



Department  
for Education

# **Advanced Learner Loans**

## **Application information**

**2016/17 academic year final report**

## Main Headlines

<b>Applications received/ approved</b>	The number of applications received for Advanced Learner Loans increased from <b>80,650</b> in the 2015/16 academic year to <b>93,660</b> in 2016/17. The number of applications approved (ready for payment) increased from <b>71,190</b> in 2015/16 to <b>82,290</b> in 2016/17.
<b>Total loan amount approved and average loan amount</b>	The total value for loans approved increased from <b>£195.2m</b> in the 2015/16 academic year to <b>£236.2m</b> in 2016/17. The average loan ready for payment also increased from <b>£2,740</b> in 2015/16, to <b>£2,870</b> in 2016/17.
<b>Provision type</b>	Level 3 Diplomas received the most applications in the 2016/17 academic year, with <b>52,460</b> applications received and <b>46,490</b> approved. Overall, a total of <b>£145.1m</b> was approved for level 3 Diplomas, with an average loan of <b>£3,120</b> .
<b>Applicant demographics</b>	The highest number of applications received were from the 24-30 year old age group, with <b>27,260</b> being received and <b>23,680</b> approved for the 2016/17 academic year. 71 per cent of applications received were by females ( <b>66,100</b> ) and 83 per cent of applications were received by UK nationals ( <b>77,540</b> ).
<b>Top 10 qualifications</b>	The Diploma in Fitness Instructing and Personal Training (QCF) qualification awarded by Innovate received the most Advanced Learner Loan applications in the 2016/17 academic year. This qualification received <b>2,980</b> applications, with <b>2,690</b> applications approved.
<b>Learning provider type</b>	General FE Colleges (incl Tertiary and FE owned subsidiary colleges) received <b>51,530</b> applications for the 2016/17 academic year, of which <b>45,560</b> were approved. There were also <b>35,420</b> applications received for Private Sector Public Funded learning providers, of which <b>30,600</b> were approved.
<b>Sector Subject Area</b>	The Health, Public Services and Care sector subject area (SSA) received the most applications, at <b>28,140</b> . Of these, <b>24,640</b> were approved. The largest average loan amount for approved applications was in the Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care SSA ( <b>5,070</b> ).

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# 1. Further Education & Skills Advanced Learner Loans

**Release** 26 October 2017

**Date:**

**Coverage:** 2016/17: England; Level 3 and above

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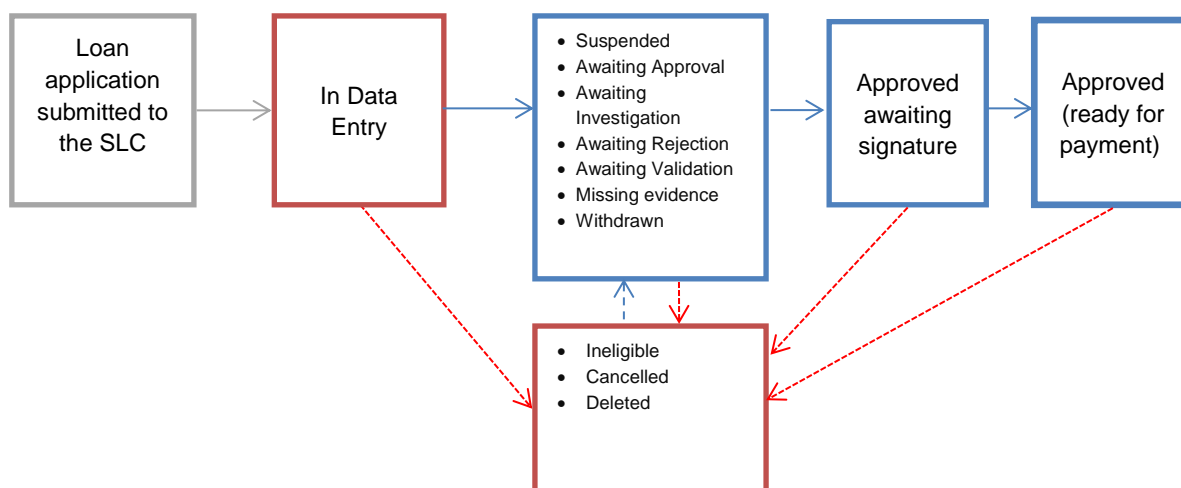
1. This is a Department for Education report for the Advanced Learner Loans system and contains information relating to courses starting in the 2016/17 academic year. This final report uses data from the Student Loans Company's (SLC) live database. Data used includes applications received up until 30 September 2017, although applications closed for the 2016/17 academic year on 31 July 2017. This allows any applications that were submitted after the closing date due to certain circumstances to be included, as well as final processing to be completed on applications already submitted.
2. 24+ Advanced Learning Loans have been expanded to those aged 19 and over starting in the 2016/17 academic year and have been renamed to 'Advanced Learner Loans'.
3. The report contains an outline of the data source as well as tables presenting the number of applications received, the number of applications approved, the amount of loan awarded to those approved, and the average (mean) amount awarded. Given the nature of the SLC live database, the information presented is at 30 September 2017.
4. This report was also released alongside the figures for Quarters 3 and 4 for the 2016/17 academic year.
5. We are reviewing this publication and its uses so we would welcome feedback from users on their requirements and the usefulness of this along with any other relevant Department for Education data we publish.

