

TUITION FEES AND CHARGES POLICY

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Equality Assessment: Director of Finance

August 2024

Date:

Version and Date		Actions/Notes
1.0	August 2024	Updated funding guidance to reference 24.25 Updated link to DfE master statutory guidance template Replaced Adult Education Budget (AEB) with Adult Skills Funding (ASF) Updated funding rules to 24/25 version – included link to the correct version Updated unemployed take home pay thresholds as per ASF funding guidance Updated rules on learners not receiving benefits but want to be employed as per ASF funding guidance Updated students on low income threshold and requirements as per ASF funding guidance Updated employer co-investment levy exemptions

Approved by SMT: August 2024

Approved by Corporation: 22.10.24

Date of Next Review: August 2025

Related policies or procedures or parent policy if applicable:

- Higher Education Fee Payment Policy
- Higher Education Refund and Compensation Policy
- Further Education Refund Policy
- Discretionary Learner Support Fund – Students Aged 16-18
- Discretionary Learner Support Fund – Students Aged 19+
- ASF Funding guidance 24 to 25
- ALL funding rules 2024 to 2025

Groups/bodies consulted in the development of the policy:

- SMT Best practice in Sector
- ESFA AEB Funding Guidance

To be published on College Website: Yes

To be published on Student Hub: Yes

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Macclesfield College Tuition Fees and Charges Policy is to set out the tuition fee structure and policy with regard to the payment and / or remission of all course fees for the 2024/25 year.

The College will work within the guidelines determined by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), Office for Students (OfS) and Cheshire East Council, to provide an annual schedule of course fees for both Further Education and Higher Education, including details of fee remission and associated funding.

The Tuition Fees and Charges Policy covers all types of fees, including:

- Tuition fees
- Examination and awarding body registration fees
- Additional fees including, the cost of materials, equipment and use of facilities.

All published course fees include tuition fees and examination fees, where the examination fee will incorporate both the examination entry fee and awarding body registration fee. The fees will be illustrated within the Individual Learning Agreement.

Certain courses may also include a requirement for additional materials and equipment as a direct cost of learning that are chargeable direct to the learner.

A full schedule of college fees and charges (excluding tuition fees) is included in Appendix 2.

2. STUDENTS AGED 16-18

Funding guidance and eligibility criteria for students aged 16 to 18 is provided in the ESFA Funding Guidance for Young People 2024 to 2025

[DfE master statutory guidance template \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

The funding guidance and regulations are written on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education, who funds education provision through the ESFA using powers under Section 14 of the Education Act 2002.

A student may be considered 16 to 18 in the 2024-25 academic year where they are age 16, 17 or 18 years old on 31 August 2024.

Students aged 16 to 18 and meeting eligibility criteria within the national funding guidance for full or part-time learning programmes shall receive fee remission and not be charged fees, including all those associated with tuition and initial examinations.

Where a 16 to 18 year old student undertakes a full cost course (Section 3.5) or a Higher Education course (Section 4), the fees associated with these courses shall apply.

A 16 to 18 year old student on a fully funded course may be required to purchase additional materials or contribute in full or part towards Educational Visits. A student may be eligible for financial support with additional fees through the Discretionary Learner Support Fund.

A student aged 18 when commencing a qualification with a duration of 2 years is treated for fee purposes as 16 to 18 for the duration of the qualification in accordance with ESFA funding guidelines, and as such will not be liable for fees during the second year when turning 19.

Fees will be payable should the student in these circumstances move to a different qualification.

3. STUDENTS AGED 19 YEARS AND ABOVE ('HOME' / EU STUDENTS)

Fully Funded Students – Legal Entitlements

THESE RULES DO NOT APPLY TO APPRENTICESHIPS

The Adult Skills Budget Funding Rules 2024-25 provide criteria for students aged 19 years and above to exercise a legal entitlement to full funding. An extract of this is outlined in **Appendix 1** of the Tuition Fees and Charges Policy and is set out in the Apprenticeships, Skills and Children's Learning Act 2009 and section 16 of the Education Act 2002.

