

# Northumberland College Adult Learning Grant



## Learner Information 2010/2011

It's never too late to learn new skills and with the Adult Learning Grant (ALG), you could get up to £30 a week to help with your learning costs. The ALG financial assessment does not take household or parental income into account. Instead, personal income (or joint income, if the applicant lives with a co-habiting partner) will be used as the basis for assessment.

### Eligibility Criteria

To get ALG, you need to be aged 19 or over, and studying in England. Your eligibility will also depend on the course you are taking, and your income.

### Which courses can you study with ALG?

To be eligible for ALG, the course you study must lead to your first full Level 2 or first full Level 3 qualification. You must also be studying full time, an average of 12 hours a week, and attending college regularly.

### Not sure whether your course is classed as 'full' - or if it's Level 2 or Level 3?

Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to five or more GCSEs at grades A\* to C or an NVQ Level 2. Level 3 qualifications are equivalent to two A Levels or an NVQ Level 3.

Your learning provider will be able to confirm if the course you intend to study is classed as a 'full' Level 2 or Level 3 qualification.

Please note that you cannot claim ALG for an Apprenticeship or a 'Programme-Led' Apprenticeship.

### Income assessment

To get ALG, you'll need to have earned less than the income threshold during the previous financial year. This threshold is currently:

- Under £19,513 if you're single, or
- A combined income under £30,810 if you're living with a partner.
- The income threshold is based on your gross income - income before tax or other deductions.

### Do you receive any benefits?

You'll not be able to get ALG if you're claiming 'out of work' benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance or Income Support.

However, most other types of financial help won't make any difference to whether you can get ALG. You can still apply if you're working part time and if you're claiming most 'in work' benefits, like Adult Education Bursaries, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit.

There are some exceptions, please contact us if you would like to discuss this in more detail.



# Northumberland College Adult Learning Grant



## Learner Information 2010/2011

### How much could you receive?

ALG could help to ease any money worries, letting you concentrate on your learning. If you are eligible, you'll get up to £30 a week during term time - that's around £1,000 a year. How much you get depends on your income.

If you're single, how much you get will depend on your total income for the previous tax year.

Your income	Weekly payment
Up to £11,810	£30
£11,811 - £15,405	£20
£15,406 - £19,513	£10
Over £19,513	No payment

If you have a live-in partner, how much you'll get will depend on your combined total income for the previous financial year.

Combined income for you and your partner	Weekly payment
Up to £20,817	£30
£20,818 - £25,521	£20
£25,522 - £30,810	£10
Over £30,810	No payment

### How is ALG paid?

If your application is successful, payments will be made directly into your bank account. You'll get the payments weekly during term time, as long as your attendance is satisfactory.

### How long can ALG be paid for?

ALG is normally paid for up to two years, but can be extended for one further year in some circumstances. Extensions are assessed on a case-by-case basis.

### How to apply?

Applications forms are available from the Info Zone. You can also request an application form by visiting [www.direct.gov.uk/alg](http://www.direct.gov.uk/alg) or calling **0800 121 8989**.

