

Name of Policy

TUITION FEES POLICY 2017-18

Purposes

- To set out the tuition fee structure for 2017-18
- To set out policy with regard to the payment and/or remission of all course fees

Author / Job Title

Director of MIS & Exams

**Equality Assessment
By Whom**

Date

Version

2

Date of next review
(month & year)

02/2018

Approved by

	Date
Senior Manager	
ELT	22/03/17
Corporation	21/03/17

**Related policies or
procedures or parent
policy if applicable**

**Groups/bodies consulted
in the development of the
policy**

SMT
Best practice in Sector

**To be published on
College website**

No

POLICY STATEMENT

The College will work within the guidelines provided by the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), the Education Funding Authority (EFA), the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE) and Cheshire East to provide an annual schedule of course fees.

1.1 Further Education Courses

In accordance with the most recent Funding Guidance from the SFA, the College will seek to generate a level of tuition fee income that, across the College, relates to 50% of the assumed fee level, except where a curriculum area puts a case forward to lower the fee, in line with market forces, and this is agreed by the Senior Management Team.

This is in line with expectations from the Funding Guidelines that learners (or their employers) will make an increasing contribution to the costs of delivering their programme, except where fee remission applies.

Within this general approach, Heads of Faculty, in consultation with the Director of MIS & Exams or Director of Employer and Commercial Services, will have the opportunity to negotiate variations from these rates to effectively respond to market forces for particular courses.

All published course fees will be clearly split between tuition fee and examination fee. The examination fee will incorporate the examination entry fee and the awarding body registration fee. Certain courses may also include additional material or equipment costs that are charged to the learner

1.2 Advanced Learning Loans

Advanced Learning Loans are available from the Student Loans Company to cover the cost of all tuition, registration and exam fees for all learners aged over 19 and studying eligible level 3 to level 6 courses. Further information on Advanced Learning Loans is available at www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans

1.3 Fee Remission: Further Education courses

Tuition fees will not be charged where learners are able to supply appropriate evidence that they will comply with the requirements of the national guidelines on fee remission.

16-18 year old learners

- learners aged 16-18 on 31 August in the year they started their course

. Adult Learners:

The following extract from the SFA Adult education budget funding rules draft funding and performance- management rules January 2017 details the level of government contribution that will be funded

Provision	19- to 23-year-olds	24+ unemployed	24+ other
English and maths	Fully funded* (up to and including Level 2)	Fully funded*	Fully funded*
Level 2	Fully funded* (first and full)	Fully Funded	Co-funded
Learning to progress to Level 2	Fully funded^ (up to and including Level 1)	Fully funded	Co-funded
Level 3	Fully funded* (first and full)	Loan-funded	Loan-funded
	Loan-funded** (previously achieved full Level 3 or above)		
Traineeship#	Fully funded (including 16- to 24-year-olds##)	N/A	N/A
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learning up to and including Level 2	Co-funded	Fully funded	Co-funded
	Fully funded – unemployed		
Learning aims up to and including Level 2, where the learner has already achieved a first full Level 2 or above	Co-funded	Fully funded	Co-funded
	Fully funded – unemployed		

*Must be delivered as one of the qualifications required for the legal entitlement.

^ Must be delivered as entry or level one provision from local flexibility.

Excludes flexible element where funding depends on age and level.

16- to 18-year-old learners must be eligible under the EFA's residency requirements.

** Availability of loans at Level 3 does not replace the legal entitlement to full funding for learners aged 19 to 23 undertaking their first full Level 3.

Definition of unemployed

- They receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), including those receiving National Insurance credits only.
- They receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and are in the work-related activity group (WRAG).
- They receive Universal Credit, earn either less than 16 times the national minimum wage / national living wage a week or £330 a month (this is subject

to change) and are determined by Jobcentre Plus as being in one of the following groups.

- All Work-Related Requirements Group.
 - Work Preparation Group.
 - Work-Focused Interview Group.
- They are released on temporary licence and studying outside a prison environment and not funded through the Offenders' Learning and Skills Service.
 - The learner receives other state benefits and earns either less than 16 times the national minimum wage a week or £330 a month.
 - The learner wants to be employed (or progress into more sustainable employment, if they earn less than 16 times the national minimum wage a week or £330 a month) and you are satisfied that the learning is directly relevant to their employment prospects and the local labour market needs.

1.4 Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE)

Following market testing of HE fees, the College wishes to retain the same fees set in 2016/17 for 2017/18 ie £5,700 for full-time students and pro-rata for part-time courses.

1.5 European Union (EU) Students

Students from European Union countries are regarded as home students, and will be subject to the same criteria listed above.

1.6 Non-EU Students (International Students)

After careful consideration, the College has decided to no longer accept individual independent non-EU learners. The College, will however, continue to consider applications from full cohorts of non EU learners, subject to approval by Senior Management Team.

1.7 Full cost courses

Where courses are offered with no public subsidy the College will set fees that reflect market forces and will ensure course viability.

1.8 Apprenticeship students

This type of delivery is subject to individually negotiated prices for the agreed package. The price for each contract must be approved in advance by the Heads of Faculty and Director of Employer and Commercial Services.

1.9 Bespoke and customised training for employers

This type of delivery is subject to individually negotiated prices for the agreed package. The price for each contract must be approved in advance by the Heads of Faculty and Director of Employer and Commercial Services.

2.0 Staff Development

The College will assess the eligibility for fee remission for staff on funded courses on completion of the relevant staff development paperwork.

2.1 Bespoke and customised training for employers

This type of delivery is subject to individually negotiated prices for the agreed package. The price for each contract must be approved in advance by the Heads of Faculty and Director of MIS & Exams

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The College's fees policy will be reviewed, on an annual basis, by the Senior Management Team and approved by the Corporation.