

Cambridge Progression qualifications – frequently asked questions



Further to the announcement from the Skills Funding Agency, we have produced the below frequently asked questions to support our centres.

Q: Are the Cambridge Progression English and maths qualifications still funded by the SFA?

A: Yes. Our Cambridge Progression suite of qualifications continues to meet the new funding requirements.

Q: If a unit is less than three credits, are they still funded? (e.g. Level 1 Cambridge Award in Mathematics, which is one credit).

A: Yes. The SFA guidance states that units of approved larger qualifications will be available for funding as part of the unit offer.

Q: How will this affect centres requiring funding?

A: Centres need to declare a 'learning aim'. This could be a qualification, a unit or part of a programme, e.g. work experience. Each learning aim has its own aim reference code:

- For units, the unit reference number
- For qualifications, the qualification number (QN).

Unit reference numbers and qualification numbers can be located in the Cambridge Progression centre handbooks which are available on the [qualification pages of the OCR website](#).

Q: Are the Cambridge Progression qualifications on the Education Funding Agency (EFA) funding list for 16 to 18-year-olds?

A: Since the introduction of study programmes, individual qualifications are not funded. However, there is a funding condition for learners that have not achieved the GCSE A*–C threshold. The funding condition requires providers to put those learners on an English and maths programme. To meet the funding condition, providers must use GCSE, Functional Skills or Free-Standing Maths Qualifications (FSMQ). However, Functional Skills and FSMQ are seen as 'stepping stones' to GCSE and it is the intention that the requirement becomes GCSE-only once the revised qualifications are in place. For programmes starting in 2015, learners who previously achieved a D in GCSE must complete a GCSE programme. The Cambridge Progression suite of qualifications is approved in Section 96. While it does not meet the funding condition itself, Cambridge Progression qualifications are suitable as additional support to help learners reach their GCSE or Functional Skills threshold and can become part of the study programme for 16 to 18-year-olds.

Q: If my candidate's aim is to achieve the Cambridge Certificate in English/maths (e.g. 13 credits), what do I need to do?

A: Make entries with OCR as normal for the unit(s) required** for the Certificate. For the learning aim on the Individual Learning Record (ILR), state the qualification number.

Q: If my candidate's aim is to achieve the unit, what do I need to do?

A: Make entries with OCR as normal for the unit(s) required**. For the learning aim on the ILR, state the unit reference number.

Q: If my candidate's aim is to achieve a GCSE, what do I need to do?

A: Make entries with OCR as normal for the unit(s) required**. For the learning aim on the ILR, state that the aim is GCSE English or maths.

**OCR recommends using the Diagnostic Assessment Tool which is available through OCR Interchange to inform which skills gaps need to be taught prior to starting a Cambridge Progression qualification.

Q: Are the Cambridge Progression qualifications approved for OLASS?

A: Yes. The same SFA approval rules exist for the adult skills budget and OLASS.

Q: How does the Cambridge Progression suite fit with OLASS funding priorities?

A: The SFA funding rules define OLASS priority learning aims as:

- Initial assessment of English and maths
- English and maths and ESOL
- Vocational qualifications, including information and communications technology (ICT)
- Employability skills (these may include a wide range of team working, personal, social and other skills).

The Cambridge Progression suite contributes to the English and maths and ESOL aim.

For Entry Level and Level 1, all the Cambridge Progression Awards that are 3 credits or larger are approved, as well as the Cambridge Progression Certificates in English and maths. All Cambridge Progression units (including those at 1 and 2 credits) are approved for the unit offer.

Our free Level Checker and the Diagnostic Assessment Tool can also support the initial assessment of English and maths. These are available to approved centres through our secure website, Interchange.

If you have any further questions, please call our Customer Contact Centre on 02476 851509