



Education & Skills
Funding Agency

Learning Aims Reference Service: Category codes

Version 6

This document provides the definitions and guidance for each category on the Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS).

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Summary

1. This document describes the categories used within the Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS) for the **2020 to 2021** academic year (1 August to 31 July). For more information about the LARS, please refer to these documents:
 - a. [Learning Aims Search Guidance](#)
 - b. [Learning Aim Reference Service Table and Fields definitions](#)
2. We use categories to flag certain qualifications by criteria, such as for a specific policy, pilot or programme. For example, we identify learning aim class code aims through a category (these are generic aims to represent non-regulated learning).
3. The learning aim database has a parent-child relationship. This means we can group common 'child' categories together and display them under a 'parent' category. For example, the parent category 'All Class Code Category' has 14 child categories to identify different groups of 'class codes' such as Units.
4. We will update this document when we create a new category code.
5. This document covers the period of 1 August 2020 to 31 July 2021 and is our current advice for the funding year. We know that providers are working through exceptional circumstances due to Coronavirus (COVID-19). We may publish further updates to this document about the impact of COVID-19 on our funding rules as these become clear. We will tell you about any changes in our ESFA update. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued hard work in these difficult times. For further information, please read [this guidance to help schools and other education settings provide advice for staff, parents and carers, pupils and students about COVID-19](#).

Understanding our terminology

6. The term 'we' refers to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. When we refer to 'you' or 'providers', this includes colleges, Higher Education Institutions, training organisations and employers that receive funding from us to deliver education and training.

Changes from version 5 of this document

7. We have added new category codes for COVID-19 Skills Offer only (code 44), [National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 1 \(code 45\)](#), [National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 2 \(code 46\)](#) and Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Greater London Authority (GLA) Provision (code 47) .

List of Category Codes

8. The table below shows all the category codes we have in the LARS. We describe what these mean in the next section.
9. The categories in bold are parent categories with associated child categories.

Category Code	Parent Category Code	Category Name
1	0	SFA Work Preparation
2	1	Work Preparation-SFA Traineeships
3	0	All Class Code Categories
4	31	Work Placement-SFA Funded
5	0	Unassigned
6	0	Tech Levels 2017
7	6	Tech Levels 2017 - 2 Year Loan
8	6	Tech Levels 2017 - 3 Year Loan
9	0	Early Years Educators 15/16
10	9	Early Years Educators 15/16 - 2 Year Loan
11	9	Early Years Educators 15/16 - 3 Year Loan
12	0	Loans length (not Tech Levels 2017/EYE)
13	12	Loans Length - 2 Year (not Tech Lvl 2017/EYE)
14	12	Loans Length - 3 Year (not Tech Lvl 2017/EYE)
15	0	Unassigned
16	0	Unassigned
17	0	Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives
18	17	LEP-Solent LEP 14/15 Pilot
19	0	Trades Union Congress
20	0	Standalone and Licence To Practise
21	20	Standalone
22	20	Licence To Practise - Security
23	3	Class Code Category A: Non Regulated Provision (Formula Funded)
24	3	Class Code Category B: Non Regulated English, Maths, and ESOL Provision (Formula Funded)
25	3	Class Code Category C: NQF Units of Adult Basic Skills Certificates (Formula Funded)
26	3	Class Code Category D: Innovation Code

Category Code	Parent Category Code	Category Name
27	3	Class Code Category E: Non Regulated Provision (not Community Learning or Formula Funded)
28	3	Class Code Category F: Non Regulated Provision (Community Learning)
29	3	Class Code Category G: Non Regulated English, Maths and ESOL Provision (not Formula Funded)
30	3	Class Code Category H: Units of NQF Qualifications
31	3	Class Code Category I: Work Experience / Placement
32	3	Class Code Category J: Supported Internship
33	3	Class Code Category K: Programme Aim
34	3	Class Code Category L: ESF Co-financed
35	3	Class Code Category M: Conversion Codes between Higher National Qualifications
36	3	Class Code Category O: Education Assessments
37	0	Legal Entitlement-Level 2
38	0	Only for Legal Entitlement at Level 3
39	0	Legal Entitlement-English and Maths
40	0	Local Flexibility
41	0	Aims specific to Combined Authorities (CA) and Greater London Authority (GLA)
42	0	Digital Skills
43	0	COVID-19 skills offer
44	0	COVID-19 skills offer only
45	0	National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 1
46	0	National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 2
47	0	Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Greater London Authority (GLA) Provision

Work Preparation

10. We use this category to identify learning aims that you can record to represent work preparation, and specifically work preparation for traineeships.
11. We use these categories for the traineeship funding calculation, monitoring, validation, statistics and analysis.
12. For further guidance on work preparation in traineeships, refer to [Delivering 16 to 18 traineeships through ESFA funding](#) or, where the learner is over 19, in the traineeship section of the [Adult Education Budget Funding rates and Formula 2020 to 2021](#).
13. The parent category is 'SFA Work Preparation' (code 1).
14. The child category is 'Work Preparation – SFA Traineeships' (code 2).

