



Department
for Education

Department for Education

Paul Robinson

Student Funding Policy

Advanced Learner Loan



Advanced Learner Loans – a journey

- ‘Year Six’ – third year of extended offer.
- Ages 19-23 embracing loans. Level 4+ <20%.
- Concluding an evaluation of the extension of loans.
- SLC data provides positive narrative of practitioners handling system well.
- Brexit and EU learners.



Reforms in Adult Education

- No immediate changes to the role of ALLs but plenty of activity going on in the adult education space including:
 - Post-18 Education and Funding Review
 - Level 4/5 reforms
 - Career learning
 - Alternative student finance



Post-18 Education and Funding Review

- Review focusing on ensuring tertiary education is accessible, is value for money, incentivises competition, and deliver the skills we need.
- Expert panel chaired by Philp Augar (leading commentator on finance) providing independent advice.
- It also established three reference groups to connect with students, training providers and employers.
- Interim findings published autumn, with review concluding in early 2019.



Level 4/5 reform

- Government committed to:
 - extending technical education reforms to the highest levels.
 - support attractive progression routes to higher-earning technical roles
- Current take-up of such provision lags behind our international competitors.
- Review should help lead towards a sustainable home-grown workforce and promote social mobility.
- Better options for learners progressing from new T-Levels, or those retraining.



Career Learning (1)

- Labour market changing so important adults can up-skill and re-skill.
- National Retraining Scheme is an ambitious, far-reaching programme to drive adult learning and retraining.
- Scheme driven by key partnership of government, business and employees which will set strategic direction and oversee implementation.
- Scheme be informed by £40m of pilots – the Flexible Learning Fund and Cost & Outreach pilots – testing key supply and demand side interventions to reduce the barriers to learning for adults.



Career Learning (2)

- Some of provision covered by pilots already covered by ALLs.
- If one of providers involved, you should be receiving support and guidance on how to handle accounts alongside any pilot subsidies.
- The Scheme one way to help adults achieve the skills they need.
- Other policies include degree apprenticeships allowing study while in work and additional tuition fee support for STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).



Alternative student finance

- The Higher Education and Research Act 2017 gave the Secretary of State the necessary powers to make alternative payments.
- DfE has appointed the Islamic Finance Council UK to provide specialist advice to support the introduction of alternative student finance.
- DfE and IFC now designing the Takaful fund model. A key principle is that a student will not be better or worse off from using ASF.
- The roll-out of a new model will be clearer in the summer, as we progress this further with the IFC.



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Thank you

Advanced Learner Loan