

2011/12 Apprenticeship Funding Requirements

2011/12 Adult Skills Budget Funding Requirements 1.1

2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules 2.1

Addendum

December 2011

Introduction

This document sets out amendments to the Funding Requirements 2011/12 for Apprenticeships and the Adult Skills Budget as well as the Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules. These amendments form part of the Chief Executive of Skills Funding's conditions of funding contained in the Funding Requirements and should be read in conjunction with those documents. In the main the amendments are being made to respond to changes in legislation and Providers' feedback requesting clarification. An explanation for each amendment is given but these do not form part of the Funding Requirements.

For convenience the changes to the current Funding Requirements have been underlined.

2011/12 Apprenticeship Funding Requirements

The following amendments are made to the Apprenticeship Funding Requirements:

Section 5 - Apprenticeships

New paragraph 50A added –

As a result of a number of measures announced by the Government to widen participation for the NEET cohort, for example the additional 40,000 Apprenticeship starts, all Providers are required to identify all learners from this group through their ILR returns.

In addition to any existing ILR reporting requirements, when a NEET learner starts an Apprenticeship or an Access to Apprenticeships pathway, Providers must update the following fields for the programme aim of the Apprenticeship:

- a Learning Delivery FAM Type of Learning Delivery Monitoring (LDM)
- a FAM Code of 131
- Employment Status Type of 'Employment Status on day before starting learning aim' (DBS).

This requirement has been added to fulfil the National Apprenticeship Service need to monitor the recruitment of learners from the NEET cohort. The *information authority* has agreed new monitoring arrangements for NEET learners. This is an interim solution for 2011/12. This applies to new starts only from 1 January 2012 so as not to introduce changes to learners already enrolled and started before this date.

Entitlement to Apprenticeship Funding

Replace paragraph 61 –

Anyone who has obtained a ~~higher education~~ learning aim at Level 4 or above as defined on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) or Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), including but not exclusively, ~~being awarded~~ a first degree by a recognised university or other recognised higher education (HE) institution, is ineligible for Apprenticeship funding, except those who have participated in the National New Deal programme. However, from 2011/12 Apprentices who have completed a Higher Apprenticeship at Level 4 are eligible for funding for progressing to another Higher Apprenticeship at a Level 5 or higher.

The paragraph has been revised to make it clear that any Level 4 or above qualification, not just those delivered in higher education, make an individual ineligible for Apprenticeship funding.

Large Employers

Add to Paragraph 104 –

<u>MOD Other</u>	<u>142179515</u>
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This paragraph has been amended following feedback from Providers to recognise that not all MOD learners serve in the Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy.

2011/12 Adult Skills Budget Funding Requirements

The following amendments are made to the Adult Skills Budget Funding Requirements:

Large Employers

Add to paragraph 68 –

<u>MOD Other</u>	<u>142179515</u>
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This paragraph has been amended following feedback from Providers to recognise that not all MOD learners serve in the Army, Royal Air Force or Royal Navy.

Access to Higher Education

Add new paragraph 151A –

Access to Higher Education, as identified in LARA, is assigned the listed SLN glh value if the planned glh in the relevant funding year is at least 450. If the planned glh is less than 450, then the aim is treated as unlisted.

This paragraph is intended to clarify how Access to Higher Education learning aims is funded.

Disadvantage uplift

Add new paragraph 184A –

The following groups of learners are eligible for the disadvantage uplift factor of 12 per cent:

- basic skills learners
- those living in hostels and residential centres
- those with mental health problems
- travellers
- those whose statutory education has been interrupted
- those in care or who have recently left care
- asylum seekers eligible for Agency funding
- refugees
- ex-offenders
- offenders serving their sentence in the community
- full-time carers
- those recovering from alcohol or drug dependency
- learners funded under Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) arrangements.

A higher disadvantage uplift of 14 per cent may be claimed for the following groups of learners (supported accommodation in this context means foyers, hostels and other forms of managed accommodation providing housing management support to the residents):

- people living in supported accommodation provided by a registered social landlord (RSL) or housing association (HA) registered with the Housing Corporation, or provided by another non-profit making organisation in a building owned by an RSL or HA
- people living in supported accommodation provided by a registered charity
- people living in supported accommodation registered with the local authority or National Housing Federation.

Learners who fall into one of the following groups are not eligible for disadvantage uplift, unless they also meet one of the criteria outlined in the paragraphs above:

- the long-term unemployed
- single parents
- those living in areas of rural deprivation or isolation
- residents of former Coalfields Task Force areas
- learners enrolled on ESF-funded provision.

This paragraph confirms that disadvantage uplifts are available to certain individuals where they are higher than the disadvantage uplift based on their home postcode. This applies only to learners' ILR data reported to the Agency through the Adult Learner Responsive dataset (by providers paid on profile).

2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules

The following amendments are made to the Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules:

2: Learner Eligibility for Funding

Add new paragraph 38A –

The Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (the Regulations) have amended learner eligibility giving additional rights to the family members of an EU national. All family members of an EU national are regarded as eligible 'home' students provided that they are ordinarily resident in the UK on the day that learning starts and that the EU national has been ordinarily resident in the EEA for the preceding three years on that date. The EU national must either be a non-UK national who is exercising a right of residence in the UK as a student or self-sufficient person or a UK national who has lived in another EU country as a worker, self-employed person, self-sufficient person or student. This change only applies to new learning aims started after 1 September 2011. More information can be found on The National Archives website.

This amendment is to reflect the changes to learner eligibility made by the Regulations. These changes came into effect after the publication of the 2011/12 Learner Eligibility and Contribution Rules and gives additional rights to the family members of an EU national.

Compliance Evidence for an Individual's Eligibility

Delete paragraph 70

The revision will reduce bureaucracy faced by the provider in recruiting JSA/ESA(WRAG) individuals and align the recruitment process with those individuals who are in receipt of other benefits, are unemployed and need skills training to get into work.

Fee Remission

Replace paragraph 100 with –

The Government's response to the Wolf Review on Vocational Learning included a commitment to those aged 19 up to 24 years who have not reached GCSE level A* to C in maths and English language, to fully-fund learning for them to achieve this level. Therefore, maths and English language GCSEs will be fully funded in 2011/12, where they are undertaken by learners aged 19 to 24 years who have not achieved a maths or English language GCSE at A* to C. This is regardless of whether a learner has already achieved a full Level 2 qualification. This includes individuals who have previously attained maths and English language GCSE at grades D to G who wish to re-take the qualification. Funding is not available for just re-sitting the exam, where no additional learning takes place. In respect of apprentices, full funding will not be made available for GCSE maths and English language in an Apprenticeship framework. Apprentices who wish to take up this offer will

be able to access it via the wider Adult Skills offer outside of their Apprenticeship programme.

The revision is to make it clear that a learner aged 19 to 24 years and who has a GCSE in either maths or English language at grades D to G is eligible to full funding in order to obtain grades at A* to C.

