

The Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE)

CMS Training

Policy and Course Eligibility

DRAFT March 2026

Welcome and housekeeping



*Switch off
or have on
silent*





Agenda

09:30	Registration & Refreshments
10:00	LLE Course Eligibility
11:15	Refreshment Break
11:45	Interpreting the LLE CMS Service Definition
13:00	Lunch
14:00	Uploading Courses to the CMS Database
16:00	Close



LLE Rollout and Student Eligibility

- The LLE will launch within academic year 2026/27 for eligible learners studying designated courses (or modules) starting **on or after 1st January 2027**
- New, eligible students (up to the age of 60) will be able to access a full entitlement equal to **4-years of full-time tuition**
- **Returning students** (up to the age of 60) who have previously received government support may have access to a **reduced (residual) LLE Tuition Fee Loan entitlement**
- A returning students' standard Tuition Fee Loan entitlement will be reduced to take into consideration any '**relevant funded study**' for which they received applicable government tuition fee support



Phased Delivery of LLE

Phased delivery of LLE starts during academic year 2026/27

The first LLE students will apply for their funding in September 2026 and start studying their courses and modules from January 2027

For those without Winter 2027 (Jan/Feb/Mar) starting courses the first LLE students will apply in February 2027 for courses starting in Autumn 2027

LLE in Devolved Administrations

In the UK, Education is devolved.

All eligible English students starting study anywhere in the UK from January 2027 will apply for LLE student finance

The main difference, is that Providers outside England cannot offer modules that receive funding through LLE.

Returning English students in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will continue to be funded under the current SF system.

Devolve

Courses Included Under the LLE

The LLE will be available for full years of study at levels 4 to 6, including higher technical and degree qualifications.

It will also be available for modules from higher technical qualifications and full level 6 qualifications that align to:

- priority skills needs
- the government's industrial strategy

The LLE will fund full years of study on courses currently funded by HE student finance, including:

- traditional bachelor's degrees
- postgraduate certificates in education (PGCE)
- integrated master's degrees – a 4-year programme that awards a master's degree on top of a bachelor's degree
- foundation years available before some degree courses start, as long as these form part of an overall bachelor's degree
- foundation degrees

DfE Policy Context for LLE

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Starting in January 2027, the LLE will continue to fund individuals entering higher education through traditional degrees and integrated master's programmes. However, for the first time, the student finance system will also fund new, flexible modular pathways, improving access for a broader range of learners.

That includes those returning to education later in life or studying whilst working.

01

Skill requirements are changing rapidly e.g. technology, AI etc

02

HE SF is based on typical 3-year degree i.e.. 3 Years + 1 extra year, and ELQ applies

03

LLE is based on a 'Pot' of funding, rather than linked to the length of a course and ELQ restrictions do not apply

