

Functional Skills Update

Functional Skills qualifications are a new set of qualifications in English, mathematics & ICT and are assessed at Entry Level, Level 1 and Level 2.

Functional Skills are for everyone. The qualifications are available to all learners aged 14 upwards from August 2010.

Functional skills are not simply about knowledge in English, mathematics and ICT subjects but about knowing when and how to use the knowledge and skills in real life contexts, so individuals can get the most out of work and education.

Good Functional skills underpin all educational and training choices. They have been designed in response to employers' perceptions that many young people and adults are not achieving a firm enough grounding in the basics.

Functional Skills in English, maths and ICT will replace Key Skills qualifications in Communication, Application of Number and ICT from September 2010. There has been an extension to Key Skills delivered in Apprenticeship Frameworks until April 2011 allowing providers the choice of offering either Functional Skills or Key Skills in the interim. However, Key Skills funded through Adult Learner Responsive (ALR) funding will not be funded by the Skills Funding Agency from 1 September 2010. Only continuing learners who enrolled before 1 September 2010 will be funded to complete their qualification up to the certification end date of 31 August 2012.

On 13 January, the Department for Children Schools' and Families (DCSF) and Learning and Skills Council (LSC) published the statement of priorities and investment strategy in which it stated that providers are now expected to deliver these Functional Skills qualifications for young people wherever possible. This means that it should no longer be necessary for 16 - 18 years olds to take the Certificates in Adult Literacy or Adult Numeracy and the number of young people taking those qualifications should reduce significantly in 2010/11. It is the intention of the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA), subject to confirmation by the JACQA Biennial Review, that adult literacy and numeracy qualifications will no longer be funded for young people after 2010/11.

The Certificates in Adult Literacy, Adult Numeracy and ESOL Skills for Life will continue to be funded as the main basic skills qualifications for adults aged 19 or

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over. Functional Skills will also be fundable through ALR but not be eligible for funding through Train to Gain or the Employability Skills Programme.

A decision is expected in autumn 2010 as to whether Functional Skills qualifications will also replace the Certificate in Adult Literacy and Certificate in Adult Numeracy from September 2012 at the earliest. Further work will also be undertaken before a decision is made on whether to replace the English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) Skills for Life qualifications with Functional English qualifications.

Funding Rates

For further Skills Funding Agency funding guidance, please refer to the appropriate funding document on the [Skills Funding Agency website](#) and the [functional skills funding table](#).

Delivery information in 2010/11

Functional Skills in English, Mathematics and ICT delivered through 16-18 and ALR will be unlisted. Where Functional Skills are delivered as part of an Apprenticeship Framework as a direct replacement for key skills, they will continue to be listed at 0.08 SLN. This applies to all age Apprenticeships.

Functional Skills in English, Mathematics and ICT delivered through 16-18 learner responsive and ALR will be unlisted. This will allow time for the qualifications to settle down and the delivery hours to be established.

Functional Skills in English and Mathematics funded by the YPLA through the 16-18 learner model will be funded at a 1.4 programme weighting. Functional Skills in ICT will continue to be funded at 1.12.

Only Entry Level Functional Skills in Mathematics funded by the Skills Funding Agency through the ALR model will attract a 1.4 programme weighting.

All other Functional Skills in English and Mathematics funded through the Skills Funding Agency (ALR model) will be funded at 1.2. Functional Skills in ICT will continue to be funded at 1.12.

Functional Skills in Apprenticeships will continue to be funded at programme weighting 1.0.