



Guidance

Specialist equipment allocation (SEA)

Updated 17 December 2021

Contents

- [Background](#)
- [Eligibility for SEA](#)
- [Timetable for receiving SEA](#)
- [Grant requirements](#)
- [When we will reclaim funding](#)
- [Match Funding](#)



Background

T Levels Capital funding is split into 2 separate funding streams:

- the buildings and facilities improvement grant (BFIG)
- the specialist equipment allocation (SEA)

The BFIG is a bid-based funding pot for T Level providers to refurbish existing facilities or build brand new buildings. Check the [T Levels capital fund guidance](#) for more information.

The SEA is a one-off payment available to all eligible T Level providers delivering T Level routes in academic year 2023 to 2024 for the first time, based on the number of students you expect to have in the 4th year of your T Level delivery

You do not need to apply, or bid for BFIG, to receive SEA. However, if you are applying for BFIG, we ask that you tell us what specialist equipment you will need for the T Level route that you are bidding for, to help us determine the SEA funding we give you and other providers.

Eligibility for SEA

Any provider listed on the [T Level provider list](#) delivering a T Level route(s) for the

first time in academic year 2023 to 2024 is eligible to receive SEA funding.

If you are a new provider in 2023 you must register to deliver T Levels by 29 July 2022 (midnight) to receive SEA. Information on how to register for delivery from 2023 can be found in the [How to register to deliver T Levels in 2023 to 2024 academic year](#) guidance.

Timetable for receiving SEA

If you are eligible, we will make an award using a formula based on the T Level route(s) you intend to deliver and your expected student numbers at steady state (4th year of delivery).

We intend to make payments in early 2023.

Grant requirements

SEA must only be used to help buy the industry standard specialist equipment you need to deliver T Levels. If your allocation is spent on equipment that is not primarily used for supporting T Level delivery, we reserve the right to reclaim funding.

You are required to provide 2 returns to us:

- monitoring form A: where you are required to set out how you plan to spend your allocation. We intend to complete spot checks on these returns and will inform you if any equipment is identified as ineligible
- monitoring form B: where you are required to confirm what you have purchased and the cost of the equipment. You should provide invoices and other supporting documents alongside this return

We will use your monitoring forms to determine whether or not we will need to reclaim funds. We will confirm further details regarding the completion of these forms when you receive your grant offer letter in early 2023.

When we will reclaim funding

In addition to reclaiming any funding spent on non-T Level equipment, we reserve the right to reclaim funding in the following circumstances:

- if your projected number of students decreases significantly. We will use your October 2022 student number return as the basis from which we will make this decision. We will not provide additional funding if your student number projections increase
- if you drop T Level routes from your planned delivery
- if you defer delivery by more than one academic year, or defer delivery before you have spent your SEA
- if you do not spend your allocation by the date set out in your grant offer letter and have not sought an extension from us. We will consider extensions for extenuating circumstances, but you must inform us at the earliest opportunity

Match Funding

We expect you to provide a funding contribution equal to 50% of the specialist equipment value if this is something you can afford. That is, for every £1 from the SEA, you should invest an additional £1.

You must not use capital funding from other government bodies as part of this contribution. However, this is not an absolute requirement, and we will leave you to decide whether you are able to afford this match funding. We will ask you for information on the sources of, and amount of money you have invested.

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