What's New in SpirALS 1.93

SpirALS version 1.93 is a major update designed to work with ALS information for the 2014/15 academic year onwards.

There were major changes to the funding guidance for the academic year 2013/2014 and SpirALS was revised to accommodate all major funding and ILR amendments.

New monthly 'actual' costs report

A report showing a breakdown of the student's 'actual' costs per month based on the cost item start and end dates.

New 'destination' information

"Intended Destination" Field has been added on Tab 4 of the Student Details Manager

New fields for High Needs Students' processes

A currency field to specify the Element1 for a student on tab 3 of the student details manager

Addition to the Students table to determine if a High Need Student has their Element 2 funded by the LA

Tickbox added to the students table to mark the above field as true

Updated the "High Needs" tick box labels to show that they are more related to the ILR Specification for 14/15 where the student is only "High Needs" if they have funding confirmed from the Local authority

Highlights in the previous version 1.92F

"Import Students from another Data File" routine

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.

"Favourite Reports" feature added to the Report Manager

Select commonly used reports and save in a favourites menu. See the bottom of this page of our help file for details.

28 new 'estimate' reports

By popular demand, there is now an equivalent estimate report for every SpirALS report showing actual support and costs information.

Details of further minor updates/versions

1.93 D

'Ed Statement', 'Support Start' and 'Support End' fields added to the Query Export Manager

When sessions are added to Support Programmes, if the Programme contains withdrawn students then the attendance values will now be pre-set correctly

Fixed a bug which stopped support programme reports from opening correctly

The 'Support Cost Details by Cost Centre' report titles have been amended to end in 'by Student'

56 SpirALS reports have been updated to contain more up to date ILR information, this includes the HNS, ADL, and ALB fields

Changes have been made in preparation for the 15/16 ILR changes (there is no noticeable change at this time)

A few other minor bugs have been fixed

1.93 C

New Support Programme Splitter routine to allow you to easily split support programmes, in the event another member of staff takes over a support programme

New 'Validator Error Report (All Errors)'

New 'Validator Error Report (SpirALS User Errors)'

New 'Validator Error Report (TEAM User Errors)'

New 'Date Last Validated' field added the Support Programme Validator

The Support Programme Validator will now warn you if you try to create/update costs without having run the validator that day

The 'Retain' tick box has been added to the 'Outcomes & Progression & Targets' tab in the Student Details Manager

The footer on the Support Programme Validator can now be toggled out of view to allow for more room to view the list of support programmes

Added the 'EHC' field to the'"View and Export ILR Support Codes' query

In the 'Create New File Wizard' you can now select which students you wish to 'Retain' by using a filter

The 'SFA Exceptional Learning Support Costs Form' now displays the correct academic year in the header

Fixed a bug which stopped all cost items from appearing on the 'Cost Items' tab of the Support Programme Manager

Amended the 'Student Support Start' and "Student Support End" date so that the end date cannot be before the start date

Added a new method to export to Excel from Reports and the Query Export Manager, in order to work around an issue a few colleges were having

Amended the way we represent the Continuing Learner and Retain Tick boxes, so that a continuing learner is a learner that has continued from the previous academic year, these can still be used alternatively

The 'Create New File Wizard' can now tick the "Continuing Learner" tick box for all students who were marked as "Retain"

Amended the staff list in the Support Programme Report Manager so that the staff displayed are just TEAM staff members

In Lists and Lookup Table Manager, in Website Favourites amended the website URL so that they now work as hyperlinks

Increased the size of the text boxes on the 'Support Programme Record of Work' report

Optimized the code surrounding the importing of students to make the routine even quicker

Other minor formatting bugs fixed

1.93 B

New "Estimates" version of the Monthly Cost Breakdown report

Fixed a bug which caused TEAM costs to display incorrectly on the Monthly Cost Breakdown report

Fixed a bug which stopped users from being able to create new projections in the 'Projection Manager'

Fixed a bug in the SpirALS Filter Manager which caused Single Value Criteria fields (such as Actual Net Costs) to occasionally not be used alongside another value

Sessions shown on the 'Attendance & Work Logs' tab, of the Support Programme Manager, are now displayed in chronological order

Other minor bug fixes

1.93 A

New "Actuals" version of the HNS Agreement report

The Assessment Name is now a required field when you assign an assessment to the learner

Fixed a bug where the "Can Edit Assessments" tick box on the TEAM user manager would not work

Sorted the 'Intended Destination' list to be displayed alphabetically

Other minor bug fixes

1.93

New Target type "Behavioural" for support programme outcomes. The SpirALS file now referenced the Data File for these values the same way team does to reduce the need for duplicated tables

Updated the statistics report to show the count of students who have had an EHC or an LDA

Updated the HNS Agreement report to show a student's Element 1 value

Updated the HNS Agreement report so that Local Authority Contacts from the Organizations and agency manager now will pull through onto the Report

Updated the HNS Agreement report to reflect the change to the element 1 if the box is ticked

Updated the "View & Export ILR Support Costs (Act & Est)" routine to include the HNS field.

Renamed Destination Route to "ESF Destination" to match the ILR Specification for 14/15

Extended the length of the website field on the organisations table so you can store longer URLS

There is now a warning asking you if you are sure you want to change the student's student ref number.

1.92 F

New estimated versions of different cost reports

New "Import Students from another Data File" routine

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 Report Manager, as there is now the "Support Programme Report Manager"

"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"

On opening a Data File, the DataLink will need to be reattached, to prevent the importing of incorrect data into the wrong file

"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