



**National  
Apprenticeship  
Service** **Bettering  
business**

# London ESF Apprenticeship Grant for Employers (AGE) for 16 to 24 Year Olds - referred to as London ESF AGE Guidance for Employers - January 2015

## What is London ESF AGE?

London ESF AGE is a grant of £3000 for London employers who recruit an apprentice under the terms of the mainstream AGE 16 to 24 offer. The value of the mainstream AGE 16 to 24 has been enhanced to £3000 for London employers employing up to 249 employees through funds from the European Social fund.

London ESF AGE is only available to London employers as the enhanced element has been part funded by the Greater London Authority.

An additional £14 million is available to support London employers.

## How does London ESF AGE differ from the mainstream offer?

Outside of London, a new mainstream AGE 16 to 24 programme will begin from January 2015, focusing on small businesses (those with fewer than 50 employees). Under the new eligibility rules, employers will be able to draw down a maximum of five grants of £1,500.

In London all employers with a London postcode will receive £3,000 in total. Further, London ESF Age will be available to employers that employ 0 to 249 employees and not just those employing 0 to 49 employees.

## Who is eligible for this London ESF Grant?

Employers with 249 or fewer employees, who employ an apprentice whose place of work is within one of the 32 London boroughs or the City of London.

In addition, all employers should fulfil the eligibility criteria of the mainstream AGE 16 to 24 programme.

The terms of the mainstream AGE 16 to 24 can be found [here](#).

Apprentices undertaking the new Apprenticeship standards, or Trailblazers, are not eligible for London ESF AGE.

## When will London ESF AGE be available?

London ESF AGE is available from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, subject to budget availability. The apprentice, aged 16 to 24, must have been employed and started their learning in this period.

## How many London ESF Grants are available?

Each employer is entitled to receive one grant per apprentice, up to a maximum of 5 apprentices.

## How can I claim the London ESF Grant?

Employers claim the London ESF Grant through their training provider.

Training providers will work with employers to confirm eligibility for the Grant.

Only those training providers that have opted into delivering the London ESF grant can claim the grant on behalf of employers.

Training providers who have not opted in can do so at any stage by contacting the Skills Funding Agency.

## How will the employer postcode be verified?

The employer's postcode will be verified based on the postcode of the apprentice's place of work. This may be different to the employer's head office postcode.

## Is there a lot of paperwork?

Employers will have to sign an agreement with the training provider to confirm eligibility for the Grant.

Additionally employers will need to declare any public funds received over recent years for State Aid purposes.

## When will I receive the Grant?

The apprentice must be in learning for a minimum of 13 weeks before the training provider can make payment to the employer.

It may take the training provider an additional 4 weeks to pay the employer after the 13 week point, as the training provider must first wait to receive confirmation of eligibility for the Grant.

## Who can be contacted for further information on the Grant?

Employers already linked to a training provider should consult their training provider for further advice on London ESF AGE.

Employers not linked to a training provider can find out more by contacting the National Apprenticeship Service on 08000 150 600