## 2. 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 30 September 2017 for the 2016/17 academic year. Data presented in this report may also change for particular applications at some point in the future, but this is unlikely to affect the numbers significantly.

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.

### 3. Other Related Statistics

On 12 October 2017, the Department for Education published the [Further Education and Skills Statistical First Release](#), which contains provisional full year figures relating to the number of learners participating in FE who are funded through the Advanced Learner Loans system (see Table 11 and 26 from the most recent release). Figures for 2016/17 include some Learners whose course started in the 2013/14, 2014/15, and 2015/16 academic years that continued into the 2016/17 academic year, and so these figures are not comparable to those in this report.

The Student Loans Company also published their [Advanced Learner Loans Paid in England](#) publication on 12 October 2017, which includes figures on the Advanced Learner Loans paid to Further Education Providers on behalf of Further Education learners. It covers the payments made in the full academic year 2016/17 i.e. August 2016 to July 2017 inclusive and also includes the figures for the equivalent period in academic years 2014/15 and 2015/16 for comparison. These are not directly comparable to the application figures presented in this report.

On 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.

## 4. 2016/17 Academic Year

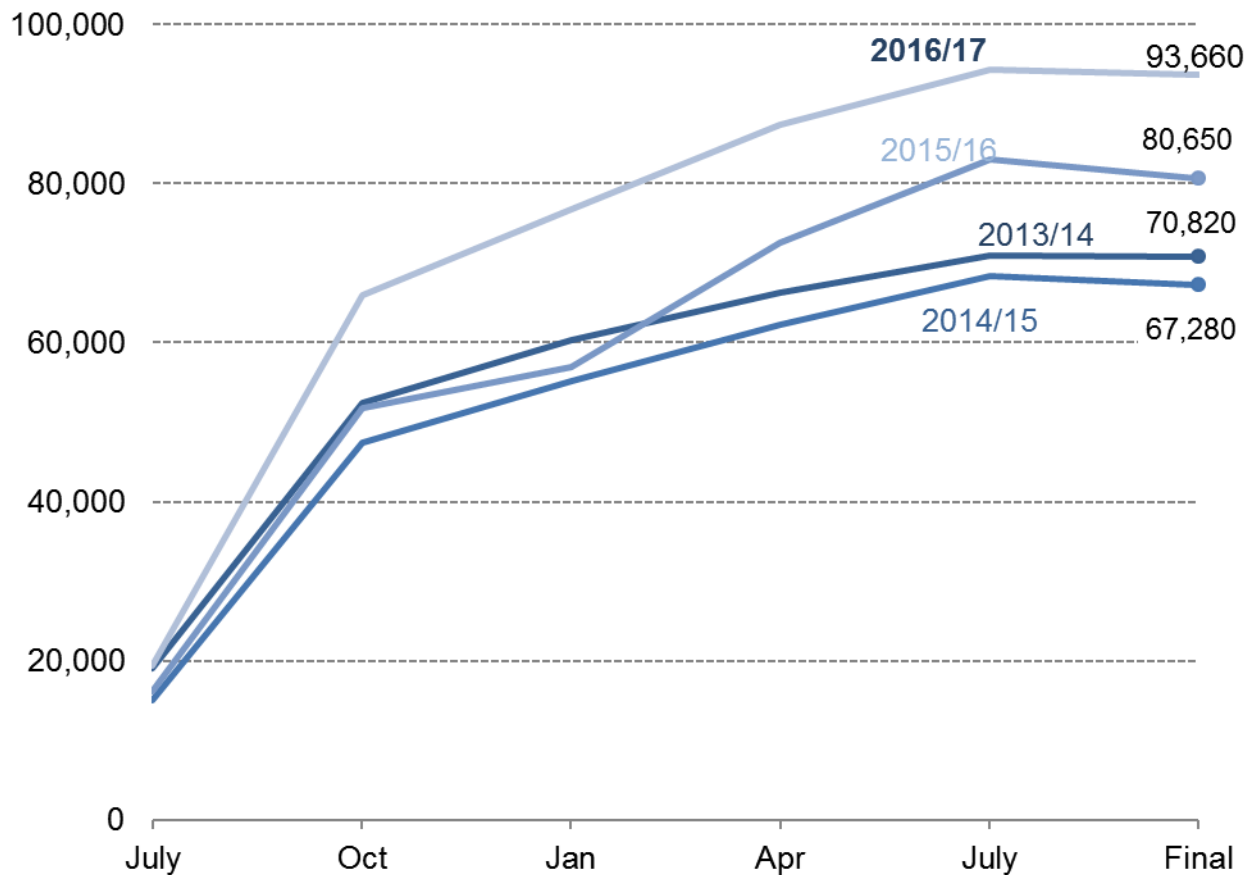
**Table 1 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received and Approved, Academic Years 2013/14 to 2016/17**