Legal entitlements to full funding include:

- **Maths and English** – Students aged 19 or above who have not previously attained a GCSE grade 4 (C) or higher have a legal entitlement to fully funded English language and maths qualifications and / or units to progress towards and achieve a GCSE grade A* to C (or Grade 4) or Functional Skill Level 2.
- **First Full Level 2** – Students aged 19 to 23 on the day that their course commences, without a prior full Level 2 qualification will be entitled to a fully funded Level 2 qualification as part of their legal entitlement.
- **First Full Level 3** – Students aged 19 to 23 on the day that their course commences, without a prior full Level 3 qualification will be entitled to a fully funded Level 3 qualification as part of their legal entitlement.
- **Essential digital skills qualifications, up to and including level 1**, Students aged 19 and over, who have digital skills assessed at below level 1

Eligible learners exercising their legal entitlement must be enrolled on qualifications approved for funding through the relevant entitlement by the ESFA.

Fully Funded Students – Other

- **Level 3 Adult Offer**
- Students aged 19 or above who have not achieved a full level 3, who meet the definition of unemployed (see below) or who are on low income will be eligible for one fully funded short qualification and one fully funded level 3 course included in the Level 3 Courses for Jobs Offer.

Local Flexibility

- Qualifications and/or non-regulated learning up to and including level 2 is referred to as 'local flexibility'. Learners aged 19 to 23 progressing towards their first full level 2, must undertake learning at entry and/or level 1 only from local flexibility.

Unemployed

- Students who meet the definition of unemployed are eligible for fully funded qualifications up to and including Level 2 that are eligible for ASF funding.
- A learner is defined as unemployed for funding purposes if one or more of the following apply:
 - They receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), including those receiving National Insurance credits only.

- They receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- They receive Universal Credit (UC), and their take-home pay as recorded on their UC statement (disregarding UC payments and other benefits) is less than £892 a month (learner is sole adult in their benefit claim) or £1,437 a month (learner has a joint benefit claim with their partner)
- They are released on a temporary licence, studying outside a prison environment, and not funded by the Ministry of Justice.
- The College may also use discretion to fully fund students who meet **both** of the following criteria:
 - The learner receives other state benefits (not listed above) and their take home pay (disregarding Universal Credit payments and other benefits) is less than £892 a month (learner is sole adult in their benefit claim) or £1,437 a month (learner has a joint benefit claim with their partner), and
- The learner is not receiving any benefits, wants to be employed, and the College is satisfied identified learning is directly relevant to their employment prospects and the local labour market needs. In order to claim full funding for learners who are unemployed and not in receipt of benefits. The College must indicate that the learner earns below the earnings threshold by using LDM code 391 and FFI code 1

Students on Low Income

In 24.25 the DfE have introduced the earnings threshold as part of a new eligibility criteria that enables learners to be fully funded if they earn below £25,000. The policy entitlement includes learners who are employed or self-employed.

The College may fully fund learners who are employed, or self-employed, up to and including level 2 and the level 3 offers, if they earn below £25,000 annual gross salary.

The College must have seen evidence of the learner's gross annual wages in these circumstances. This could be a wage slip or a UC statement within 3 months of the learner's learning start date, or a current employment contract which states gross monthly/annual wages. The College must evidence the decision to award full funding to an individual who would normally be eligible for co-funding.

To claim full funding for learners who earn below the earnings threshold, you must use LDM code 391 and FFI code 1.

Students with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities

- Students aged 19 to 24 on 31 August 2024 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) will be fully funded.

Co-funded

- In accordance with the most recent ESFA fee presumption guidance and funding methodology, the College will seek to generate a level of tuition fee income that, across the College, relates to 50% of the assumed fee level.
- 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.
- A Curriculum area may submit a business case for approval by Senior Management Team to lower or align fees in line with market forces.

