



## **FEES POLICY 2023/24**

Updated March 2023

## **1 Policy Objectives**

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- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework within which Kirklees College's fee setting and fee refund processes will be devised and operated. The policy also sets a framework for ensuring that comprehensive guidance and information regarding fees for courses subsidised is available and accessible to customers, staff and Governors. The policy has been written in accordance with established funding guidance.
- 1.2 The intent of the policy is to align with the College values of Kindness, Unity and Excellence. This will manifest itself in our endeavours to ensure that every learner who could benefit from fully funded support, receives it. All learners will be positively encouraged to maximise any support they are eligible for.
- 1.3 The policy also aims to ensure that all staff involved in the recruitment and delivery of learning programmes will understand:
  - The national funding policy context
  - The different elements of college fees
  - When and how fees are payable.

## **2 Approval of College Fees Policy**

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- 2.1 The college Fees Policy and any subsequent amendments to this policy will require the approval of the Governing Body.
- 2.2 The Fees Policy will be reviewed annually and any changes recommended will be referred for approval to the Governing Body.

## **3 Policy Statement**

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- 3.1 The college reserves the right to cancel any course or change its charging policy where its costs may result in financial loss; cancel any course where there is lack of appropriate resource; and/or refuse entry to a course on any non-discriminatory grounds.
- 3.2 This policy may change in line with changes in Government or more locally devolved Strategy.

## **4 Fee Guidelines for Adults aged 19 and above**

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- 4.1 Kirklees College receives funding from:

- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for 16-18s on study programmes.
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for adults (19+) within West Yorkshire (Adult Education Budget).
- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for adults in non-devolved areas outside West Yorkshire.
- Adult Learning Loans provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC) for some adults studying Level 3 programmes.
- HE Loans provided by the SLC for some adults on higher education courses.
- Learner Support funds for 16-18s and loan-funded learners.
- The ESFA for non-levy funded apprenticeships (plus an employer fee contribution)
- Employer levy payments for levy funded apprenticeships.
- Student fees for commercial courses which are not funded and on loan funded courses who do not take out a loan.

4.2 Some of our courses are eligible for a degree of funding support from central government through the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) or regional devolution via West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA). The funding approach assumes that all learners other than those eligible for fee remission are charged a tuition fee as a contribution towards the costs of their learning. This includes accreditation costs. For 2023/24, the ESFA/WYCA assumed fee remains at 50% of the un-weighted funding rate for classroom learning.

4.3 For Apprenticeship programmes, the College will abide by the Apprenticeships charging guidance published by the ESFA.

## **5 ESFA fee remission**

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5.1 For 2023/24 the ESFA/WYCA will continue to consider certain groups of learners eligible for full fee remission. The College will apply the fee remission eligibility as outlined in the funding rules for 2023/24

5.2 Any college level 3 programme meeting the criteria of the new National Skills Fund will be offered with full remission to adults meeting the necessary eligibility requirements.

## **6 College discretionary fee remission**

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- 6.1 Fee remission will be available to learners engaged on most Community Learning provision using the same eligibility criteria as standard ESFA/WYCA provision as outlined in Appendix A.
- 6.2 No other college discretionary remission will be offered for 2023/24.

## **7 Classroom Provision**

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- 7.1 Young people aged 16-18 (including 19-24 with EHCP students)
- 7.1.1 In accordance with ESFA regulations no compulsory tuition, registration or examination fees will normally be charged to learners aged 16-18 taking full or part time courses funded by the ESFA.
- 7.1.2 The college may charge learners aged 16-18 for 'full cost' unfunded (including Adult and Community learning) courses and for exam and re-sit charges.
- 7.1.3 Materials fees, reflecting actual costs may also be charged.
- 7.1.4 16-18 students wishing to study GCSEs with the College but whose main study is with another provider may be charged a fee. Where this scenario arises the fee will be assessed on a case by case basis.

- 7.2 Fundable adult learners (those aged 19 and above) – fully funded learners
- 7.2.1 Tuition, registration or examination fees will not be charged (except for re-sits).
- 7.2.2 Full time adult FE students wishing to take additional part time courses to those agreed as part of their full time 'programme of study' will be charged fees at the full rate applicable to that course considering remission eligibility of the individual.
- 7.2.3 In any circumstances where a student is not eligible for funding on an ESFA/WYCA course, they will be charged fees at the equivalent of the full rates plus registration and examination fees.

- 7.3 Fundable adult learners (those aged 19 and above) – co-funded learners

The ESFA/WYCA will contribute 50% of the un-weighted funding rate. As a general principle, the default fee level will be the higher of:

- 50% of the un-weighted published funding rate or
- Prior year fee multiplied by an inflationary element, or
- The rate suggested by market research.

