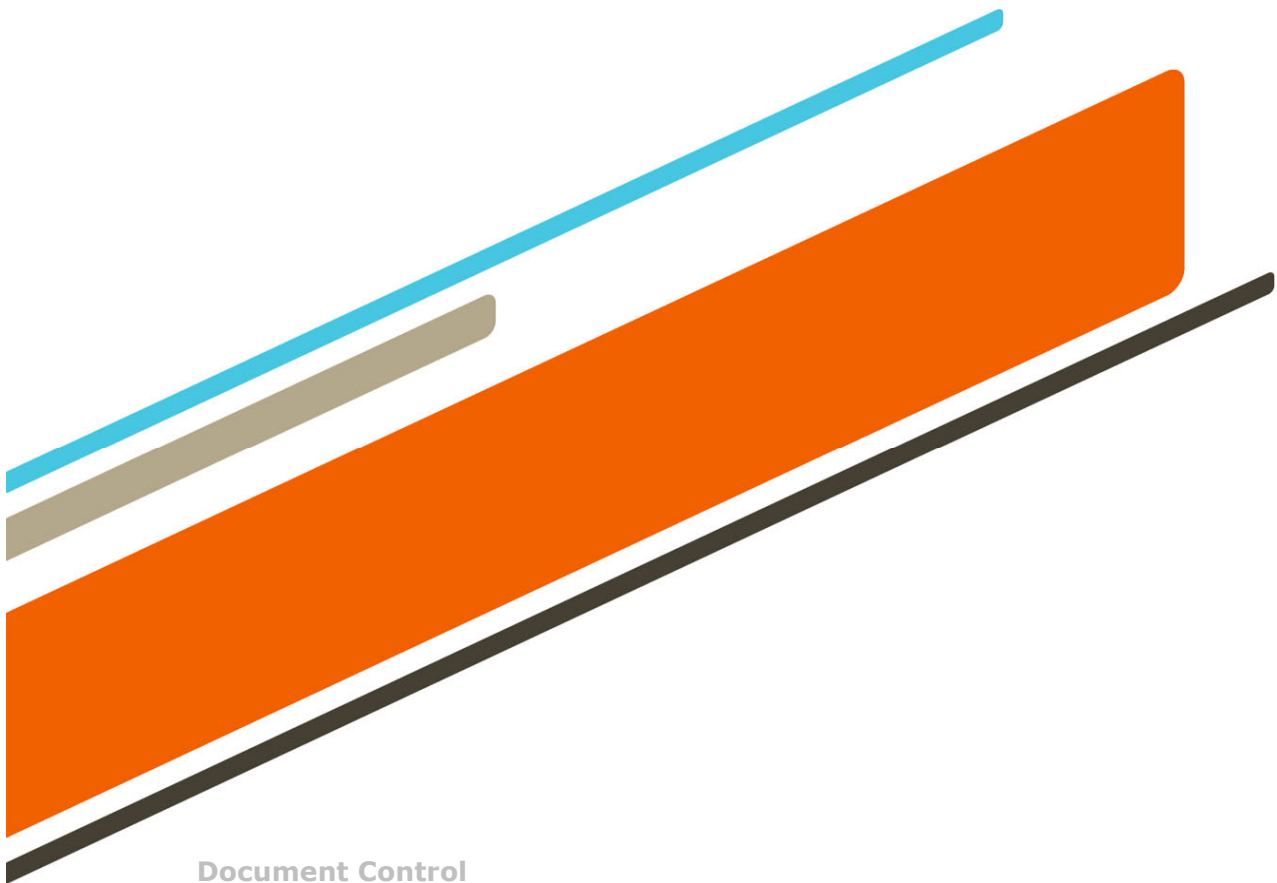


REQUIREMENTS FOR FUNDING TRAIN TO GAIN

LEVEL 3 WOMEN ONLY TRIALS

VERSION 1.4
2006/07



Document Control

Version	Date	Author	Change
1.1	1/11/06	Sarah Millett	Funding Rates amended
1.2	08/12/06	Sarah Millett	Various amendments
1.3	12/12/06	Sarah Millett	Paragraph 8 re-drafted for clarity; Annex A re-drafted for clarity
1.4	12/12/06	Sarah Millett	Paragraph 17 included


