



Fees Policy 2023-24

www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk

Document History	
Area	Finance
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1. FEES POLICY

- 1.1. The Fees Policy will be accessible to prospective learners on the College website via the following link www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/college-information which will be included on learner agreements in order that it can be reviewed by the learner prior to signature.
- 1.2. The policy applies to new learner agreements commencing in the 2023-24 academic year (1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024). Learners with existing learner agreements will not be subject to any changes contained in this Fee Policy, unless they commence a new programme of study in the 2023-24 academic year.
- 1.3. Actual fees to be levied will be published in the College Prospectus, where possible and on the website before the start of the academic year and will be available to any learner enquiring about a course.

2. LEARNERS ENTITLED TO FEE REMISSION

- 2.1. In line with ESFA funding rules or GMCA funding rules for some adult learning, the College will not charge tuition fees to 16-18 year old learners or adult learners who are entitled to 'full funding'. The level of government funding available to learners will be notified prior to enrolment. Appendix A contains a table showing the level of government funding available and fee remission eligibility for 2023-24 under ESFA national funding rules; these may vary for Greater Manchester residents in accordance with the devolved authority policies and initiatives.
- 2.2. The College may make charges for 'optional extras'. Learners will be made aware of any such optional costs prior to enrolment to their programme. Examples include:
 - trips & visits
 - where learners wish to keep materials produced in a learning activity for home use (for example: floral displays, artwork and food).

3. LEARNERS CO-FUNDED BY THE EDUCATION & SKILLS FUNDING AGENCY (ESFA) or the GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA)

- 3.1. Some courses are partly funded by the ESFA / GMCA and the usual assumption is that the learner or employer will contribute 50% of the ESFA / GMCA determined value of the qualification (specifically the unweighted 'listed' value of the qualification detailed on the ESFA Hub) <https://hub.imservices.org.uk/Learning%20Aims/Pages/default.aspx>
Appendix A contains a table showing when this part funding ('co-funding') is available.
- 3.2. As in recent years, the College tuition fee will normally be based on the assumption that adult learners will contribute 50% of the 'listed' value for the relevant programme of study.
- 3.3. For some courses, a higher fee than the ESFA / GMCA assumed contribution may be charged where the cost base requires and the market conditions allow. These will be agreed with the relevant curriculum area.
- 3.4. There may also be occasional circumstances where lower fees are set where due to particular circumstances a specific individual or group would be disadvantaged, although this will require the approval of the Executive Team.

- 3.5. As in previous years, learners will also be expected to pay the appropriate examination fee and other costs associated with the course. Any such fees will be published alongside the tuition fee.
- 3.6. The College will cover the cost of examination re-sits if this is essential to meet the minimum pass requirements of the course. This is limited to one re-sit per subject.
- 3.7. Learners are able to access the standard payment options available (see 'Payment Options' section 8 of this Policy)

4. ADVANCED LEARNING LOANS

- 4.1. Learners aged 19 or older enrolling onto level 3 or above courses, which do not attract ESFA funding, may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan. These loans are part of a government scheme and information about Advanced Learner Loans can be found at the following link <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learning-loans>
The loan is arranged through the Student Loans Company (SLC) and the payments are made directly to the College by the SLC.
- 4.2. It is the responsibility of the Learner to complete and submit the SLC application form and ensure all evidence and supporting documents are submitted to the SLC.
- 4.3. Whether learners are eligible for or chose to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan or not the liability for the fees is with the learner.
- 4.4. The minimum fee eligible for loan funding is £300 and the maximum fee is the 'listed' fully funded rate for the qualification which is detailed on the ESFA Hub;
<https://hub.imservices.org.uk/Learning%20Aims/Pages/default.aspx>
- 4.5. The College tuition fees will normally be based on 100% of the 'listed' value for the relevant programme of study. The fee charged will be for the whole course irrespective of its duration, although where the learner is taking out a loan this will be paid to the College by the Student Loan Company (SLC) in termly instalments.
- 4.6. Learners will be given a maximum of 4 weeks to ensure their loan application is approved before they become liable to make direct payments for their course. Any payments made directly by the learner would be fully refundable should subsequent loan approval be secured.
- 4.7. If, for any reason, the loan payments cease before full payment for the programme is received, the learner will be liable to make direct payments for their course for any balance remaining.
- 4.8. Learners who choose to or become liable to pay fees directly can access the standard payment options available (see 'Payment Options' section 8 of this Policy).

5. APPRENTICESHIPS

- 5.1. For the 2023-24 academic year, employers will fall under two categories, levy-paying employers and non-levy paying employers.