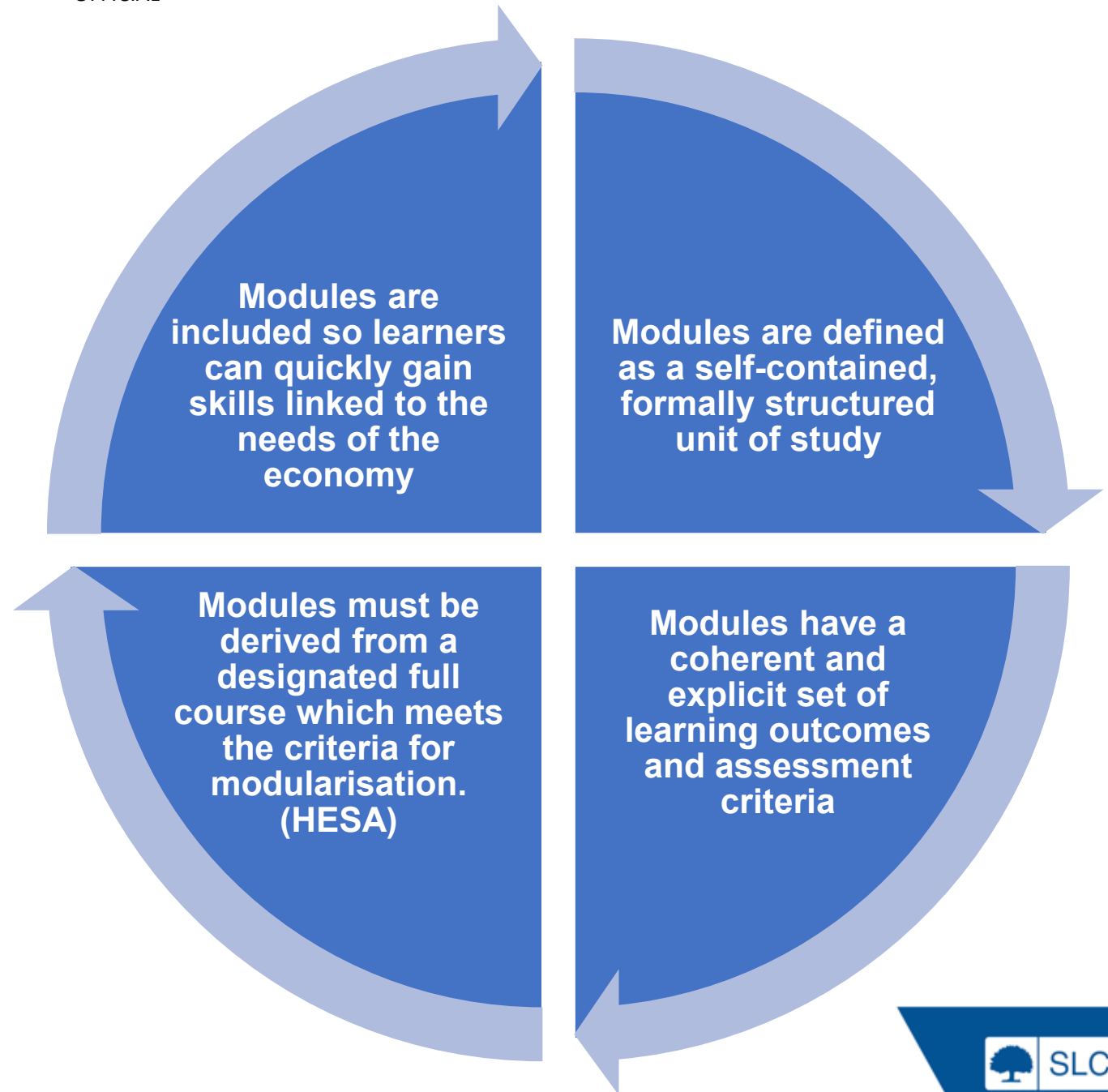
04

Based on current fee limits, the pot of funding is £9790 X 4 Years = £39,160

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Modules and Degrees

- Modules can “stack” into degree qualifications, enabling learners to progress at their own pace
- LLE provides a route where learners can accumulate credits over many years, across multiple institutions
- Modular pathways are partly designed to help re-engage adults in higher learning, and enable learners to manage learning around other commitments



LLE Modules

- LLE will fund level 4, 5 and 6 modules from full level 6 parent qualifications – e.g. degrees – in subject groups that address priority skills needs. The areas are:
 - computing
 - engineering
 - architecture, building and planning, (excl. landscape gardening)
 - physics and astronomy
 - mathematical sciences
 - nursing and midwifery and allied health
 - chemistry
 - economics
 - health and social care
- It will fund level 4 to 6 qualifications currently funded by advanced learner loans, if there is clear learner demand and employer endorsement.

Module Information

In 2026/27 only OfS registered providers in England who have gone through the DfE modular approval process can provide modules

Without this approval, CMS will not allow access to add a module

From 1 January 2027, HTQs and Level 6 parent courses in priority subject areas are available for modularisation (with approval)

Modules designated for support under LLE must have a "Parent Course"

Module Information

Modules must be given a standardised transcript when they're completed, to support credit transfer and facilitate labour market currency

Only full courses that are credit bearing may be modularised. Non-credit bearing courses, and non-taught element are excluded

Modules must be a 30 credits or more. Smaller modules can be bundled to achieve this 30 credit minimum and above provided they are bundled from the same parent course

Under LLE, franchising of modules will not be permitted..



Exceptions

Some courses will get additional funding:

- Courses in subject areas that meet skill gaps in the economy
- Courses with periods of specialist activity, e.g. study abroad
- Courses that are traditionally longer than a standard degree

Priority Courses

Defined priority courses may change over time to reflect the needs of the economy and plug skills gaps as required by DfE and Ministers.