Requirements for Funding Level 3 Women Only Trials 2006/07

Introduction

- 1 This document should be read in conjunction with the **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** document (version 2) and constitutes an integral part of the LSC's funding agreement. The **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** apply to the funding of the Level 3 Women Only Trial except where specific differences apply as outlined within this document.
- 2 This document sets out the LSC's approach to funding the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial in 2006/7. The Trial will operate over a two year period; further Funding Guidance will be issued for 2007/8 encompassing necessary changes as a consequence of mid-year evaluation. Separate Funding Guidance will be produced for the Level 3 Train to Gain Trials (i.e. not Women Only).
- 3 For further information, please contact the appropriate local Learning and Skills Council office. Contact details for each office can be found on the LSC's website: www.lsc.gov.uk or visit www.traintogain.gov.uk for details of the service.

Background

- 4 Within one English region the Train to Gain offer will be complimented by Level 3 Women Only Trials that will offer an additional product to the brokers' portfolio.
- 5 £10million in 2006/7 and a further £10million in 2007/8 will be available to support the Level 3 Women Only Trials in the London region.
- 6 The Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials is a response to the Women and Work Commission Report. It will provide opportunities for low skilled women to train towards work related Level 3

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qualifications and thus improve social and economic mobility and contribute more to local and national productivity.

7 In order to evaluate the success of the service the following questions will be addressed:

a. Employer


- i. Was the supply of training delivered flexibly and responsively according to employer's needs, choice and satisfaction that enabled increased productivity and business competitiveness?
- ii. Have employers who have not previously trained women to Level 3 engaged in this level of training via the pilots?

b. Employee

- i. Did employees receive a training experience and / or qualification that was of high quality, relevant and accessible?

c. Provider

- i. Did providers develop their capacity, standards and quality to meet employer needs?

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8 The evaluation process will consider Level 3 provision delivered outside of these Trials for comparative purposes.


Timetable for Implementation

9 The Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials will be introduced in London from October 2006.

Funding Rates

10 There are new arrangements for Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial learners starting from 1 October 2006, which will be for the

participating region (London). Different arrangements will be in place for the other Level 3 Trials.

- 11 Funding Rates for the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials are set out in the table below. They are linked to the sector subject areas and a full list of them is included in the Learner Aim Database that is available on the LSC's website at www.lsc.gov.uk.
 - 12 These rates will apply for learners starting between 1 October 2006 and 31 July 2007. These rates include payments for information, advice and guidance, and training needs analysis that will no longer be funded separately. These rates are expected to cover all costs including qualification registration and examination fees.
 - 13 Within the **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** document, paragraphs 19 – 22 higher and lower funding rates are discussed. The Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials do not currently have higher and lower funding rates. However, during the course of the financial year an assessment of the suitability of the rates will be made and variances to the rates, including the introduction of a two-rate system (higher and lower) may be applicable.
 - 14 As conditions of funding providers, learners and employers may be required to participate in a review of the Trial if required.
 - 15 Providers are required to claim funding accurately and maintain auditable evidence. The LSC will monitor the numbers of funding claims at each level. The employer fee is based on the Base Funding rate and does not take into account the programme weighting.
 - 16 The LSC will provide funding to the provider for the amount described as "LSC Contribution". The remaining "Employer Contribution" should be collected directly from the Employer and is not the responsibility of the LSC.
 - 17 In the 2007/8 academic year the employer contribution will increase to 37.5% to align with the LSC's mainstream funding policies.
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Sector Subject Area		LSC Contribution	Employer Contribution (06/07: 32.5%)	Total Funding
1	Health, Public Services and Care	£1,665	£585	£2,250
3	Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care	£1,665	£585	£2,250
4	Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies	£2,115	£585	£2,700
5	Construction, Planning and the Built Environment	£2,115	£585	£2,700
6	Information and Communication Technology	£1,215	£585	£1,800
7	Retail and Commercial Enterprise	£1,215	£585	£1,800
7	Transportation	£2,115	£585	£2,700
7	Hair and Beauty	£1,665	£585	£2,250
7	Hospitality	£1,215	£585	£1,800
8	Leisure, Travel and Tourism	£1,215	£585	£1,800
15	Business, Administration and Law	£1,215	£585	£1,800
	Other sector subject areas	£1,215	£585	£1,800


London Region - Area Costs

London area costs for Train to Gain provision in 2006/07 will be applied using the following table.