All Learning Aim Class Code Categories

15. We use this category to identify learning aim class codes (these are generic aims to represent non-regulated learning). For more information on class codes, please refer to the [Learning Aim Class Code guidance](#).

Work Placement

16. We use this category to identify learning aims that you can record to represent work placement, and specifically work placement for traineeships.
17. We use this category for the traineeship funding calculation, monitoring, validation, statistics and analysis.
18. For further guidance, refer to [Delivering 16 to 18 traineeships through ESFA funding](#) or, where the learner is over 19, the traineeships section in the [Adult Education Budget Funding rates and Formula 2020 to 2021](#).
19. The parent category is 'Class Code Category: Work Experience / Placement' (code 31).
20. The child category is 'Work Placement – SFA Funded' (code 4).

Tech Levels

21. We use this category to identify qualifications designated by the Department for Education as Tech Levels for the [2017 16 to 19 Performance tables](#).
22. We use the categories for the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary ('loans bursary') funding calculation. They indicate whether a Tech Level is fundable over either a 2 or 3-year period.
23. The parent category is 'Tech Levels 2017' (code 6)
24. The child categories are:
- 'Tech Levels 2017 – 2 Year Loan' (code 7)
 - 'Tech Levels 2017 – 3 Year Loan' (code 8)

Early Years Educators (EYE)

25. We use this category to identify Level 3 and 4 Early Years Educator learning aims, which have been confirmed as 'full and relevant' by the National College for Teaching and Leadership.

26. We use these categories for the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary ('loans bursary') funding calculation. They indicate whether an Early Years Educator learning aim is fundable over either a 2 or 3-year period.

27. The parent category is 'Early Years Educators 15/16' (code 9).

28. The child categories are:

- 'Early Years Educators 15/16 - 2 Year Loan' (code 10)
- 'Early Years Educators 15/16 - 3 Year Loan' (code 11).

Loans Length (not Tech Levels or Early Years Educators)

29. We use these categories to identify technical and professional qualifications that are not Early Years Educators (EYE) qualifications or qualifications in the Tech Level category in the [2017 '16 to 19 Performance tables](#).

30. We use these categories for the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary ('loans bursary') funding calculation. The categories indicate whether a learning aim is fundable over either a 2 or 3-year period.

31. The parent category is 'Loans length (not Tech Levels/EYE)' (code 12).

32. The child categories are:

- 'Loans Length - 2 Year (not Tech Lvl /EYE)' (code 13)
- 'Loans Length - 3 Year (not Tech Lvl /EYE)' (code 14).

Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives

33. We use this code to identify Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives.

34. We use this code to apply specific [Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\)](#) validation rules.

35. For further guidance, please refer to the [Southampton and Portsmouth City Deal](#) document and [ILR specification, validation rules and appendices 2020 to 2021](#).

36. The parent category is 'Local Enterprise Partnership Initiatives' (code 17).

37. The child category is 'LEP – Solent LEP 2014/15 pilot' (code 18).

Trade Union Congress

38. We use this category to identify Trade Union Congress qualifications.

39. We use this category for monitoring, statistics and analysis.

40. The parent category is 'Trades Union Congress' (code 19).

Learning Aim Class codes - Individualised Learning Record (ILR)

41. We use these categories to identify learning aim class codes as defined by the [Learning Aim Class Code guidance](#) and the [ILR specification, validation rules and appendices 2020 to 2021](#).

42. The parent category is 'All Class Code Categories' (Code 3).

43. The child categories are:

- Class Code Category A: Non-Regulated Provision (Formula Funded) (Code 23)
- Class Code Category B: Non-Regulated English, Maths, and ESOL Provision (Formula Funded) (Code 24)
- Class Code Category C: Components of Units of Adult Basic Skills Certificates (historically known as 'NQF units') (Formula Funded) (Code 25)
- Class Code Category D: Innovation Code (Code 26)
- Class Code Category E: Non-Regulated Provision (not Community Learning or Formula Funded) (Code 27)
- Class Code Category F: Non-Regulated Provision (Community Learning) (Code 28)
- Class Code Category G: Non-Regulated English, Maths and ESOL Provision (Which is not Formula Funded) (Code 29)
- Class Code Category H: Components of qualifications (also known as 'NQF units') (Code 30)
- Class Code Category I: Work Experience / Placement (Code 31)
- Class Code Category J: Supported Internship (Code 32)
- Class Code Category K: Programme Aim (Code 33)
- Class Code Category L: ESF Co-financed (Code 34)
- Class Code Category M: Conversion Codes between Higher National Qualifications (Code 35)
- Class Code Category O: Education Assessments (Code 36).