- The Directors of Curriculum, in consultation with the Director of MIS and Exams, and the Director of Employer and Commercial Services reserve the right to negotiate variations from these rates to respond to market forces for particular courses.

Advanced Learner Loans

Eligibility

Students aged 19 years old or above, studying an eligible course of Level 3 to Level 6 may apply for funding of course fees and direct costs of learning through an Advanced Learner Loan. Further information is available at [Advanced Learner Loans funding rules: 2024 to 2025 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/advanced-learner-loans-funding-rules-2024-to-2025)

The following qualifications are designated by the ESFA as eligible for Advanced Learner Loan support:

- General and technical qualifications at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6.
- AS / A Levels up to a maximum of 4 full A Levels
- Access to higher education (HE) diplomas

Full details of course fees, course codes and maximum loan entitlements will be provided to learners in advance of enrolment through a Learning and Funding Information (LAFI) letter.

The maximum entitlement to an Advanced Learner Loan for a designated qualification is listed in the Learning Aim Reference Service (LARS), and is based on programme weighting and size of qualification in guided learning hours. Additional fees over and above the maximum loan value in the LARS will be payable on enrolment.

Repayment

All learners intending to fund their course fees through an Advanced Learner Loan will be required to complete and sign an Advanced Learner Loan Agreement outlining their responsibilities and financial liabilities in the event of withdrawal from a course or an unsuccessful loan application.

Loan repayments commence in the April following course completion or withdrawal (or the April 4 years after the course started for those studying part-time), where earnings are in excess of £27,295 p.a..

Where an Advanced Learner Loan is received in respect of an Access to Higher Education Programme and the student progresses to and completes a Higher Education course, the loan will not have to be repaid.

Advanced Learner Loan Bursary

Students may apply for financial support from the Advanced Learner Loans Bursary where they have successfully applied for an Advanced Learner Loan.

The Bursary is in place to provide financial assistance for associated costs such as accommodation and travel, materials, childcare and classroom assistance.

A means tested Application for Financial Assistance form should be completed and submitted to Student Services for consideration.

Students fully funding the course themselves without a full or partial Advanced Learner Loan are not eligible for Advanced Learner Loan Bursary funding.

Full-cost courses

Full-cost part-time courses (not funded by the ESFA or through loans provision) offered by the College will be at fee levels aligned to market forces, the costs of delivery and numbers of students enrolled on the course. Fees will be determined on an individual programme basis.

Fees for full-cost courses will be payable by all students regardless of age and circumstances.

European Economic Area (EEA) Nationals

EEA Nationals (or family members of) who have pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme and have lived in the EEA, Gibraltar or UK for the last 3 years are regarded as home students, and will be subject to the same criteria.

Non-EU Students (International Students)

The College does not currently accept applications from non-EU learners.

4. HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher Education is defined as a programme of study leading to the whole or part of an award falling within the remit of the Office for Students, and is outlined in the Higher Education Fee Payment Policy.

The fees for a full-time course have been set at £5,800 for the 2024-25 year (£5,800 - 2122-22). A pro-rata fee shall apply for part-time courses.

Students funding their course fees through a student loan will be required to sign a Higher Education Loan Agreement on enrolment. The Agreement confirms the student understands they are responsible for successfully applying for the loan. It confirms that where an application is unsuccessful or not completed within the required timescales that the student remains liable for the fees in full.

5. APPRENTICESHIPS

Since May 2017, all UK employers with an annual payroll of over £3 million (levy payers) are charged an apprenticeship levy of 0.5% (less a £15,000 per year allowance) to fund new apprenticeships.

The ESFA Apprenticeship funding rules (for training providers) apply and constitute funding conditions made under section 101 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

The delivery of apprenticeships is subject to individually negotiated prices for the agreed package, and is not covered within this Policy. The Directors of Curriculum and Director of Employer and Commercial Services must approve the price for each contract in advance.

