

Advanced Learner Loans – A Level Factsheet

Overview

An Advanced Learner Loan is available when a learner, who fulfils the personal eligibility criteria, is studying any of the following types and levels of approved Learning Aims at an approved Learning Provider in England:

- Programme of A Levels (AS or A Levels) – up to a maximum of four full A Levels
- QAA Access to HE Diplomas
- Vocational Qualifications at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6

Learners are only entitled to a maximum of four loans. The four loans can be any combination of the above types and levels.

In the case of A Levels, a 'Programme of A Levels' can include up to four full A Levels. This means that a programme may consist of up to eight separate loan applications where the learner undertakes AS level study. These applications can be made at the same time or one after the other.

A 'Programme of A Levels' together count as only one of the four loans the learner is entitled to. A learner can still apply for three more loans for Learning Aims that are not AS or A levels.

Changes between AS and A Level

Following the changes to the way A Levels work, learners only have the opportunity to apply for an AS Level Learning Aim or a full A Level (one-year A2 Learning Aims have been removed).

Usually an AS Level Learning Aim is one year in duration and a full A Level Learning Aim is longer with a higher maximum loan rate.

Where a learner wishes to continue from an AS to a full A level and their application is **pre liability**, a course transfer can be performed by either the learner or the Learning Provider to change to the new course.

The learner is pre liability if their initial attendance has not been confirmed. This means they are free to change to a Learning Aim of the same level and type or onto a Learning Aim of a different level or type.

Where a learner wishes to continue from an AS to a full A Level and their application is **post liability**, they will need to make a separate application for the A Level.

A post liability learner cannot change to a different type of Learning Aim at the same level. Any fee charged for the A Level application should take into consideration any fees already paid for the AS Level.

If a learner is applying for a full A Level then they attract a higher rate of loan because they may be studying for longer.

If a learner is only applying for a full A Level to top up previous AS Level study, the provider should reduce the fee on the new application to reflect the learner's prior attainment.

Please Note:

The online system currently allows up to four applications. It does not recognise that a programme of A Levels can be made up of eight applications. Therefore, a learner who would like to take out more than four loans to make up their A Level programme will need to submit separate paper applications after submitting their fourth online application.