Financing adult learning database

Name of the instrument - Local language	Professional and career development loans (PCDL)
Name of the instrument - English translation	Professional and career development loans (PCDL)
Scheme ID	215
Country	United Kingdom
Reporting year	2015
Type of instrument	Loan
Type of entry	Single instrument

Short description	A Professional and Career Development Loan is a commercial bank loan to help learners pay for learning that leads to potential employment. Learners can use the loan for full-time, part-time or distance-learning courses. While they are in learning, and for up to one month afterwards, the Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest on the loan. Learners then start to repay the loan to the bank at a fixed rate of interest.
Short description of the related instruments	nap

Level of operation	National
Name of a part of the country	Scotland
Name of the region (for regional instruments)	nap
Name of the sector (for sectoral instruments)	nap
Relevance	Key scheme
Objective(s) and target(s)	To help learners to pay for learning that leads to work; to enhance their skills and improve their career prospects.
Year of implementation	1998
Year of latest	2009

amendment	
Operation/management	Skills Funding Agency is the government body responsible for administering the PCDL scheme.
Eligible group(s)	Individuals aged 18 years old or over at the point of application; 'settled' in the UK, and ordinarily resident in the UK for at least three years before starting their learning programme, intending to work in the UK, the EU or the EEA when the programme finishes; not having access to other options for funding.
Group(s) with preferential treatment	Learners who have been unemployed for at least three months before starting the course
Education and training eligible	Full-time, part-time or distance-learning courses such as the following: specialist courses at private institutions, management or technician level training, diplomas, postgraduate courses. Education and training must be delivered by training provider included in PCDL register.
Source of financing and collection mechanism	Commercial banks (current financing - providing loans) The Skills Funding Agency (pays for the interest on the loan while the learner is studying) Individual (repayment from future income)
Financing formula and allocation mechanisms	Learners can apply for any amount between GBP 300 and GBP 10 000. Learner can borrow 100 per cent of the course fee only if he/she has been registered as unemployed for at least three months before starting their course. If a learner has not been registered as unemployed for at least three months, he/she will only be able to borrow a maximum of 80 per cent of the course fees. While the learner is in learning, and for up to one month afterwards, the Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest on the loan. Learners then start to repay the loan to the bank at a fixed rate of interest. Learners can avoid paying any interest on the loan if they repay the amount before they finish their course. Where repayments have started but the learner chooses to repay the loan before the full term, a settlement payment will apply on any outstanding interest that has accrued. Allocation: Learners aply to participating bank which determines if they fulfill the criteria for receiving a loan.
Eligible costs	Fees and other costs of education and training (including books, childcare, travel, living expenses such as rent or food).
Frequency of the use	Only once
Volumes of funding	na
Beneficiaries/take up	na
Organisation responsible for	Skills Funding Agency.

monitoring/evaluation	
Monitoring/evaluation reports available	na
Most relevant webpage - in English	https://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans/overview
Most relevant webpage - local language	na
Sources	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/fi…
	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/fi…