Examination, registration, certification, materials and equipment costs will be charged if applicable. Learners in this category may apply for discretionary learner support funds.

- 7.4 Non-fundable adult learners

Students aged 19 or over at the course start date wishing to undertake a second level 3 or higher programme are ineligible for funding from the ESFA/WYCA. The students are liable for the full costs of their programme.

In many cases, students will be eligible for a fee loan from Student Finance England within the total envelope of funding made available to Kirklees College learners for this purpose. This will be repayable through the PAYE system once the student begins to earn above the published annual threshold.

The costs of these programmes will be in line with published loan amounts. More detailed guidance can be found in the detailed procedures for adult learning loans.

## **8 Apprenticeship Provision**

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- 8.1 Fees charged to Employers for Apprenticeship provision will be in line with guidance published by the ESFA and relevant to the size of the employer and age of the Apprentice. A table summarising this is at Appendix C.
- 8.2 Where a fee is applicable, it will be derived from the maximum of the price band to which the Apprentice standard has been attached and adjusted to a 'total negotiated price'. This will reflect for example, any recognised prior learning.
- 8.3 All employers will be required to be registered on the Digital Apprentice Service and the agreed funding will be paid on a monthly basis by the Digital Apprentice Service. Where funding is provided on a co-investment model, or where remaining levy funds are insufficient and a cash payment applies, employers will be invoiced and are expected to pay fees due within 30 days.
- 8.4 Where employers fail to adhere to their agreed payment plan, Kirklees College reserves the right to suspend their apprentice's studies until payment is received, and the employer will still remain liable for the fees.
- 8.5 The apprentice will not be asked to contribute financially to the eligible costs of training, on-programme or end-point assessment. This includes both where the individual has completed the programme successfully or has left the programme early. Costs include any co-investment or additional training and assessment costs above the funding band, that the employer has paid directly to us where this is part of the agreed apprenticeship

## **9 Managing Agents and Partnership Agreements**

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- 9.1 These fees relate to fees paid to the college by other organisations in receipt of ESFA funding for education provided by the college. Assistant Principals are responsible for negotiating these with the recipient organisations where these rates are not negotiated nationally, and should submit them for approval by the fees group.

## **10 School pupils and home schooled**

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- 10.1 The enrolment of school pupils under 16 requires prior approval of the school, the Vice Principal for Curriculum, Quality and Innovation and the parent/guardian, unless section 10.2 applies.

No student under 16 should be enrolled into anything other than a discrete 14-16 group without prior agreement of the local authority or school.

- 10.2 Where school pupils of compulsory school age wish to follow part of their programme at college, the college will charge the school for the costs of provision.
- 10.3 Home schooled students who enrol to take an examination in College will be charged fees. Where this scenario arises, the fee will be assessed on a case by case basis.

## **11 Staff and Governors**

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- 11.1 All staff and Governors are eligible to be considered for enrolment on one funded course free of tuition fees per year outside of working hours. Adult basic skills or teacher training courses may however be completed within the working day at the discretion of the relevant manager. This will be permitted providing the course is already viable with funded/fee paying students. Further guidance should be obtained through the staff development process prior to enrolment.
- 11.2 Staff undertaking an approved programme of study as an apprentice funded via the College apprenticeship Levy will be given time to complete their 20% 'Off the Job' study during their normal working hours.

## **12 Higher Skills**

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- 12.1 In line with Government policy, Kirklees College will be charging fees as set out in Appendix A.
- 12.2 For part time courses, the tuition fee will be set per module, and the fee charged will be based on the planned number of modules to be taken in the academic year.

## **13 Community provision**

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- 13.1 Fees for community provision will be charged at one of three hourly rates to reflect the differing focus of the offer, from basic skills offered in the community to learning for leisure. We remain committed to ensure fees remain competitive and provision

accessible for all community learners. We remain dedicated to the Pound Plus concept that all who can pay should and any fee income is used to improve accessibility for people who most need and can least afford community learning provision. The rates are outlined in Appendix A.

## **14 Full cost provision**

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- 14.1 Fees for commercial courses or cost recovery will be priced at a level to reflect the full cost to the college, with cognisance of the market.
- 14.2 Full cost fees should be set on achieving at a minimum the contribution rate of 48%. As a rule of thumb however, a minimum tuition fee rate of £10 per learner hour or £100 per group hour should be applied.
- 14.3 Where non-accredited full cost provision is marketed through the online store, fees should only be paid for in advance in full via the store. No invoicing will be undertaken for this provision.