- 5.2. For levy paying employers, the college will charge 100% of the negotiated training and assessment cost, up to the maximum allowed by the funding band for the chosen apprenticeship, through the government Digital Apprenticeship Service. If an employer has insufficient funds in their Digital Apprenticeship Service account to service the charge, then the employer will be liable to co-investment and will be invoiced for 5% of the outstanding amount.
 - 5.3. For non-levy paying employers, in line with ESFA funding rules, the College will not charge tuition fees to employers with fewer than 50 employees, for apprentices who are 16-18 year old or aged 19-24 formerly in care or with a local authority education health and care plan.
 - 5.4. All other non-levy paying employers, who do not fall into the category above, will be liable to co-investment and will be charged 5% of the negotiated cost of training and assessment, up to the maximum allowed by the funding band for the chosen apprenticeship.
 - 5.5. If the negotiated price for training and assessment is more than the maximum allowed by the funding band for the chosen apprenticeship, then the difference between the band maximum and the agreed price will be invoiced accordingly. This cannot be funded from the digital account or co-investment.
- 6. COMMERCIAL COURSES/ FULL COST RECOVERY**
- 6.1. All course fees that are not supported by any government funding or loans will be determined with consideration of the direct costs of delivering the course and after taking into account market conditions.
 - 6.2. Fees charges are available in marketing material, on the College website or upon enquiry prior to enrolment.
 - 6.3. Learners can access the standard payment options available (see 'Payment Options' section 8 of this Policy).
- 7. HIGHER EDUCATION FEES**
- 7.1. The College has an approved Access & Participation Plan in place for 2023-24, therefore can charge fees up to £7,500 for full time HE courses.
 - 7.2. Those full time course fees set at £7,500 and pro-rata for part time courses will have a package of personal and professional development opportunities ('The University Centre Advantage').
 - 7.3. Certain Higher Education courses will be charged at £6,000 full time, or equivalent pro-rata, where market conditions mean that a reduced fee is preferable.

8. PAYMENT OPTIONS

8.1. Where course fees are payable, and learners cannot access a learner loan, fees must be paid either:

- On enrolment in full
- Through a standing order plan, set up on enrolment (the shorter of twelve months or the duration of course). This option is only available where instalments would total £25 a month or more
- By an employer (option available on production of an employer authority letter on enrolment). Invoice will be issued in the first term on 30 days payment terms. In the event that an employer fails to pay the invoice the responsibility remains with the learner

8.2. Employer fees are payable for apprenticeship provision, fees must be paid either:

- through the government Digital Apprenticeship Service, for levy-paying employers
- through an employer invoice or payment plan, for non-levy-paying employers.

9. REFUNDS

9.1. A full refund will be issued automatically should the course not run.

9.2. Learners who decide that the course on which they have enrolled is not appropriate for them will qualify for a full refund within the first two weeks, although every effort will be made support the learner to stay on the existing course or alternative provision.

9.3. After the first two weeks following commencement of the course, there will be no automatic entitlement to a refund, and the full fee for the course will be payable. Individual circumstances will be considered at the discretion of the Executive Team.

9.4. Where a refund is requested as part of a complaint submitted to the College, the matter will be dealt with under the College's Complaints Policy. The Complaints Policy can be accessed via the following link <https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/college-information>.

10. LEARNER SUPPORT FUNDS

10.1. Learner Support Funding is available to support learners who meet relevant criteria with some course fees and other costs associated with their course.

10.2. Information regarding the Learner Support Funds and the application process can be found through on the College website through the following link www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/Finance-and-Welfare

Appendix A

Provision	19 to 23 year olds	24 + Unemployed	24+ other
English and maths, up to and including level 2 (Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement)	Fully funded*	Fully funded*	Fully funded*
Essential Digital Skills Qualifications up to and including level 2	Fully funded*	Fully funded*	Fully funded*
Level 2 (excluding English and maths) (First full level 2 must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement)	Fully funded* (first and full)	Fully funded	Fully funded*
Learning to progress to level 2	Fully funded^ (up to and including level 1)	Fully funded	Co-funded+
Level 3 (First full level 3 must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement)	Fully funded* (first and full) or Loan-funded** (if previously achieved full level 3 or above)	Loan-funded	Loan-funded
Level 3 free courses for jobs offer (learners without a full level 3 accessing a qualification on the level 3 adult offer qualification list or, Learners who already hold a level 3 qualification or higher and meet the definition of unemployed or low wage)	Fully funded++	Fully funded++	Fully funded++
Level 3 Local Adult Offer (learners without a full level 3 or those with an existing first full level 3 accessing a qualification on the GM Local Level 3 Adult offer qualification list)	Fully funded++	Fully funded++	Fully funded++

Provision	19 to 23 year olds	24 + Unemployed	24+ other
English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learning up to and including level 2	Fully funded// if unemployed or Co-funded+	Fully funded//	Co-funded+
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner has already achieved a first full level 2, or above	Co-funded+ or Fully funded if unemployed	Fully funded	Co-funded+
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner has not achieved a first full level 2, or above	N/A or Co-funded+# or Fully funded#	Fully funded	Co-funded+
<p>*Must be delivered as one of the English and maths, Digital entitlement and/or first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualifications required as part of the legal entitlements. ^Must be delivered as entry or level one provision from local flexibility. ** 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. + Low wage flexibility may apply, refer to paragraphs 2.35 – 2.36. ++ Only available for delivery by providers granted specific approval to offer this ring-fenced element // Subject to GM devolved flexibilities # Only available for delivery by providers granted specific approval by GMCA under the Level 2 Request Only Offer Process</p>			