

Quick Reference Guide: Learner Support Programme

<p>Professional and Career Development Loans</p>	
<p>What does it do?</p>	<p>Professional and Career Development Loans are deferred commercial bank loans set at a competitive interest rate to help pay for learning or training that enhances employment prospects. The YPLA supports learners by paying the interest on their loan while they are in learning and for up to one month after they have completed their course. Then like any commercial bank loan the learner must begin to make repayments.</p>
<p>Who is eligible?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be aged 18 or above at the point of application. ▪ Must be “settled” in the UK or ordinarily resident in England, Scotland or Wales for at least three years prior to the start of beginning their learning programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Must be intending to work in the UK, the EU or the EEA when the course finishes ▪ Must not have savings above £16,000
<p>What type of learning is applicable?</p>	<p>As long as the course leads to employment or enhances job skills, the loan can be used to help with the cost of a whole range of courses, - even those that don't lead to a qualification. For example,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Specialist courses at Private Institutions e.g. homeopathy Management or technician level training e.g. in Accounting</u> ▪ <u>Vocational Qualifications e.g. in Hospitality and Catering .Diplomas e.g. in Manufacturing and Product Design</u> ▪ Postgraduate courses e.g. MSc in Environmental Science
<p>How much could the learner receive?</p>	<p>Individuals can apply for between £300 to £10,000 to support the cost of their</p>

	course fees or other course related costs such as books, materials and living costs.
What can/can't the funding be used for?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Professional and Career Development Loans can support learners with their full-time, part-time, or distance learning course fees. ✓ Up to 2 years of training, or 3 years if the course includes one year's practical work experience. ✓ Costs of equipment, e.g. books, tools, childcare, travel expenses ✓ Living expenses, e.g. food, ordinary clothing, household fuel, rent, council tax and water charges.
How does the learner apply?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Applications can be requested by telephoning the helpline: 0800 585 500 ▪ Individuals should call 0845 000 045 to find out if their chosen course is registered or willing to register with the Programme ▪ Applications should be made directly to the chosen bank and any loan agreement reached between the learner and the bank ▪ Learners can apply for up to three months prior to the start of their course. However, only one bank can be applied to at a time.
What are the effects on other sources of funding and benefits?	<p>The loan cannot be used to pay for a course that is funded by another public source. However, in most cases the loan can be used to supplement a grant or bursary that does not cover the entire cost of the course. Receiving a loan may affect a learners entitlement to benefits and their National Insurance Contributions If the individual is in receipt of an NHS non-means tested bursary they will not be eligible for the loan. If the individual has a job and their employer receives a grant for their training they will not be eligible to apply for the scheme</p>
What courses are not eligible?	Careers Counselling courses e.g.

	<p>careers progression, CV writing, job hunting</p> <p>Franchise courses, it cannot be used to pay for the franchise or to buy a license from a franchise</p> <p>Foundation Courses- A foundation course used as a first step towards a degree course is not eligible for the loan. However, a stand alone foundation course that does lead to employment is eligible for the loan</p>
How are the funds administered?	<p>Payments to cover living expenses and other costs, if applied for and granted, are made directly to the applicant.</p> <p>Course costs are paid directly to the learning provider</p>
What is the aim?	<p>The aim of the Professional and Career Development Loan is to increase the amount of learning being undertaken that will enhance a learner's skills and employability, to encourage more individuals to take responsibility for their own learning, and encourage financial institutions to view learning as an investment worthy of a loan.</p>
What are the key achievements of the funding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Professional and Career Development Loans are considered a valuable funding option to help those who may not otherwise be able to finance their learning. ▪ Since the scheme began in 1988 there have been over 246,024 loans granted and £945 million lent by banks. ▪ 85% of recipients are very satisfied with their CDL and would recommend them to others ▪ 80% recipients agree that CDL helped them to develop new skills ▪ In a recent survey almost half of CDL learners stated that they had increased their income by at least one band following their course.
Further Information and Contact Details	<p>A learner can order and application pack and receive further information/advice regarding Professional and Career Development Loans by calling the helpline on 0800 585 505 or by going to www.direct.gov.uk/pcdl:</p>

For information for stakeholders go to
<http://pcdl.ypla.gov.uk>