



Department
for Education



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Centres for Excellence in Maths Programme funding conditions

**The conditions under which ESFA will
pay the Centres for Excellence in Maths
grant funding in the 2020 to 2021
financial year.**

August 2020

Contents

Introduction	3
Grant conditions	4
Grant requirements	5
Payment and repayment of funding	6
Audit and financial assurance	6
Monitoring	7

Introduction

The Centres for Excellence in Maths Programme aims to improve maths teaching for 16-19-year olds studying towards GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications, by trialling new teaching approaches, building teachers' skills and sharing best practice across maths networks.

The programme is managed by the Delivery Partner, the [Education & Training Foundation](#), with partners: University of Nottingham, the Behavioural Insights Team, the Association of Colleges, Pearson, EEDI, Touchconsulting and White Rose Maths. The programme will be independently evaluated by ICF.

Grant funding

This section sets out the conditions under which ESFA will pay the Centres for Excellence in Maths grant funding in the 2020 to 2021 financial year.

Programme activity in the 2020 to 2021 financial year comprises action research, networking and CPD activity. No national trials will take place this year, to help the sector respond to other pressures arising from Covid-19. Therefore, funding of up to £220,190 is available to each Centre this financial year (subject to the Delivery Partner and the Department approving agreed action plans).

Payments for financial year 3 (1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021) of the Centres for Excellence in Maths grant will be paid by the Department in the following instalments:

Table 1: Payments for the 2020 to 2021 financial year

	Department Payment Date	Amount	Activity Type	Funding Period
a.	On or before 20 July 2020	A payment of up to £57,096 has previously been agreed in Action Plans for the 2019-20 Academic Year*	All Programme Activity	Funding to be spent in FY 2020-21
b.	On or before 20 September 2020	Up to £97,037 subject to approval of action plans by the Delivery Partner and the Department	All Programme Activity	Funding to be spent in FY 2020-21
c.	On or before 20 June 2021	Up to £66,057 subject to approval of action plans by the Delivery Partner and the Department	All Programme Activity	Payment in Arrears for activity that takes place in FY 2020-21

* An earlier partial payment (in arrears) for this instalment may be agreed with Centres if required.

This grant must be used only to fund the activities related to the programme and cannot be used to support other areas of college activity. In addition, Colleges must comply with all conditions of grant as detailed below.

Grant conditions

Total eligible costs may include irrecoverable VAT. However, no grant funding in excess of the agreed payment amount will be provided in relation to any VAT.

Grant requirements

Centres will not be restricted to a predetermined list of activities. The Education & Training Foundation (the Delivery Partner) will provide additional support and guidance in relation to appropriate activities and projects and will assist Centres with planning throughout.

Centres may, in principle, include proposals for a wide variety of activities and projects that can help improve the quality of maths provision and attainment at the Centre and within their maths networks, and that address key improvement needs. Examples of activities could include:

- A diagnosis of the Centre and the maths network's quality challenges and development of a programme of work to address these
- Professional development activities for teachers, managers, the senior leadership team and governors
- Time release for teachers and staff at the Centre and maths network to allow them to participate in the programme of work (in such cases funding may cover temporary replacement of that staff member)
- Hiring of additional staff members whose time will be fully dedicated to the Centres for Excellence programme
- The collation or development and trialling of new maths teaching resources in the Centre and subsequent roll-out across the network
- The creation, coordination and management of a maths network, or expansion of an existing network
- Evaluation of the Centre's programme

The following activities cannot be funded through the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme:

- Capital expenditure: spending on the purchase of assets (for example buildings, furniture, fittings). This includes the purchase of information technology (IT) that is treated as capital expenditure for accounting purposes. IT expenditure e.g. software that can be appropriately accounted for as revenue spend, is permitted but must demonstrate good value for money and be agreed by DfE and the Delivery Partner in advance
- Restructuring recommended by the DfE/ESFA
- Staff restructuring
- Independent business reviews

- Any activities that are not related to the provider's maths provision for 16-19-year olds studying towards GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications
- Any activities that the Centre would otherwise be able to access free of charge

Further information on activity that will not be funded by the Centres for Excellence in Maths programme is detailed in the Action Plan Guidance provided by The Delivery Partner.

Formal grant conditions will be managed and monitored by the Department's Conditions of Funding Agreement for each institution.

Payment and repayment of funding

All Centres for Excellence in Maths grant payments will be made by the Department to the Centre in line with the instalments detailed above.

The grant will become repayable (through a future reduction in Department funding) if:

- the grant funding is not spent in the funding period specified in the table above (or by an alternative date agreed in advance with the Department)
- the grant funding is not spent on eligible activities outlined in the approved action plans (or variants thereof agreed with the Department, using the process described)
- the Centre does not provide its required contribution to wider programme activity
- reports on expenditure and outcomes are not submitted

Audit and financial assurance

Accounting Officers at the Centres will be required to sign an assurance statement also known as Annex G, accompanied by a final report for each Academic Funding Year to confirm that monies have been used for the purposes intended, and that expenditure complies with the terms and conditions of the grant.

The Centres will need to retain evidence of expenditure as this may be requested by the Department.

All purchases made in connection with this grant must be in line with Centres procurement policies and procedures. Colleges are expected to account for costs incurred in relation to this grant separately. All expenditure must be accounted for to the same standards, rules and procedures as set out in the [Education and Skills Conditions](#)

[of Funding 2020 to 2021 Agreement \(College\)](#) and must be capable of independent verification and audit.

Evidence relating to expenditure against this grant shall be kept separately by colleges, and regular expenditure reporting and forecasts must be provided to the Delivery Partner.

Monitoring

Over the course of its grant-funded activity, the Centre will work with the Delivery and Evaluation Partners to monitor its programme of work.

Each Centre must provide details to the Delivery Partner on how they intend to monitor the impact of networking and locally delivered CPD funded by the programme and how this will be measured. The Delivery Partner will provide additional support and guidance in relation to monitoring and evaluation and assist Centres with planning throughout. Plans must not identify individuals unless explicit permission is gathered in advance.

Grant recipients will be expected to work alongside ICF, the Evaluation Partner, to ensure that evaluation can be completed correctly and efficiently. The Evaluation Partner will also conduct research with those involved in the project, to increase our understanding of the impact of the teaching approaches and to identify any lessons learned.



Department
for Education



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

© Crown copyright 2020

This publication (not including logos) is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

To view this licence:

visit www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3

email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk

write to Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London, TW9 4DU

About this publication:

enquiries www.education.gov.uk/contactus

download www.gov.uk/government/publications

Reference: DfE-00135-2020



Follow us on Twitter:
[@educationgovuk](https://twitter.com/educationgovuk)



Like us on Facebook:
facebook.com/educationgovuk