<b>Academic year</b>	<b>Applications received</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>		
		<b>Number of applications</b>	<b>Total loan amount awarded (£000s)</b>	<b>Average loan amount (£)</b>
2013/14	70,820	56,220	139,800	2,490
2014/15	67,280	56,870	148,800	2,620
2015/16	80,650	71,190	195,200	2,740
2016/17	93,660	82,290	236,200	2,870

**Notes:**

1. Applications received exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible (except where stated).
2. Data are based on received applications, and are not necessarily indicative of actual starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount rewarded, which is rounded to the nearest £100,000.
4. Final application data is as at 30 September for each academic year, starting from 30/09/14 and ending with 30/09/17.

**Figure 1 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received, Academic Years 2013/14 to 2016/17**



**Notes:**

1. Total applications received exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible (except where stated).

2. Total applications received are snapshots at the end of each reference month, see the data source section for more details.

3. Applications opened on: 8 April 2013 for the 2013/14 academic year, 14 April 2014 for the 2014/15 academic year, 5 May 2015 for the 2015/16 academic year, and 16 May 2016 for 2016/17 academic year. Applications closed on the following 31 July for each academic year respectively.

4. Final application data is as at: 30 September 2014 for 2013/14; 30 September 2015 for 2014/15; 30 September 2016 for 2015/16; 30 September 2017 for 2016/17.



**Table 2 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received by Provision Type, Academic Year 2016/17**

	Applications received	Applications approved		
		Number of applications	Total loan amount awarded (£000s)	Average loan amount (£)
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,660</b>	<b>82,290</b>	<b>236,200</b>	<b>2,870</b>
A Level	680	600	600	1,080
QAA Access to HE	20,000	17,030	55,300	3,250
Level 3:				
Certificate	8,650	7,770	8,800	1,130
Diploma	52,460	46,490	145,100	3,120
Vocational Qualification	5,300	4,580	11,300	2,460
Level 4+:				
Certificate	990	890	1,000	1,150
Diploma	3,340	3,000	10,200	3,400
Vocational Qualification	2,230	1,920	3,800	1,970
Unknown	30	20	-	-

**Notes:**

1. Figures exclude applications Cancelled, Deleted, In Data Entry and Ineligible.
2. Data are based on received applications, and are not necessarily indicative of actual starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount rewarded, which is rounded to the nearest £100,000. '-' indicates that there have been fewer than 5 applications, or less than £50,000.
4. Final application data for 2016/17 is as at 30 September 2017.
5. The mean average is used and is calculated by dividing the unrounded total loan amount awarded by the number of applications ready for payment.
6. Figures may not sum due to rounding
7. 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.

**Table 3 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received by Age, Sex and UK/Non-UK Status, Academic Year 2016/17**

	Applications approved			
	Applications received	Number of applications	Total loan amount awarded (£000s)	Average loan amount (£)
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>93,660</b>	<b>82,290</b>	<b>236,200</b>	<b>2,870</b>
19-23	21,240	18,520	59,500	3,210
24-30	27,260	23,680	69,700	2,940
31-40	26,110	23,130	62,900	2,720
41-50	14,040	12,510	32,700	2,620
50+	4,990	4,420	11,300	2,550
Unknown	30	20	-	-
Total Male	27,560	24,190	76,000	3,140
Total Female	66,100	58,100	160,200	2,760
Total UK	77,540	67,770	193,100	2,850
Total Non-UK	16,120	14,520	43,100	2,970

**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 starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount awarded, which is rounded to the nearest £100,000. '-' indicates that there have been fewer than 5 applications, or less than £50,000.
4. Final application data for 2016/17 is as at 30 September 2017.
5. The mean average is used and is calculated by dividing the unrounded total loan amount awarded by the number of applications ready for payment.
6. Figures may not sum to Totals due to rounding.

