

# Medr

Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil  
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

# Enhanced AS Level

## Programme Specification

This version of the specification is valid  
until the FE sector is informed otherwise.

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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Gymraeg |  
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## 1. Introduction

This Programme Specification sets out the requirements for delivery of the Enhanced AS Level Programme. It provides an overview of the programme requirements, including learner eligibility and entry conditions; and details the data submission requirements to enable Medr to monitor programme delivery and learning outcomes for the Enhanced AS Level Programme.

This Specification also forms part of the Agreement between Institutions and the Welsh Ministers for the delivery and funding of Enhanced Learning Programmes. You must ensure that your Enhanced AS Level Programme provision adheres to this Programme Specification.

Four programmes of study are currently available, all at level 3.

## 2. Purpose of the Programme

The Enhanced AS Level Programme is a one-year programme, which has been developed to enhance the knowledge and skills required by learners undertaking AS Levels, ensuring retention and progression onto A Levels.

## 3. Delivery Overview

Each programme should be delivered on a full-time basis.

The following table outlines the number of hours that are required for each programme of learning. It is not expected that Colleges deliver the exact number of hours for each area but presents a general guide. It is however expected that total delivery hours are within a reasonable tolerance<sup>1</sup> of the funded hours.

<b>Programme Description</b>	<b>Induction</b>	<b>Main Qual</b>	<b>CLIF</b>	<b>Total</b>
Enhanced AS Programme (3 AS)	15	405	145	565
Enhanced AS Programme (3 AS with WBQ)	15	540	145	700
Enhanced AS Programme (4+ AS)	15	540	145	700
Enhanced AS Programme (4+ AS with WBQ)	15	675	145	835

## 4. Learner Eligibility and Entry Requirements

To be eligible for entry onto the programme a learner must be aged 16 or over on 31 August, immediately prior to the commencement of the programme.

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<sup>1</sup> For audit purposes the reasonable tolerance is considered 10%.

Please note that Medr also expects priority to be given, in the first instance, to those learners aged 16 to 18 on the 31 August, immediately prior to the commencement of the programme<sup>2</sup>.

The following minimum requirements will apply for all entrants to the Enhanced AS Level Programme:

- a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grade C or above,
- at least one grade C must be achieved in:
  - either
    - GCSE Mathematics / GCSE Mathematics Numeracy or
    - GCSE English / GCSE Welsh (First) Language

Learners must also:

- undertake either 3 or 4 AS Levels; and
- be at risk of not progressing to the A Levels.

Colleges may want to set higher eligibility criteria if previous experience suggests completion and successful outcome require more than the minimum set out in this document.

## **5. Programme Content**

In line with the requirements set out in the *Post-16 Funding Framework – Guide and Programmes Directory*<sup>3</sup>, each programme must follow the same basic structure as other full-time general education programmes, namely:

- Main Qualification(s); and
- Community Learner Industry Focus (CLIF).

The additional hours of learning, compared to the non-enhanced AS Level Programmes, must focus on at least one of the following areas:

- enhancing numerical knowledge and skills for STEM subjects (e.g. Mathematics for Chemists);
- enhancing literacy skills for STEM subjects (e.g. developing comprehension and extended writing);
- enhancing oral practice and grammar for Languages;
- enhancing scientific knowledge for Physical Education / Health and Social Care;
- participation in Research Skills workshops to support the three projects in the new Skills Baccalaureate Wales and Extended Project Qualifications (EPQ)
- participation in Enterprise and Employability workshops (e.g. ‘career ready’ sessions, career coach, enterprise sessions);
- preparation for University entrance exams and interviews;
- preparation for skills competitions, Olympiads, Maths Challenge.

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<sup>2</sup> A learner is considered to be age 18 until the end of the academic year in which their nineteenth birthday falls. This definition ensures that the funding of a 16 to 18 year-old learner does not change during an individual’s programme if the learner becomes 19 years old during an academic year.

<sup>3</sup> Please see [Funding for providers](#).

## 6. Data Submission Requirements

Medr will use data from the Lifelong Learning Wales Record (LLWR) / Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC) to monitor programme delivery and learning outcomes for the Enhanced AS Level Programme.

In line with the conditions set out in the annual *Grant Award Letter*, institutions must ensure that data is submitted in the correct format and in a timely manner.

The LLWR User Support Manual<sup>4</sup> and the PLASC Technical Completion Notes<sup>5</sup> set out the guidelines that institutions should follow when submitting data for the current academic year.

### **Programme Codes**

The following programme codes (LP74) should be used for learners on the Enhanced AS Level Programmes:

0013I03B	Enhanced AS Programme (3 AS)
0014I03B	Enhanced AS Programme (3 AS with WBQ)
0014J03B	Enhanced AS Programme (4+ AS)
0015I03B	Enhanced AS Programme (4+ AS with WBQ)

### **Funding Model**

Full Enhanced AS Level Programme funding<sup>6</sup> can be drawn by the Further Education Institutions up to a maximum of 10% from the total of each relevant cohort as follows:

Funding Description	Cohort Components (as per LP74 Codes)	Enhanced Rate (10%)	Base Rate (90%)
3 AS Levels	0013A03B, 0013B03B and 0013I03B	0013I03B	0013A03B and 0013B03B
3 AS Levels with WBQ	0014C03B, 0014D03B and 0014I03B	0014I03B	0014C03B and 0014D03B
4+ AS Levels	0014A03B, 0014B03B and 0014J03B	0014J03B	0014A03B and 0014B03B
4+ AS Levels with WBQ	0015C03B, 0015D03B and 0015I03B	0015I03B	0015C03B and 0015D03B

## 7. Monitoring and Audit

Monitoring and audit will play a role in ensuring that the guidance is being applied consistently and to help assess whether policies, procedures and controls are adequate.

<sup>4</sup> See [Lifelong learning Wales record \(LLWR\)](#).

<sup>5</sup> See [Pupil level annual school census \(PLASC\)](#).

<sup>6</sup> Values can be found in the [Post-16 Funding Framework – Guide and Programmes Directory](#).

## **Monitoring Approach**

The approach to monitoring will focus on the following areas:

- compliance with the programme's specifications; and
- learning outcomes for the programme.

This will be achieved through a combination of in-year and end-of year monitoring; a data matching exercise; and detailed audit testing of learners on Enhanced Programmes.

## **Compliance with Programme Specification**

Medr will use LLWR / PLASC data to monitor compliance with the programme specification. This will include monitoring of the data from the programme and activity datasets to check that programme delivery requirements are being met in full.

## **Learning Outcomes**

Learner destination is a key performance measure for the programme and crucial in evaluating programme delivery.

It is expected that the vast majority of learners who successfully complete the Enhanced AS Levels Programme will progress onto full-time A Level Programmes.

## **Audit Testing**

In addition to the approach to monitoring set out above, all data returned by the Further Education institutions will be subject to existing end of year audit requirements<sup>7</sup>. Within this, a particular emphasis will be placed in the *Auditors' Notes for Guidance* to ensure that external auditors appropriately sample learners undertaking the Enhanced Programmes.

## **8. Contact Details**

For any queries relating to the content of this Programme Specification, please contact Medr at the following mailbox: [InvestmentandPerformance@medr.cymru](mailto:InvestmentandPerformance@medr.cymru).

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<sup>7</sup> The audit requirements for the current year will be published at the end of the academic year.

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