Priority Courses attract additional entitlement above the standard LLE Entitlement

These courses are identified as developing graduates with critical skills for essential professional sectors.

To be identified as a priority course, a course must:

- be aligned to a specified subject type,
- lead to a specified qualification, e.g. a degree-level course, and
- lead to a relevant professional registration (or QTS in the circumstances of ITT in England)

Priority Additional Entitlement

A close-up, shallow depth-of-field photograph of a person's hand holding a blue pen, writing in a notebook. The person is wearing a grey, textured sweater. In the background, a white mug with a brown liquid inside sits on a wooden desk. The scene is softly lit, suggesting an indoor setting like a library or study.

- PAE is available for :
 - medicine
 - dentistry
 - nursing
 - midwifery
 - allied health profession subjects
 - initial teacher training
 - social work
- Only available for full courses and not modules.
- PAE will give a student whose LLE balance is £0 as much tuition fee loan as they need to complete their course.
- Includes maintenance support.
- Existing graduates can also access priority additional entitlement to retrain in an eligible subject.

Special Additional Entitlement



Special Period Additional Entitlement - Providers will be able to charge up to an additional 120 credits per specialist activity over the duration of the course.



Special periods consist of: Foundation Year, Placements, Study Abroad, Turing



Long Course Additional Entitlement - Learners can only access it when they have £0 LLE balance.

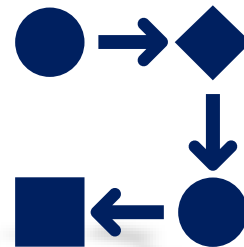


Learners will get up to 2 years of special additional tuition fee entitlement for longer courses that include at least 5 years of taught study such as, veterinary surgery, architecture (including 'part 2' architecture), bachelor's degrees and integrated master's degrees provided in Scotland



LLE and The Courses Management Service

- In LLE, courses are the starting point for assigning credits and calculating Fees
- CMS links into SIS, BAS and the SLC assessment portals to provide detailed course information for student assessments.



Course Credits and Cost per Credit

Understanding Credits

Credits will be critical in assessing a student's entitlement to a Tuition Fee Loan

Credits, or notional learning hours where credits are not assigned, will also be used as the basis for course eligibility and entitlement criteria.

This means that all courses, modules, and course years designated under the LLE are required to have a credit value assigned in SLC's Course Management System (CMS).

Tuition Fees linked to credits

LLE uses a credit-based method for setting fee limits, regardless of whether students studying on a full-time, part-time or accelerated basis.

One credit = 10 hours of learning. This includes all tuition, assessment and any self-guided study.

Providers can only charge for the learning. A course containing 60 credits will have half the fee limit of a course containing 120 credits.

This is regardless of whether the studying is studying part-time or full-time.

Credit Bearing and Non-Credit Bearing Courses

The new system of fee limits is dependent on the assignment of credits to designated courses either by the provider (credit-bearing/flexible) or through the fee limit regulations (non-credit bearing/default) to form the basis for the fee charged.

There are two systems of assigning credit values to full qualifications:

Flexible – where the course/course year is “credit bearing” and has a specific credit value already assigned, then the provider must provide that information.

Default – where the course/course year is “non-credit bearing” and does not have an assigned credit value, the credit value for the course must be assigned a default credit value.

Non-Credit Bearing Courses – Default Credits

The courses listed opposite will always use default credits in their fee limit calculation

Other examples includes placements where the provider does not assign academic credits.

A course is considered as non-credit-bearing if either:

- The year contains study for which the provider is charging the student for, but has not allocated credits to
- The allocated credits do not represent 10 learning hours per credit

First or graduate-entry degree in medicine

First or graduate-entry degree in dentistry

First degree in nursing

First or graduate-entry degree in veterinary science

Pre-registration healthcare courses (undergraduate or postgraduate)

One year full-time-equivalent teacher training courses (such as PGCEs and ProfGCEs)

Credits Per Year Amount – Non-Credit Bearing Years

The per-year amount for non-credit-bearing course years is as follows:

For a year that contains **at least 15 weeks of study:**

- full-time (containing more than 900 hours of notional learning): 120 credits
- part-time: 90 credits
- accelerated: 180 credits

For a year that contains **less than 15 weeks of study:**

- full-time (containing more than 450 hours of notional learning): 60 credits
- part-time: 45 credits

Determining Cost per Credit – Normal Taught Study

Whether a fee limit applies to a provider is determined by which section of the OfS register the provider is registered in.