**Table 4 - Top 10 Qualifications by Number of Advanced Learner Loans Applications, Academic Year 2016/17**

Learning Aim Reference Number	Learning Aim Description	Awarding Organisation	Applications received	Applications approved		
				Number of applications	Total loan amount awarded (£000s)	Average loan amount (£)
6013866X	Diploma in Fitness Instructing and Personal Training (QCF) - Level 3	Innovate	2,980	2,690	7,500	2,790
60165546	Advanced Diploma in Accounting - Level 3	Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)	2,870	2,490	5,100	2,030
60049418	Diploma in Fitness Instructing and Personal Training (QCF) - Level 3	Active IQ	2,700	2,360	6,500	2,770
50104767	Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning in Schools (QCF) - Level 3	NCFE	2,530	2,360	4,900	2,060
50089663	Diploma in Nail Technology (QCF) - Level 3	Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)	2,200	1,830	6,100	3,300
40003930	Access to Higher Education Diploma: Health - Level 3	Open College Network West Midlands (OPENCOLLN ETWESTMID)	1,880	1,520	5,000	3,270
60165510	Professional Diploma in Accounting - Level 4	Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)	1,520	1,330	2,800	2,140

60126292	Diploma for the Early Years Workforce (Early Years Educator) (QCF) - Level 3	NCFE	1,470	1,300	3,500	2,690
50097453	Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (QCF) - Level 3	NCFE	1,070	970	1,300	1,370
50090653	Diploma in Make-Up Artistry (QCF) - Level 3	Vocational Training Charitable Trust (VTCT)	1,040	840	2,700	3,290

**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 starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount rewarded, which is rounded to the nearest £100,000.
4. Total 2016/17 is as at 30 September 2017.
5. The mean average is used and is calculated by dividing the unrounded total loan amount awarded by the number of applications ready for payment.
6. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
7. The awarding organisation Northern Advisory Council for Further Education (NACFE) is now known as the NCFE with the letters no longer being an acronym

**Table 5 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received by Learning Provider Type, Academic Year 2016/17**

<b>Learning Provider Type</b>	<b>Applications received</b>	<b>Applications approved</b>		
		<b>Number of applications</b>	<b>Total loan amount awarded (£000s)</b>	<b>Average loan amount (£)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,660</b>	<b>82,290</b>	<b>236,200</b>	<b>2,870</b>
General FE Colleges (incl Tertiary and FE owned subsidiary colleges)	51,530	45,560	131,100	2,880
Sixth Form Colleges	990	910	2,100	2,300
Special Colleges	1,700	1,530	6,000	3,960
Other Public Funded	3,860	3,560	8,500	2,390
Schools - Other Independent	130	110	200	1,550
Private Sector Public Funded	35,420	30,600	88,300	2,880
Unknown	30	20	-	-

**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 starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount awarded, which is rounded to the nearest £100,000. '-' indicates that there have been fewer than 5 applications, or less than £50,000.
4. Total 2016/17 is as at 30 September 2017.
5. The mean average is used and is calculated by dividing the unrounded total loan amount awarded by the number of applications ready for payment.
6. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

**Table 6 - Advanced Learner Loans Applications Received by Sector Subject Area (Tier 1), Academic Year 2016/17**

Sector Subject Area	Applications received	Number of applications	Applications approved	
			Total loan amount awarded (£000s)	Average loan amount (£)
<b>Total</b>	<b>93,660</b>	<b>82,290</b>	<b>236,200</b>	<b>2,870</b>
Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	2,140	1,910	9,700	5,070
Arts, Media and Publishing	4,030	3,540	15,100	4,260
Business, Administration and Law	13,600	11,970	28,700	2,400
Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	3,790	3,370	13,300	3,960
Education and Training	9,010	8,150	15,000	1,840
Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	1,850	1,640	7,000	4,300
Health, Public Services and Care	28,140	24,640	69,100	2,810
History, Philosophy and Theology	550	460	1,300	2,870
Information and Communication Technology	1,690	1,430	5,300	3,700
Languages, Literature and Culture	320	310	400	1,300
Leisure, Travel and Tourism	8,520	7,580	19,700	2,610
Preparation for Life and Work	10	10	-	-
Retail and Commercial Enterprise	14,170	12,330	36,500	2,960
Science and Mathematics	3,150	2,740	8,400	3,050
Social Sciences	2,670	2,220	6,500	2,950

**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 Learning starts.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10, except for total loan amount rewarded, which is rounded to the nearest £1,000. '-' indicates that there have been fewer than 5 applications, or less than £1000.
4. Total 2016/17 is as at 30 September 2017.
5. The mean average is used and is calculated by dividing the unrounded total loan amount awarded by the number of applications ready for payment.
6. Figures may not sum due to rounding.



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