

Subject:

Entry Level ICT qualifications provision

Circular Number:

**FE 07/10
Addendum No.8**

Date of Issue:

21 October 2015

Target Audience:

Directors/Principals of Further Education Colleges
Curriculum Managers
College Essential Skills Co-ordinators & Managers
Essential Skills ICT Tutors
CollegesNI
Awarding Organisations
CCEA Regulatory

Summary of Contents:

This circular sets out the funding learning unit (FLU) policy for Entry Level Information and Communication Technology (ICT) courses within Further Education Colleges from 1 September 2015, to support students to progress to Essential Skills ICT at Level 1.

Enquiries:

Any enquiries about the contents of this Circular should be addressed to:

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Status of Contents:

Information

Related Documents:

Expiry Date:

31 August 2016

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Introduction

The Department introduced free Entry Level Information and Communication Technology (ICT) courses within FE colleges in August 2010. The overall aim of providing Entry Level ICT qualifications is to assist learners to develop skills and knowledge in ICT, to gain a recognised qualification and to enable them to progress to Essential Skills ICT Level 1. However, evidence indicates that learners are being enrolled more than once on the same or similar courses, which does not support the policy intention of securing progression. Therefore **from 1st September 2015, Colleges should not enrol learners a second time on the same or similar¹ Entry Level course** unless there are valid reasons.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this, Addendum No 8 to Circular FE 07/10, is to confirm that from 1st September 2015 to 31st August 2016 the Department will provide funding for those ICT qualifications at Entry Level, listed in Annex 1, via the FLU funding methodology for one enrolment only.

Funding

2. From 1st September 2015 the Entry Level ICT qualifications listed in Annex 1 can continue to be provided free of charge to the learner for a first enrolment only. The Department, however, as part of its overall refresh of the Essential Skills qualifications, will consider the continued relevance of this intervention in the coming months.
3. Annex 1 details the ICT Entry Level qualifications which will attract enhanced funding from the Department. Some qualifications which have

¹ In this case “similar” means any of the courses listed on Annex 1.

been listed over the past two years, which were not fully utilised, have now been withdrawn from the list.

4. Funding will be through the normal FE recurrent FLU method with an economic weighting of 1.4 applied. It is therefore, imperative that colleges complete the relevant course data appropriately within the NICIS system.
5. Colleges should ensure, by checking the Register of Regulated Qualifications, that the registration date for each qualification remains valid for enrolments.
6. The Department is committed to funding provision that will lead to a regulated qualification, listed on the Register of Regulated Qualifications. While every effort has been made to ensure a comprehensive list of fundable provision is available, the Department would ask that, if your College is delivering an ICT Entry level course which is not on the attached schedule, you should immediately notify Brendan Murray Brendan.murray@delni.gov.uk Tel. 028 90257443 in Curriculum and Essential Skills Policy Branch, in order to clarify the Department's position with regards to funding.

Annex 1

ICT Entry Level qualifications as at 31 July 2015 which will attract enhanced funding from the Department

Qualification Title Current	Qualification Reference Code	Start Date	Qualification Guided Learning Hours
City & Guilds Entry Level Award for IT Users (Start IT - iTQ) (Entry 3) (QCF)	500/5886/1	01-Apr-09	35-55
City & Guilds Entry Level Award in Online Basics (Start IT - iTQ) (Entry 3) (QCF)	500/8483/5	01-Mar-10	10
OCR Entry Level Award in Using ICT (Entry 3) (QCF)	500/5694/3	01-Feb-09	45
OCNNI Entry Level Award in ICT Skills (Entry 3) (QCF)	600/8223/9	01-March-13	65