## **15 Fee waivers**

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- 15.1 Only with the express permission of a Head of Faculty or Assistant Principal may fees be waived.
- 15.2 Where the fee charged by the college is deemed by curriculum teams not to be competitive with other providers, and a reduction in the fee is considered necessary, the case should be heard by a fees panel, consisting of the relevant Assistant Principal, Head of Faculty and a representative from the finance team.
- 15.3 The college cannot waive exam, registration or certification fees where these apply.

## **16 Payment of fees**

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- 16.1 All fees become due in full at enrolment, but the college recognises that some students may be unable to pay their fees in full at that time. The college offers a staged payment plan, the thresholds for which can be found at Appendix B.
- 16.2 Where an employer has agreed to pay fees for one of their employees, the learner will be required to produce a letter or purchase order from their employer at the time of enrolment confirming that they will cover the full cost of the course.
- 16.3 With the exception of programmes funded by advanced learning loans and apprenticeships, fees quoted are for one year only. Where a programme runs over more than one year, second year fees will apply.

- 16.4 Any student who has not paid their tuition or exam fees in full at the end of the academic year:
- May have exam certificates withheld;
  - May not have assessed work marked and returned;
  - May not be permitted to progress to the next year of study or enrol on another course;
  - May not receive references for employment beyond confirmation of dates and courses attended; and
  - Where students fall significantly behind with their payment plans and the college has failed to secure payments, the debt may be referred to a debt collection agency for recovery. A £25 charge will be added to the debt to cover costs incurred by the college in pursuing the debt.

## 17 Examination fees

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- 17.1 All adult learners with the exception of those who have fees waived will be charged their examination/registration fees.
- 17.2 All learners retaking examinations will be charged the examination retake fee, which is payable prior to examination entry.
- 17.3 The learner should be offered a **maximum of two re-sits per year** (subject to availability of the exam windows). Exceptions are made to this allowing the exams department to ensure that a revision period is provided.
- 17.4 All learners (including 16-18-year olds) who have been entered for an exam but do not attend on the day will be charged a minimum fee of £10.
- 17.5 Anyone wishing to obtain past results who has not been enrolled with the college for the present or previous academic year, may be required to pay a fee of £10 to cover the administration costs incurred.
- 17.6 If a currently enrolled learner wishes to sit an exam for which they are not enrolled, they may be able to sit the exam, but will be subject to an additional fee. (See Appendix A).
- 17.7 If a person who is not enrolled at the college wishes to sit an exam, they may be able to sit the exam, but will be subject to an external candidate fee. (see Appendix A).
- 17.8 Centre fees of either £10 fixed fee or £3 per exam unit, will be added to exam registrations/entries (including re-sits) to assist with Invigilator fees, exam paper printing, printing of result slips, postage of coursework and notification of certificate collection, candidate exam schedules, etc.
- 17.9 If internal examination registration and/or entry deadlines are missed, a fixed fee of £10 will be charged either directly to the student or the college department depending on responsibility for the late submission.



- 17.10 If late submission of an examination registration and/or entry causes the college to miss the awarding body deadlines, the resulting fees will be recharged either directly to the student or the college department depending on the responsibility for the late submission.

## **18 Refunds**

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- 18.1 Where a course has been cancelled by the college, refunds/credits will be made to learners in full.
- 18.2 In cases where a learner has withdrawn as a result of personal circumstances, or where a learner can demonstrate that the college has failed to deliver what could have reasonably been expected, then an application for a refund or credit should be made in writing to the relevant Head of Faculty. The college may require provision of evidence to justify any request for refund on compassionate grounds.
- 18.3 Where a student has registered three or more attendances, no refund will be given. Fees for full cost provision are due in full regardless of attendance.
- 18.4 Examination fees/registration fees may only be refunded if the entry/registration has not been processed at the time of refund application.
- 18.5 Where students wish to transfer from one course to another, any tuition fees paid will be counted against the revised enrolment.
- 18.6 Where a student is required to leave their programme by the college, e.g. as a result of disciplinary proceedings, the student will remain liable for fees due up to the point of exclusion.
- 18.7 Any refunds processed with the exception of course closure will be subject to a £20 administration fee.

## **19 Student financial support**

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- 19.1 Kirklees College offers a range of support funds which can help with some of the financial problems that may be a barrier to study. The college recognises for some learners the cost of travel or childcare, for example, may be a deciding factor in the decision to join or continue on a course or programme. The college's Financial Support Team is available to provide advice on financial matters aligned with studying and help you to apply for any appropriate grants or awards that are available.
- 19.2 Full details of financial support available can be obtained from the Learner Financial Support Team. They will do their very best to help learners in genuine hardship.