An Apprenticeship Training Agreement will form the basis of the contractual arrangement between the College (as provider) and the Employer, and will state the agreed contract value and schedule of payments split between levy, Government funding and co-investment.

Where an apprentice does not have a Level 2 qualification in English and Maths, the Government will fully fund this as part of the commitment to the Apprenticeship qualification.

The methods of payment in respect of Apprenticeships are covered in Section 10.

6. 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 Vice Principle

7. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

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

Applications for fee remission in respect of funded courses should be made to the Assistant Vice Principle

8. STUDENT SUPPORT

Financial support and assistance may be available for eligible students, on an ESFA fully funded or co-funded course through the Discretionary Learner Support Fund.

Students studying a course fully funded or partially funded by Advanced Learner Loan may be eligible, subject to means testing, for an Advanced Learner Loan Bursary.

The Student Services team are responsible for assessing all applications for support from the Discretionary Learner Support Fund and the Advanced Learner Loan Bursary against eligibility criteria within the Discretionary Learner Support Fund Policy.

9. REFUNDS

The College refund policies are available on request and on the College website at www.macclesfield.ac.uk. These include:

- Higher Education Refund and Compensation Policy
- Further Education Refund Policy (covering all other refunds other than Higher Education)

10. METHODS OF PAYMENT

Payment by Instalments

The College shall consider an application for payment of fees through an instalment arrangement, where the following conditions both apply to the relevant course type:

Course Type	Minimum Cost (£)	Minimum Course Duration
Full-Cost Course	£500.00	10 weeks or more
All Other Courses	£100.00	10 weeks or more

Where the above criteria are not met, all fees are payable in full on enrolment.

An Application for Payment of Fees by Instalments form should be arranged with the Finance Department

Worldpay links will be issued by the Finance Department when instalments become due.

An initial payment equivalent to 25% of the total fees outstanding (after deducting amounts covered by Advanced Learner Loan and / or employer / sponsor payment will be payable on enrolment.

The remaining fees will be payable on a date agreed with the student. The instalment arrangement should conclude prior to the planned course end date and all instalment payments must be received by that time. This may restrict the number of subsequent instalments to a maximum of two equal payments.

Where an instalment payment is not received on the agreed date, all fees will become immediately payable and will be subject to the College debt recovery procedures.

Employer / sponsor payments

A student may enrol without the payment of fees in accordance with the College enrolment procedures, where evidence of employer / sponsor commitment to funding course fees is presented on enrolment.

The evidence required may be in the form of a letter or purchase order from the employer / sponsor on an official headed document confirming that fees will be paid, and with the contact name and address for invoicing purposes.

An invoice will be raised to the employer / sponsor for any outstanding fees on enrolment subject to any maximum fees set by the employer / sponsor, and will be payable within 30 days. The student remains liable for outstanding course fees where an employer or sponsor does not settle outstanding fees, and will be subject to College debt recovery procedures.

Apprenticeship Payments

Levy-Paying Employers

Fee payments in respect of apprentices employed by a levy-paying employer are collected on a regular basis through the Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) account *.

Where there are insufficient funds in the DAS, the co-investment model will apply, where the Government will make a 95% contribution to fees (90% prior to April 2019) and the employer will co-invest the remaining 5% (10% prior to April 2019). An invoice will be raised to the employer in these instances.

Non-Levy Paying Employer

A non-levy employer with an annual pay bill of less than £3m will be required to share the costs of training and assessment with the Government through a co-investment model *.

Where an employer does not pay the apprenticeship levy, government will fund all the apprenticeship training costs (up to the funding band maximum) for those apprentices aged between 22 and 24 years-old who have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan and / or have been in the care of their local authority.

