

## Foundation Learning

### Q. What is Foundation Learning?

**A.** Foundation Learning (FL) is a framework for learning made up of units and qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1. The purpose is to recognise and promote the progression of learners by providing a flexible framework that is personalised to meet their needs.

### Q. Who is it suitable for?

**A.** FL applies to all learners in England, particularly those categories of learners who in the past have struggled to progress to Level 2. FL is targeted specifically at learners:

- on key stage 4 engagement programmes
- on Entry to Employment programmes
- with special educational needs, learning difficulties or disabilities
- not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- attending pupil referral units (PRUs) and short-stay schools.

### Q. What are the timescales for introduction?

- A.**
- September 2010** – LA's will demonstrate a FL offer
  - September 2011** – 30% schools will have a FL offer
  - September 2012** – 70% schools will have a FL offer
  - September 2013** – FL becomes an entitlement in England

### Q. Will all centres need to change their curriculum offer?

**A.** No, in many cases centres will already offer qualifications that fit within the FL framework as part of their overall qualification provision.

### Q. FL, is it a qualification or a framework?

**A.** FL is a framework made up of qualifications that most centres already offer. Learners will receive individual certificates for the qualifications they achieve within the framework.

## Qualifications

### Q. What types of qualifications are on the FL framework?

**A.** The FL framework encompasses three types of qualifications:

- Functional Skills (PSD)
- Entry Level (English, Maths and ICT)

A learner may complete qualifications in one, two or three of these areas depending on their interests, capability and destination. These decisions will be agreed between learner and their teacher at the outset.

### Q. Can I use qualifications on the FL framework as stand alone?

**A.** Yes. Learners can do components as standalone qualifications. A centre will get funding for learners for the parts they do. The objective is to meet a threshold rather than studying qualifications that are irrelevant to the learner.



### Q. Are qualification components transferable?

**A.** Yes. The learner does not repeat learning they have already achieved; they only pick up the Functional Skills, PSD, Vocational or subject components that are still to be achieved from whichever Awarding Body or provider is most appropriate.

### Q. What qualifications are eligible for FL?

**A.** Qualifications that fit the FL framework are found on the FL Qualifications Catalogue located on the [FL website](#). In addition to these qualifications FL learners can undertake

### Q. Do I have to choose one Awarding Body for all my FL?

**A.** No. You choose qualifications suitable for your learners. OCR has a number of qualifications applicable to all three strands of FL.

## Progression

### Q. How does FL enable progression?

**A.** FL ensures learners have developed the skills and understanding to cope with the demand of a Level 2 qualification.

### Q. What happens after FL?

**A.** FL offers learners a defined pathway to higher level qualifications that otherwise might appear to be out of reach.

FL also provides candidates with qualifications grouped in a meaningful way to foster independence and pathways to employment.

## Spiky profile

### Q. What do we mean by a spiky profile?

**A.** A qualification has a spiky profile if it is comprised of credits at different levels. Using OCR's [Level 1 Certificate in Functional Skills for English](#) qualification as an example, a student taking a Level 1 Certificate could choose to study two units at Entry Level 3 in addition to three units at Level 1.

### Q. How does this relate to FL?

**A.** One of the principles of FL is that qualifications should have this flexibility designed into them. Learners are therefore able to undertake qualifications that have units that are matched to their current level of ability, and are able to progress, through smaller 'bite size' steps to achievements at a higher level. The intention is that by making progression a series of smaller step achievements learners will be more engaged in the overall learning programme.

## General questions

### Q. What is the link between the [QCF](#) and FL?

**A.** Vocational qualifications are transferring from the NQF to the QCF. All qualifications on the QCF are made up of units. These components can be added together by agreed rules of combination to complete a qualification. Most of the qualifications within the FL catalogue are accredited to the QCF. Functional Skills and Entry Level subject certificates currently remain within the NQF however they can still be used within FL programmes

### Q. Is there funding for FL?

**A.** Public funding is available for Functional Skills, Entry Level subject certificates and eligible qualifications found on the [FL website](#).

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

OCR customer contact centre

#### Vocational qualifications

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