



Tuition Fee Policy 2023/2024

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy sets out the high-level principles that Gateshead College will apply to the setting of tuition fees for the 2023/24 academic year.
- 1.2 The Tuition Fee Policy to be adopted for the 2023/24 academic year and has been developed in accordance with national/statutory guidance in relation to education and funding, including that published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA). It also sets a framework for ensuring that comprehensive guidance and information regarding fees for courses is available and accessible to customers, learners and staff.

2. Further Education (ESFA funded provision for students aged 16-18)

- 2.1 In accordance with ESFA conditions of funding Gateshead College will not charge tuition or examination fees for learners aged 16-18 on the 31 August 2023. This applies to learners meeting the ESFA's funding eligibility criteria for young people without exception. Remission of fees extends to 19 year old students continuing the same study programme recorded in their learning agreement into a second or subsequent year. Detailed guidance on eligibility is provided [here](#)

3. Further Education (ESFA Adult Education Budget (AEB) funded provision for students aged 19+)

- 3.1 ESFA AEB funding rules assume that all students other than those classified as fully funded are charged a tuition fee as a contribution towards the costs of their learning. In accordance with the funding rules, Gateshead College will not charge fees to learners classified as fully funded subject to the provision of the appropriate evidence at enrolment.
- 3.2 Learners eligible for AEB funding but not fully funded are classified as co-funded. A fee for co-funded AEB learners is calculated as 50% of the unweighted funding value for the learning aim plus a 10% charge for examination and registration fees. Fees will be calculated as part of the College's curriculum and business planning process.
- 3.3 Course fees for individual courses may be varied at the request of the Head of Department subject to approval by the Executive Team during the curriculum and business planning process.
- 3.4 Funding values for ESFA funded courses are published on the ESFA's [Find a learning aim](#) webpage.

4. National Skills Fund

- 4.1 In accordance with [national guidance](#) Gateshead College will not charge a tuition fee for eligible adult learners studying an eligible qualification at level 3 or above who do not meet the criteria for AEB funding.

5. Advanced Learner Loans

- 5.1 Learners aged 19+ who are ineligible for the support described in paragraph 4.1 may be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loans to pay the tuition fee for their course. The fee to be covered by the loan will be set at 100% of the ESFA published funding rate for relevant qualification.
- 5.2 It is the responsibility of the learner to enter into an agreement with the Student Loans Company and secure a loan to pay for their course. Gateshead College will offer support and guidance to the learner to undertake the loan application.
- 5.3 Learners ineligible for a loan or not wishing to enter into a loan agreement will be liable for payment of the relevant course fee calculated as described in section 5.1. It is proposed that a 10% discount be offered to those who pay the fee in full at the point of enrolment.
- 5.4 Funding values for ESFA funded courses are published on the ESFA's [Find a learning aim](#) webpage.

6. Apprenticeships

- 6.1 The funding system for apprentices changed significantly on 1 May 2017 with the introduction of a 0.5% levy for large employers with a pay bill in excess of £3 million which then creates a 'levy fund' for the employer to pay for apprenticeship training. For 'non levy' employers apprentices are co-funded by the ESFA in the ratio of 95% from the ESFA with the remaining 5% collected from the employer.
- 6.2 The actual level of payments of ESFA funding and fees required from the employer, will be determined from the 'funding band' attached to the apprenticeship standard, together with the outcome of the individual skills scan for each apprentice. A costings template is used to identify all applicable costs and to agree the final price.

7. Higher Education

- 7.1 The Full Time fee is proposed to remain at £5,995 per year, with learners paying the same rate for each subsequent year of their programme. The Part Time fee is proposed at £4,500 per year with the provision to moderate it if exceptional circumstances apply. These fees apply to learners paying for themselves, paying via a Student Loan and for those being sponsored by an employer.
- 7.2 Where learners withdraw from their programme, the College will collect fees according to the number of weeks of attendance in line with guidance from Student Finance England.

8. Full Cost Programmes

8.1 Fees for commercial courses will be priced at a level to reflect the full cost to the College and set at a level the market will bear. The underlying principle is that all programmes should cover their direct costs as a minimum and make a contribution towards overheads.

9. Payment Methods

9.1 Payments will be accepted in cash, cheque, credit and debit card, and by instalments provided the fee is a minimum of £100.

10. Approval Process

10.1 Any fees that are proposed which don't follow the approach outlined above must be reviewed and approved by an Assistant Principal, Director of Finance or Deputy Principal Curriculum & Quality.

11. Refunds

11.1 A learner withdrawing from a full year ESFA funded programme will be eligible for a refund as shown in the table below.

Week of withdrawal	Percentage of annual tuition fees due
Start date to teaching week 5	0%
Week 6 to teaching week 13	25%
Week 14 to week 25	50%
Week 26 onwards	100%

11.2 Learners on shorter courses will be eligible for a pro-rata refund provided they have attended less than 50% of the course duration. Where an apprentice withdraws from their course and the employer has paid the fee contribution, a pro-rata refund will be provided in accordance with the ESFA payment profile.

11.3 In exceptional circumstances a fee refund will also be considered where learners have had to withdraw due to reasons outside of their control. All requests must be submitted in writing to the Funding & Data Manager or Financial Controller and must include certified medical evidence or other documentary evidence.

12. Detailed guidance

12.1 Detailed guidance on the eligibility of a learner for remission from fees in 2023/24 will be added to the College's website and intranet following publication of the relevant funding body guidance.

13. Recommendation

10.1 The Committee is asked to approve the Fee Policy for 2021/22 and 2022/23 academic years subject to any significant change in Government Policy.