Fee caps apply to those providers in the Approved (Fee Cap) Category only.

- Providers in these categories are unable to charge students higher than the fee cap. For providers in these categories maximum TFL will match the maximum fee limit for that category
- Those providers in the Approved portion of the register may set the fee without a limit imposed and are therefore considered “uncapped”, however the amount of tuition fee loan available to these students will be limited by TFL maximums.

Provider status	Normal taught Study (Non-foundation Year)
Higher amount (APP & TEF rating)	£9,790/120 (£81.58)
Sub-level (higher) amount (APP only)	£9,525/120 (£79.38)
Basic amount (TEF rating only)	£6,525/120 (£54.38)
Sub-level (basic) amount (No TEF rating or APP)	£6,350/120 (£52.92)

CMS uses full precision in the background. Always use the calculation (£9,535/120) x 80 credits for example when working out fees

Determining Cost per Credit – Non-Taught Study

Provider status	Sandwich placement per credit limit	Study abroad per credit limit	Turing mobility per credit limit
Higher amount (APP & TEF rating)	£1,955/120	£1,465/120	£1,465/120
Sub-level (higher) amount (APP only)	£1,905/120	£1,425/120	£1,425/120
Basic amount (TEF rating only)	£1,305/120	£975/120	£975/120
Sub-level (basic) amount (No TEF rating or APP)	£1,270/120	£950/120	£950/120

- There are different credit values for periods of:
- Sandwich Placements
- Study Abroad
- Turing Mobility
- These are also dependent on APP and TEF rating

Determining Cost per Credit – Foundation Years

The lower Fee limit ‘classroom-based’ Policy for Foundation Years introduced in AY24/25 is carried forward into LLE

This Policy is adapted to account for the cost per-credit

This also applies to England-domiciled home fee students wishing to study a foundation year in classroom-based subjects at providers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Provider status	Higher fee foundation year study	Lower fee foundation year study
Higher amount (APP & TEF rating)	£9,790/120	£5,760/120
Sub-level (higher) amount (APP only)	£9,525/120	£5,605/120
Basic amount (TEF rating only)	£6,525/120	£3,835/120
Sub-level (basic) amount (No TEF rating or APP)	£6,350/120	£3,735/120

These students will also receive a reduced fee loan rate, even if the rate of fee loan they receive is lower than that charged by the provider for the foundation year.

The rates for both lower-fee limit and higher-fee limit foundation years will still be differentiated based on the provider’s TEF and APP status.

How to calculate the fee chargeable for a course

Fee Limit = Cost per credit x number of credits

Example of a Single Fee Limit Rate

A provider in the fee cap category with both a TEF aware and an Access and Participation plan has a cost-per-credit rate based on the annual limit of £9,790.

They offer a two-year, 240-credit HND course with:

- **150 credits** in Year 1
- **90 credits** in Year 2

Maximum Fees They Can Charge:

- **Year 1:** $£9,790 \div 120 \times 150 = £12,237.50$
- **Year 2:** $£9,790 \div 120 \times 90 = £7,342.50$

How to calculate the Fee chargeable for a course

When a student studies two different types of credits in the same year, for example foundation year credits and degree taught credits – each group uses its own cost per credit rate.

The provider then adds both amounts together to get the total fee for that year.

Example:

A student is taking:

- **30 foundation-year credits** (charged at the lower classroom-based rate)
- **90 taught-study credits** (charged at the standard taught-study rate)

How the provider calculates the fee:

Foundation credits:

Lower cost-per-credit × 30 credits

Taught credits:

Standard cost-per-credit × 90 credits

1. Total fee for the year:

Amount for foundation credits + amount for taught credits

Calculating Fees for Mixed Credit Types

When a course year includes **different types of credits**, each type has its **own cost-per-credit rate**.

To work out the fee:

Calculate the amount for each credit type separately.

Add the amounts together to get the **total fee for the year**.

Example:

A year includes foundation-year credits and taught-study credits.

The provider works out the fee for each group of credits using the correct rate and then combines them to produce one total for the year.

Questions or Comments

