



Department
for Education

Patterns of study: substantial level 3 qualifications and English and maths amongst 16- to 18-year-olds

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Introduction

The funding per student methodology introduced in 2013 to 2014 for post-16 students classes those students on a programme of 540+ planned hours per academic year as being full time. This publication contains new statistics relating to the number of students in this funding band.

Study of Substantial Level 3 qualifications is being monitored as part of post-16 funding arrangements. Statistics are presented below on the take up of Substantial Level 3 qualifications.

From September 2014 it will be a condition of funding that all students who have not achieved a GCSE grade A*-C in either English and / or maths must continue to study either / both post 16 with a view to obtaining a GCSE grade A*-C. Students may study approved 'stepping stone' qualifications, such as Functional Skills, on the way to a GCSE.

Statistics

Participation patterns

The latest data is based on the June 2014 Individualised Learner Return (R10 ILR) and schools' census. This shows that the number of 16 to 18 year olds studying a programme of 540+ hours has increased from 702,200 in 2012 to 2013 to 948,600 in 2013 to 2014. This is an increase of 35% from the 2012 to 2013 year-end position.

Study of substantial level 3 qualifications

The latest data based on the June 2014 Individualised Learner Return (R10 ILR) and the schools' census shows that the number of students studying any Substantial Level 3 qualifications in 2013 to 2014 was 360,800, which represents an increase of 11% on 2012 to 2013.

The number of 16 to 18 year old students studying English and maths qualifications

The latest data indicates that:

- The number of 16 to 18 year old students studying English GCSE increased from 52,000 in 2012 to 2013 to 79,800 in 2013 to 2014. This is an increase of 53% from the 2012 to 2013 year end position.
- The number of 16 to 18 year old students studying maths GCSE increased from 46,400 in 2012 to 2013 to 63,000 in 2013 to 2014. This is an increase of 36% from the 2012 to 2013 year end position.
- The number of 16 to 18 year old students studying an English stepping stone qualification increased from 190,200 in 2012 to 2013 to 196,000 in 2013 to 2014. This is an increase of 3% from the 2012 to 2013 year end position.
- The number of 16 to 18 year old students studying a maths stepping stone qualification increased from 169,000 in 2012 to 2013 to 187,000 in 2013 to 2014. This is an increase of 11% from the 2012 to 2013 year end position.

Data sources

- ILR – 2012 to 2013 R14 (end of academic year) data return, 2013 to 2014 R10 (May) data return
- School Census – 2012 to 2013 end of academic year data return, 2013 to 2014 October snapshot data return
- HESA – 2011 to 2012 data return, 2012 to 2013 data return

Annex A: Methodology

Participation patterns

Figures are based on students eligible for funding, aged 16,17 or 18, who have recorded planned hours that place them in the 540+ hours funding band.

Note that the figures presented in this publication compare 2012 to 2013 full-year to the 2013 to 2014 part-year position.

Study of substantial level 3 qualifications

Figures are based on students eligible for funding, aged 16,17 or 18. A student is counted towards the total where they are enrolled on a Substantial Level 3 qualification. Details of Substantial Level 3 qualifications are available on the DfE website.

Further information is available in the [16 to 19 performance tables](#) for inclusion of tech levels and applied general qualifications.

The number of 16 to 18 students studying English and maths qualifications

Figures are based on students eligible for funding, aged 16,17 or 18. A student is counted towards the total where they are enrolled on an English / maths GCSE or a Stepping Stone qualification. Details of [Stepping Stone qualifications](#) are available on the DfE Website.



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