## **20      Student additional learning support**

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- 20.1      Students enrolled on ESFA/WYCA funded learner responsive, Apprenticeship provision and Higher Skills provision are eligible for additional learner support to enable them to complete their programme.
- 20.2      Students enrolled on provision funded through an advanced learning loan or HE loan are eligible to apply for additional learner support through associated bursaries.
- 20.3      Students on full cost and 14-16 provision are not eligible for additional learning support unless this has been separately agreed and charged in advance.

## **21      Related Policies and Other Documents**

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- 21.1      Financial Regulations
- 21.2      Complaints procedure
- 21.3      Learner Support Fund policies and procedure
- 21.4      Curriculum planning guidelines
- 21.5      FE loans procedures
- 21.6      Exam policy/framework
- 21.7      Access Agreement
- 21.8      Higher Skills mobile device incentive policy

## APPENDIX A

### TUITION FEE CHARGES 2023/24

#### FE PROVISION

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 16-18 Learners   | £0   | No fee  |
| 19+ Learners – Full Time                                   | £1,734   | Maximum fee for a L1 or L2 full time programme irrespective of delivery hours |
| 19+ Learners – Part Time (excluding ESOL) other programmes | 50% of unweighted base rate.                                 |   |
| 19+ L3+ learners where no agency funds are available       | Variable by programme – see separate college published rates |   |

#### COMMUNITY LEARNING

Community learning fees will be set as follows :

|                                  | <b>Standard<br/>Hourly Rate</b> | <b>Remitted hourly rate<br/>ESFA Criteria</b> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Leisure (specialist)             | £6.00                           | N/A   |
| Community non-priority provision | £4.00                           | £2.00   |
| Targeted and priority provision  | Free                            | N/A   |

## HIGHER SKILLS PROVISION

### Full time:

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| BTEC Higher Nationals in Process Manufacturing                   | £9,000 |
| BTEC Higher Nationals in Engineering (Mechanical and Electrical) | £8,000 |
| BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction                            | £4,500 |
| BTEC Higher Nationals (other subjects)                           | £6,950 |

### Part time

Part time fees will be pro-rata of the equivalent full-time fee based on the split of delivery time over years taken to complete the equivalent full-time programme.

## 14-16 PROVISION

Bespoke provision assuming single staffed delivery – minimum of £100/hour

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Infill rate             | £10 per hour                              |
| Early College Transfers | £12 per hour (part time routes)           |
|                         | £6,256 full time (over 16 hours per week) |

## FULL COST FEES

Full cost fees will be locally determined to achieve a minimum 48% contribution. As a rule of thumb however a typical full cost tuition fee will be a minimum of:

£10 per learner hour, or  
£100 per group hour.

## OTHER FEES

Students enrolled on existing courses will be charged £50, plus the examination fee, to sit an examination for which they are not enrolled. External candidate exam fees are calculated based on the specific requirements of each candidate. The current fees list is available from Examination Services.

**PAYMENT TERMS**

The College understands that students often find it difficult to pay all their tuition fees in advance. For this reason, the College offers staged payments for fees, subject to completion of an instalment agreement.

The thresholds currently applied are:

|                   |                                       |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Fees under £50    | No instalment offers available        |
| Fees £51 to £100  | 2 monthly instalments available       |
| Fees £101 to £250 | Up to 4 monthly instalments available |
| Fees £250 to £400 | Up to 6 monthly instalments available |
| Fees over £401    | Up to 8 monthly instalments available |

If any agreed instalments are missed, the full fee becomes due.

If instalments are agreed, students will be expected to set up an automatic recurring card payment via our online payment service.

**EMPLOYER APPRENTICESHIP FEES**

|                                      | <b>Age of Apprentice</b>  |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
|                                      | <b>16-18</b>  | <b>Adult</b>  |
| Levy Payer – digital funds available | 100% through digital account                                    | 100% through digital account  |
| Levy Payer – digital funds exhausted | 5% of TNP* (10% for starts prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019) | 5% of TNP* (10% for starts prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019)                                     |
| Non-Levy Payer – large employer      | 5% of TNP* (10% for starts prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019) | 5% of TNP* (10% for starts prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019)                                     |
| Non-Levy Payer – small employer      | No fee  | 5% of TNP* (10% for starts prior to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019) if not an 'eligible' 19-24-year-old |

\*TNP Total Negotiated Price

**APPRENTICE FUNDING BANDS**

| <b>Band</b> | <b>Upper Limit</b>   |
|-------------|--|
| 1           | £1,500   |
| 2           | £2,000   |
| 3           | £2,500   |
| 4           | £3,000   |
| 5           | £3,500   |
| 6           | £4,000   |
| 7           | £4,500   |
| 8           | £5,000   |
| 9 - 30      | Increasing in £1,000 increments from £6,000 Band 9 to £27,000 at Band 30 |