
31-40	11,050	14,950
41-50	5,740	7,590
50+	2,030	2,620
Unknown	60	60
Male	11,920	15,420
Female	29,090	39,480
UK National	34,210	46,100
Non-UK National	6,810	8,800

### Notes:

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible.
2. Data are based on received applications, including those not yet fully processed, and therefore figures are not necessarily indicative of actual learner starts.
3. Applications received from candidates of unknown age will be followed up to obtain further information from the learner.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
5. Total 2017/18 is as at 31 October 2017.
6. Applications submitted in previous academic years can be included in the total applications received for 2017/18 if the course start date was deferred.



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