The employer pays 5% of the total agreed fees and the Government pays the remaining 95% (80% of this proportion over the duration of the training and 20% following successful completion). Exemption apply if,

- at the start of their apprenticeship training the apprentice is aged between 16 and 21 years old (or 15 years of age if the apprentice's 16th birthday is between the last Friday of June and 31 August)
- if at the start of their apprenticeship training the apprentice is aged between 22 and 24 years old and has either an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan provided by local authority and / or has been in the care of their local authority

The amount co-invested by the employer will be invoiced. This payment schedule is to be agreed as part of the Apprenticeship Training Agreement between employer and provider (Macclesfield College).

An initial co-invested instalment payment is payable prior to the commencement of the apprenticeship, with balancing payments to be invoiced and paid in accordance with the agreed schedule.

** The co-investment requirement may be waived for eligible 'small' employers and qualifying apprentices as detailed in the Apprenticeship Funding and Performance Management Rules.*

11. INVOICING

The College will issue an official invoice following enrolment to all students where full or partial fees remain payable.

An invoice will be issued electronically where possible, and for the full amount of fees owed.

Where a partial payment is made on enrolment, this will be applied against the customer account and will be reflected on a monthly statement of account.

Where fees are paid direct to the College from the Student Loan Company, the invoice will be for information purposes only for the student or to request payment of any balance not covered by loan.

A monthly statement of account will be provided to all students by email to confirm their account balance, where fees remain outstanding.

All invoices are payable within 14 days for tuition fees, or 30 days for commercial transactions unless covered by loan payment, where invoice due dates are set to reflect the timing of instalments from the Student Loan Company.

12. DEBT RECOVERY

The College acts as data controller and will retain, manage and secure all personal information provided in accordance with the College Data Protection Policy and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Information may be shared with a third-party collection agency in accordance with GDPR Article 6(b) should it become necessary to recover fees owed to the College.

The costs of collection of outstanding fees will be passed on to the student. This includes debt collection agency costs (12.5% of total fees owed), plus costs of judgment and enforcement should this become necessary.

13. POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The College Tuition Fees and Charges Policy will be reviewed, on an annual basis, by the Senior Management Team and approved by the Corporation.