‘Standalone’ and Licence to Practise

44. We use these categories to identify qualifications that are:

- ‘standalone’ qualifications in fork lift-truck, food hygiene, health and safety and first aid at work
- Licence to Practise qualifications at Level 2 in security guarding, door supervision and CCTV operations (public space surveillance)

45. We use these categories within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.

46. For further guidance, refer to the [Qualifications Eligibility Principles](#) documents and [ILR specification, validation rules and appendices 2020 to 2021](#).

47. The parent category is ‘Standalone and Licence to Practise’ (code 20).

48. The child categories are:

- ‘Standalone’ (code 21)
- ‘Licence to Practise – Security’ (code 22)
- Class Code Category M: Conversion Codes between Higher National Qualifications (Code 35)
- Class Code Category O: Education Assessments (Code 36)

Legal Entitlement – Level 2

49. We use this category to identify qualifications that we fully fund for 19 to 23 year olds, when they are studying for a first qualification at level 2. Subject to approval; these qualifications are also eligible for local flexibility funding (where a 19 to 23 year old learner is not undertaking a first qualification at level 2, or the learner is 24 years old or above).
50. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.
51. For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.
52. The child category is 'Legal Entitlement – Level 2' (code 37).

Legal Entitlement – Level 3 (not available for delivery as part of local flexibilities)

53. We use this category to identify qualifications that we fully fund for 19 to 23 year olds, when they are studying for a first qualification at level 3. These qualifications are not available as part of local flexibilities.
54. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.
55. For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.
56. The child category is 'Only for Legal Entitlement at Level 3' (code 38).

Legal Entitlement – English and maths

57. We use this category to identify the English and maths qualifications and their components (previously called units) available as part of the English and maths entitlement.
58. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.
59. For further guidance about this legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.
60. The child category is 'Legal Entitlement – English and maths' (code 39).

Local Flexibility

61. We use this category to identify qualifications (and their components) from Entry to Level 2, which we have approved as part of the Local Flexibility offer.

62. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.

63. For further guidance about the Local Flexibility offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.

64. The child category is 'Local Flexibility' (code 40).

Aims that are specific to the Mayoral Combined Authorities and Greater London Authority

65. We use this category to identify aims only for use within Combined Authorities (CA) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) as approved by those areas.

66. The child category code is 'Aim that are specific to the Combined Authorities and Greater London Authority' (code 41).

67. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis. This data will be used by the Combined Authorities and Greater London Authority.

Digital Skills

68. We use this category to identify qualifications that we fully fund for those aged 19 or over olds, when they are studying for a first qualification at entry or Level 1. These qualifications are not available as part of local flexibilities.

69. We use this category within monitoring, ILR validation rules, statistics, and analysis.

70. For further guidance about the legal entitlement offer, refer to the [Qualifications: eligibility for public funding](#) page.

71. The child category is 'Digital Skills' (code 42).

COVID-19 Skills Offer

72. For starts from 1 September 2020 to 31 July 2021, we are offering additional funding for 'high value courses for school and college leavers: a one-year offer for 18 and 19-year olds' as defined in the ESFA funded adult education budget funding rules.

73. The child category is COVID-19 Skills Offer (code 43).

COVID-19 Skills Offer only

74. For starts from 1 September 2020 to 31 July 2021, we are offering additional funding for 'high value courses for school and college leavers: a one-year offer for 18 and 19-year olds' as defined in the ESFA funded adult education budget funding rules.
75. This code identifies which qualifications would not normally be within the Adult Education Budget (AEB) and are only available for this initiative.
76. The child category is COVID-19 Skills Offer only (code 44).

National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 1

77. The [National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer](#) is intended to remove funding barriers for adult learners who wish to achieve their first full level 3 qualification, and an initiative to incentivise and support providers to expand level 3 provision for adults.
78. The Category Code identifies qualifications available under the initiative which attract the higher rate of subsidy.
79. The child category is National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 1 (code 45).

National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 2

80. The [National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer](#) is intended to remove funding barriers for adult learners who wish to achieve their first full level 3 qualification, and an initiative to incentivise and support providers to expand level 3 provision for adults.
81. The Category Code identifies qualifications available under the initiative which attract the lower rate of subsidy.
82. The child category is National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult Offer rate 2 (code 46).

Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Greater London Authority (GLA) Provision

83. We use this category to identify aims originally requested for use within Combined Authorities (CA) and the Greater London Authority (GLA) as approved by those areas.

84. Where aims are latterly used within ESFA offers this code identifies the original source.

85. The child category code is 'Aim that are specific to the Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA) and Greater London Authority (GLA) Provision (code 47).

86. We use this category within monitoring, statistics, and analysis. This data will be used by the Combined Authorities and Greater London Authority.



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