

# What's New in SpirALS 1.92

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SpirALS version 1.92 is our latest major update, and is designed to work with ALS information for the 2013/14 and 2014/15 academic years.

As there were some major changes to the funding guidance for the academic year 2013/2014 we have revised SpirALS to accommodate and comply with the relevant funding and ILR amendments.

## Highlights in 1.92F

### *New "Import Students from another Data File" feature*

This new facility in the 'Enter Students and Support Cost Records' menu, enables users to import student information from another data file. Particularly useful for importing returning students, or for example, if you use a separate file for recording Pre-Entry information for student applications prior to enrolment.

### *New "Favourite Reports" feature*

By popular request, you can now simply tick a check box to mark the reports that you use most frequently, making it much easier to find the reports you need and use most often.

### *28 new 'Estimated Costs' reports*

Also by popular demand, there is now an equivalent estimate report for every SpirALS report showing actual support and cost information. – Simply select the "Estimated Costs and Funding reports" option from the drop down list labelled "Which types of report to show" at the top of the main Report Manager screen.

### *High Needs Student Agreement (1.92 D onwards)*

After studying many different Local Authority forms, and consulting with those Authorities, we have designed a new SpirALS, multi-page report based on the 'model standard form' recommended by the Education Funding Agency. The report includes as much as possible of the common information requested by Local Authorities in respect of student details, anticipated support and costs.

### *Details of recent updates, and the version numbers under which they were released:*

#### *1.92 F*

New estimated versions of various cost reports

New "Import Students from another Data File" routine – customer test version

New "Favourite Reports" feature added to the Report Manager

New Filter "Age Now"

New Filter "Continuing Learner"

The Support Programmes Report category has been removed from the main Report Manager as Support Programmes have their own "Support Programme Report Manager" option which is used for the majority of TEAM reporting requirements

"Funding Tiers" added to the Tariff Bands & Audit Threshold Levels Listing Table

"Primary Support Need" has been added to the "Student General Details Summary Listing" Report

Ability to search the Student Details Manager by “Funding Tier”

“Continuing Learner” and “ULN” added to the Query Export Manager

TEAM user passwords have increased from 9 characters to 50 characters (the password is still based on the user’s surname).

Minor bug fixes and formatting changes have been made to improve the performance of SpirALS

### *1.92 E*

New Filter “Aged 24 and Over”

Summary of Funding Tier Breakdowns (Tier Allocations) report updated for current data

Student Smart Select Screens now show the filters in alphabetical order

Team Staff Hours Report can now be selected based on Staff ID

New “Learner Hours by Support Programme” Team report

New “Learner Hours by Learner” Team report

New “Planned and Actual Hours by Learner” Team report created

New “Tutor Hours by Tutor” Team report

New “Tutor Hours by Support Programme” Team report

There is now an Estimate version of the “Summary of Support Costs by Organisation by Tutor” report

The “Flickering” on the Saved Filter Manager issue has now been resolved

The “High Needs Student Agreement” form has been worked on to fix reported errors

Other minor bug fixes have also been performed in this version

### *1.92 D*

New “ULN” field added to the Student Details Manager and the Yes/No Tickboxes Screen

New “Continuing Learner” Tickbox added to the Student Details Manager and the Yes/No Tickboxes screen

New “Principal” Field added to the User Preferences and Settings

New Team Report Manager

New “Record of Work Details” Team Report

Updated the Yes/No Tickboxes screen to contain current data

New High Needs Student Report

### *1.92 C (i)*

Bug fix where the validator was setting a cost Item’s funding body to “N/A”

### *1.92 C*

“Tier Allocations Totals by Funding Model” estimate, and actual reports have been fixed to display the correct data

The Ethnicity Filter on the Filter manager now works correctly

### *1.92 B*

Fixed a bug which caused the Ethnicity Values to not display correctly

Fixed a bug which caused the Query Export Manager to run slowly

SpirALS has been made compatible with Access 2013

New report "SFA Earning Adjustment Report"

### *1.92 A*

Added a new SFA Exceptional Support Costs (ELS) Form as both Estimate, or Actual

"Summary of ALS Costs by Student" reports with tariff bands was reinstated after several requests from different customers

The SpirALS Main Menu Toolbar was Re-enabled

### *1.92*

#### *Student Details Manager:*

New ILR / Funding tab

New ILR Code Maintenance screen & Automatic Update Procedure

New Local Authority field

New SpirALS 'ALS Funding' field

New Funding Tiers implemented

New EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) field on costs forms – derived from Assessments

New High Needs Students tick box

#### *Saved Filter Manager:*

Curriculum level

Programme area

**Estimated / Actual Student Total Cost:** Now allows all of the common comparisons, including Greater than (and equal to), Less than (and equal to), Between (exclusive and inclusive) to be used with a numeric value so that you can for example find all students with an total Support cost between £200.00 and £5999.99, or Greater than £6000.

#### *Reports:*

New Local Authority High Needs Students (Estimated & Actual Cost versions)

New Invoice format Costs form

Old 'Pro Forma' ALS Cost Reports retained under "obsolete" section for use with older data files

Removed references to ALS, LSC, YPLA from all existing reports

New report names 'Learning Support' or 'Support' replaces 'ALS'

Tariff bands removed from reports

*Updates for colleges using TEAM*

**In SpirALS:**

Support Programmes now include additional cost item fields (cost centre etc.)

Member of staff can cover Support Programmes for other users

Support Programme can be covered (New checkbox field on Support Programme)

Facilities to Set all / Remove all 'coverability' check marks

Set up 'Workshop' Support Programmes that allow TEAM users to add their own students in TEAM

TEAM Fields added to Query Export Manager

**In TEAM:**

Set 'Can Cover Support Programmes'

Select own workshops for ad-hoc/drop-in/workshop support

As usual we have tried to make all these new facilities and functions as easy to use as possible and without altering the overall look and feel of SpirALS.

If you do need help with any of these new options please consult the SpirALS help file which can be accessed in a number of ways, including by clicking the link at the top right hand corner of the SpirALS Main Menu, or by visiting:

<http://www.midas-spirals.com/help/>

If you can't find the topic you require or if you have a question not covered by the documentation then please call our support Hotline on 020 8847 0214 for immediate assistance. Alternatively you may email our support team on [support@midas-systems.co.uk](mailto:support@midas-systems.co.uk) for all other enquiries.