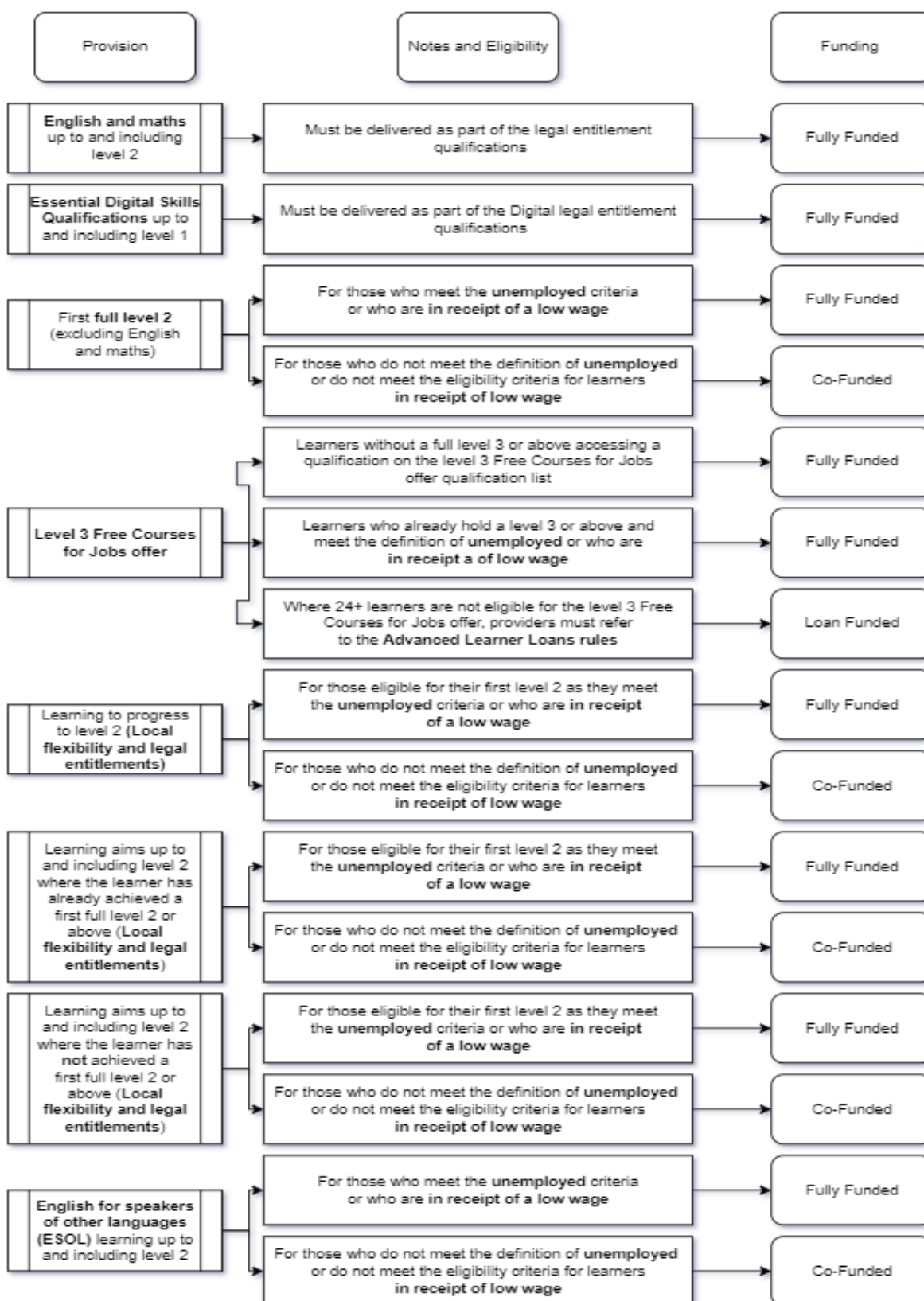
Appendix 1 – Government Contribution Table

Government contribution table 1: 19 to 23-year-olds (age exception on traineeships 19- to 24-year-olds)

Chart 1: 19 to 23-year-olds (age exception on traineeships 19- to 24-year-olds)

Provision	Notes and Eligibility	Funding
English and maths up to and including level 2	Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications	Fully Funded
Essential Digital Skills Qualifications up to and including level 1	Must be delivered as part of the Digital legal entitlement qualifications	Fully Funded
First full level 2 (excluding English and maths)	First full level 2 must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications. Level 2 provision from the local flexibility offer will not be funded for 19- to 23-year-olds who do not have a first full level 2. See Local flexibility and legal entitlement section.	Fully Funded
Level 3 legal entitlement (learner's first full level 3)	First full level 3 must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications	Fully Funded
Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer	Learners without a full level 3 or above can access a qualification on the Free Courses for Jobs offer qualifications list	Fully Funded
	Learners who already hold a level 3 or above and meet the definition of unemployed or who are in receipt of low wage	Fully Funded
Level 3 Advanced Learner Loans	A learner who has already achieved a full level 3 and exhausted their eligibility for the Free Courses for Jobs offer	Loan Funded
Learning aims to progress to a full level 2 - up to and including level 1	Must be delivered as entry or level 1 provision from local flexibility	Fully Funded
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner has already achieved a first full level 2 or above (Local flexibility and legal entitlements)	For those who meet the unemployed criteria or who are in receipt of a low wage	Fully Funded
	For those who do not meet the definition of unemployed or do not meet the eligibility criteria for learners in receipt of low wage	Co-Funded
English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learning up to and including level 2	For those who meet the unemployed criteria or who are in receipt of a low wage	Fully Funded
	For those who do not meet the definition of unemployed or do not meet the eligibility criteria for learners in receipt of low wage	Co-Funded
Traineeships (16- to 24-year-olds)	16- to 18-year old learners must be eligible under ESFAs young people's residency requirements . Excluding the flexible element where funding depends on age and level.	Fully Funded

Chart 2: 24+



Appendix 2 – Schedule of Fees and Charges

1. General Fees and Charges

Student Travel

A subsidised bus service is available for full-time 16-18 year old students. Assisted Travel for students provides two options dependent upon the student's home address, and includes access to a College service or a public service.

