Medr

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

AS Levels with Placement Enhanced Hours

Programme Specification

(Pilot programme for Carmarthenshire Local Authority Only)

This version of the specification is applicable for the 2026/27 Academic Year.

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

This Programme Specification outlines the requirements for delivery of the A/AS programme with Placement Enhanced Hours 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 Programme.

The A Level with Placement Enhanced Hours Programme must meet the standards and conditions established within Medr's evolving regulatory framework, including the *Terms and Conditions of Grant*, *Conditions of Registration*, *Quality Framework*, and the *Learner Engagement Code*.

2. Purpose of the Programme

The A Level with Placement Enhanced Hours Programme is a one-year programme, which has been designed for learners who wish to gain work experience alongside a full-time AS level Programme.

The Programme enables the learners to study their AS qualifications while they also:

- develop workplace and employability skills meeting employers' needs
- develop evidence for CVs
- can apply their practical and theory knowledge
- have the opportunity to raise their aspirations and career goals

3. Delivery Overview

The AS programme should be delivered on a full-time basis for a minimum of 16 hours per week for at least 35 weeks with 25 hours of work experience taking place at any point during the academic year.

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 2026. Please note that Medr also expects priority to be given, in the first instance, to those learners aged 16 to 18.[1]

Learners must be enrolled at a maintained sixth form within Carmarthenshire local authority.

[1] 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.

5. Programme Content

The Programme is a one-year programme AS programme that includes a work placement for learners who might want to consider following local pathways and may seek to enter employment, apprenticeship or other local opportunities on completion of their education.

For the work placements, providers are expected to work with employers to provide meaningful and hands-on work experience for learners. This element of the programme can be completed outside of term time or during half-term.

The Programme must include at least one work placement with an employer not partly or wholly owned by the school, where learners can have a specific role, develop their practical skills and are exposed to the day-to day running of a business.

A provider-based Realistic Working Environment (RWE) should only be used as a last resort and not account for more than 25% from the total number of hours. Please note that the use of RWE may adversely affect the progression of a learner, as feedback from industry indicates that a placement in a True Work Environment (TWE) is more advantageous for learners looking to progress to employment or an apprenticeship.

Projects undertaken on behalf of external clients / organisations within the school can count towards the work placement hours as long as they are not in the timetabled teaching hours for the class and the employer that coordinates the work placement is also present. Please also note that working alongside in-house school technicians to service, clean and maintain equipment does not count towards the work placement quota.

Providers, in collaboration with the Local Authority must ensure that arrangements are in place to oversee any work placements; including up-to-date health and safety and risk assessments.

6. Data Submission Requirements

Medr will use data from the Post-16 Data Collection (P16DC) to monitor programme delivery and learning outcomes for the A Level with Placement Enhanced Hours Programme.

In line with the conditions set out in the *Terms and Conditions of Grant*, providers must ensure that data is submitted in the correct format and in a timely manner.

The Post-16 Data Collection[2] set out the guidelines that providers should follow when submitting data for the current academic year.

Programme Code

The following programme codes should be used for learners on the A Level with Placement Enhanced Hours Programmes:

[2] See Post-16 data collection.

Programme Code	Programme Title
0013S03B	2 AS/ AS equivalent with WBQ and Placement Enhanced Level 3 25 hrs
0013W03B	3 AS/ AS equivalent and Placement Enhanced Level 3 25hrs
0014S03B	4 AS/ AS equivalent and Placement Enhanced Level 3 25hrs
0014W03B	3 AS/ AS equivalent with WBQ and Placement Enhanced Level 3 25hrs

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.

Work Placement Plan

Providers should, as a minimum, complete the Work Placement Plan at Annex A of this specification to maintain records of learner's work experience placements.

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 end-of year monitoring using information provided both through post-16 data collection and in the Annex B to this guidance.

Compliance with Programme Specification

Medr will use Post-16 Data Collection data and work placement details provided by the Local Authority (Annex B) 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 AS Level with Placement Enhanced hours Programme will progress onto full-time A Level Programmes, employment or an apprenticeship.

8. Contact Details

For any queries relating to the content of this Programme Specification, please contact Medr at InvestmentandMonitoring@medr.cymru.

9. Annex A

A. Recording the Work Experience

AS Level with Placement Enhanced Hours Programme – Work Placement Plan	
Learner name:	
Qualification(s) being undertaken:	
Employer name:	
Work placement address:	
Nature of business:	
Name of person learner will report to:	
Planned attendance:	
Planned monitoring visits by tutor:	

I agree to the above Work Placement Plan:

Signed by Learner: …… Learner name: ……..…… Date: ……	Signed by Tutor: …… Tutor name: …… Date: ……	Signed for Employer: ……... Position in company: ……... Date: ……...

10. Annex B

Certificate of Placement Enhanced Hours 2026/27



Return to:	InvestmentandMonitoring@medr.cymru
Return by:	31 August 2027

Name of Local Authority	Carmarthenshire
Total number of learners completing 25 hrs Placement Enhanced activity	
Total number of Employers engaged with	

List of employers engaged with: (please add additional lines if required)

Employer Name	Employer Address

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information given above is correct and that all activity was carried out against the agreed aims and objectives and associated Terms and Conditions of Funding.

I also certify that clear records have been maintained at provider level to identify learners and employers who have engaged in this programme.

	Director of Education (or equivalent)
Name	
Signature	
Date	

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Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

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