

ADULT LEARNING GRANT (ALG)



TRAIN TO GAIN FACTSHEET

Summary	The Adult Learning Grant (ALG) is a means tested weekly allowance of up to £30 per week for adults (aged 19 +) in full time education, studying for their first full Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.
Location	National
Timing	ALG was launched nationally in September 2007. Pilots have been carried out since 2003/04.
Why	ALG provides financial help with the costs of learning, (such as travel or books), to low skilled, low income adults who are studying full time for their first full Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.
How	The Grant is paid directly into the learner's bank account each week.
Key contact	Pam Cole – Partnership Manager at pam.cole@lsc.gov.uk
Website	www.adultlearninggrant.com

Key messages

ALG is only available to learners in full time learning; part time learning does not qualify. Full time learning is classed as 450 guided learning hours in any 12 month period or 150 guided learning hours per term.

Applicants for ALG will be subject to a means tested assessment. The assessment is based on the learner's income and that of their partner if applicable. No account is taken of household income.

ALG gives adults, who have not yet achieved a first full level 2 or level 3 qualification, financial help with the costs of full time learning. ALG enables more adults to achieve their potential and increase their skills.

The money is intended to help with travel costs, books and other course expenditure.

There are three levels of ALG; £10, £20 and £30.

Learners cannot receive the ALG at the same time as claiming "out of work" benefits, such as Job Seekers Allowance or Income Support. Learners are still able to claim "in work" benefits such as Housing Benefit or Council Tax Benefit.

Evaluation from the pilots has shown that ALG has helped to

- Increase participation
- Improve retention
- Improve attained at Levels 2 and 3 and
- Encourages progression to HE or skilled employment