The travel pass entitles a student to travel to and from College during for the academic year. The charge is a contribution only towards the full cost of transport provision, and as such is charged in full irrespective of subsequent travel arrangements.

The charge for the year may be paid in full on enrolment, or in two instalments in September and February. A student may be entitled to a reduction based on household income or where a sibling is also studying full-time at the College.

Total Fee – payable in full on enrolment (per academic year)	£300.00
Total Fee – payable by instalment arrangement (per academic year)	£175.00
- September (Term 1)	£125.00
- February (Term 2)	
Total Fee (siblings) – payable in full on enrolment (per academic year)	£150.00
Note	
<i>A student may be entitled to free or further subsidised travel where household income is less than £26,000 or where parents within the household are in receipt of specific benefits. This information should be declared when completing a bus pass application.</i>	
Replacement College pass	£5.00

Printing and Copying

Mono and Colour printing and photocopying is available to all students using their Student ID badges to log on to any printer in the College to collect their work.

The fee includes use of the printers (hardware maintenance and toners), our print management solution (for charging and secure print release) and paper used.

Total Fee (Mono printing):	
- A4 page (single-side)	£0.03
- A3 page (single-side)	£0.06
Total Fee (Colour printing):	
- A4 page (single-side)	£0.12
- A3 page (single-side)	£0.24
Note:	
All students receive £2.00 printing / photocopying credit at the start of their course.	

Late Payment Fees

Late payment fees may apply where a student has not made a payment in line with an agreed payment arrangement, or where an outstanding debt is passed to the College collection agents.	
Total Fee (per default payment within an agreed payment arrangement)	£25.00
Total Fee (applied to the total outstanding balance transferred)	12.5%

Educational Visits

Additional Educational Visits over and above those referred to within the relevant Curriculum areas may be chargeable, and will be agreed and paid prior to the visit taking place.	
Total Fee (By Educational Visit)	£TBC

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Checks

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check not referred to within the specific Curriculum area above may be required as part of the specific course requirements.	
Total Fee	£45.80

2. Subject-Specific Fees and Charges

Sport

A specific fee is not chargeable on enrolment however students may be required to make a financial contribution towards the costs of sports kit, educational visits and activities. Possible visits may include football stadium tours, kayaking and other outdoor activities but could be subject to change.	

Public Services

A specific fee is not chargeable on enrolment however students may be required to make a contribution towards the costs of educational visits and activities. Possible visits may include The Middlewich Custody Suite, The Fire Station, Army Look at life, Army Personal Development Course, Crown Court, Kip on a Ship, The Houses of Parliament, University and UCAS events, but could be subject to change.

Note

There is a requirement for all public service students to purchase at least one polo shirt and there is the option to purchase a hoodie. This will be discussed at interview.

Health and Social Care

A DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be required as part of the course requirements. In addition, a nurse's tunic for practical work and a placement polo shirt may be required.

Total Fee (DBS check)	£45.80
Clothing (tunic / polo shirt)	£Enrolment

Art and Design

A fee in respect of additional materials and equipment may apply for specific provision in respect of Art and Design, and will be confirmed on enrolment.

Art and Design (Studio Fee)	£50.00
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Automotive

A fee in respect of protective clothing may apply for specific provision in respect Automotive, and will be confirmed on enrolment.

Total Fee	£Enrolment
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Engineering

A specific fee is not chargeable on enrolment; however, students may be required to make a financial contribution towards the cost of protective clothing, stationery, equipment and educational visits throughout the academic year.

Total Fee	Up to £150.00
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