Location of provider	Location of delivery of provision		
	London A (central)	London B (outer)	Rest of England
London A (central)	20%	20%	Local area uplift
London B (outer)	12%	12%	Local area uplift
Rest of England	12%	12%	Local area uplift

Please note that this is an interim arrangement for 2006/07 only and only applies to providers operating in London.

This arrangement is being adopted to respond to concerns that have been raised from some providers. It is recognised that this approach is different from other funding arrangements the LSC is currently operating. Train to Gain introduces new ways of delivery that need to be responded to appropriately.

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Area costs will be reviewed for 2007/08 as part of the developments in the funding approach for employer-based learning that the LSC is currently developing with the DfES.

Claiming Funding

- 18 Learners will be funded from the discrete Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial budget and new arrangements will apply. Funding will be paid based on actual learner activity.
- 19 Data for Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial funded learners for 2006/07 will also be collected via existing ILR returns. The ILR has been changed to allow Level 3 Trial funded learners to be identified and to collect the data required to support Train to Gain, including the Employers unique reference number supplied by the Skills Broker. Providers are required to utilise the Level 3 Trial Flag on the ILR as a condition of funding.
- 20 For the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain providers are requested to record "Not Known" within the "Prior Attainment" field of the ILR returns.
- 21 Funding claims data can be recorded within the workbooks for eligible providers. In the academic years 2006/7 and 2007/8 payments for both starts and achievements can be claimed. However, in the academic years 2008/9 and 2009/10 only achievements can be claimed.
- 22 Providers are required to carry out checks of learner eligibility in all cases. Learners are required to confirm that they are eligible.


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Contribution to wage costs

- 23 Employers participating in the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials will not be eligible for wage compensation. Therefore paragraphs 40 to 51 of the **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** do not apply.

Eligibility

Learners Eligible for Service Funding

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- 24 To access Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial funding the individual must be an employee i.e. possesses a contract of employment with an employer.
 - 25 Learners are only eligible to receive funding via the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial if they are women currently under-represented within the workforce or described as returners to the labour market, as defined by the legislation.
 - 26 All other Learner Eligibility for Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials are outlined within paragraphs 55 to 71 of the **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** document.

Employers eligible to access the Train to Gain service

- 27 Employers participating in the Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials are not restricted to Hard to Reach Employers and may require brokerage interventions with Employers not described in this way.
- 28 All other Employer Eligibility for Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trials is outlined within paragraphs 75 to 80 of the **Requirements for Funding Train to Gain** document. However, an entitlement to Level 3 does not exist for adults and so volunteers and sole traders will not be able to access a Level 3 entitlement in the same way as they would for Level 2.

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Programmes eligible for funding

- 29 Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial funding is available for female learners who are currently under-represented within the workforce or learners who are described as returners to the labour market.
- 30 Providers are required to carry out checks of learner eligibility in all cases. Learners eligibility will be determined using a process of self-declaration by the learner.

- 31 The Trial will only fund learning provision at Level 3 that is delivered flexibly to meet the needs of an employer in an assess-train-assess style of delivery.
- 32 Level 3 Women Only Train to Gain Trial funding is not available for any Level 3 vocational qualifications that are not classified as full or that are not delivered as a single learning aim. For example A Levels will not be funded as this will not deliver a full Level 3 within a single learning aim, two A levels will be required to fulfil this requirement.

Annexes

Annex A

Definition of Full Level 3

The list below provides details of full Level 3 qualifications. However, the list of qualifications identified below will not all be eligible for funding via the Level 3 Train to Gain Trials as they are not all single learning aims.

The full level 3 definition has 3 parts:

- Aims selected on the type of learning aim. This includes NVQs, GNVQs and VCEs.
- Access to Higher Education qualifications recognised by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)
- Other qualifications (VRQs) that are likely to be counted as full level 3 in the Government's Labour Force Survey.

In addition qualifications must be approved on the DfES Section 96 or 97 lists or be a component of an approved qualification [LSC funding status code= 01,02,03 or 06]. Access to HE qualifications must be marked as recognised by QAA [LSC funding status code= 04]

The table below shows the criteria used to select learning aims and the percentage value assigned.

Aim type	Default percentage
NVQ level 3	100
GNVQ level 3	100
A level, AVCEs	50
AS level/A2, AS VCEs	25
AVCE Double awards	100
Level 3 aims marked as QAA-recognised Access to HE.	100
Other qualifications at level 3 and of 595 or more guided learning hours (from QCA Openquals data)	100
Some other qualifications previously identified as full level 3 have retained this status	100