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1. Purpose

This policy is designed to provide users with a consistent and coherent approach to the charging of fees to students and employers and to any remission or refunds to which students may be eligible.

2. Application of this Policy

All staff using this policy must ensure that students with protected characteristics are not disadvantaged for any reason by any part of this policy and the processes within it.

3. Fee Policy

3.1. Further Education (FE) Courses

3.1.1. 16-18 year old students

Full-time and part-time students (who are not also studying full-time elsewhere) aged under 19 years on the 31 August in the academic year in which their course commences are not required to pay tuition fees for full or part-time FE funded courses.

A voluntary contribution will be requested from each full-time student; this is not mandatory. The contribution will be £80 for a 2 year course and £40 for a one year course.

Qualification resit costs will normally be charged by the college for all courses at level three and above, this includes resit costs for individual unit examinations where the student has already achieved at least a pass grade. The rate charged will be based on the awarding organisations' prevailing rate.

Resit charges for individual unit examinations where the student has failed will normally be paid by the college. Resit charges for qualifications at level 2 or below will be paid by the college.

3.1.2. Full-time adult students (19+)

Full funding is available for a limited number of level 3 qualifications as part of the Government's Free Courses for Jobs project. Eligible students above 19 years of age can be fully funded on eligible qualifications. Not all level 3 qualifications are eligible within the project, a full list of available qualifications nationally can be found [here](#) by filtering for by Qualification Offer. An eligible student enrolling to an eligible learning aim will have their tuition fees, and the costs examination and registration remitted.

The tuition fee for adults who are 19+ at the start of their level 1 or level 2 course on Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funded full-time (above 485 annual guided learning hours) will be £975 per year. This figure excludes examination and registration fees which will be an additional charge depending on the qualification.

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The tuition fee for adults aged 19 and over (as at the start date of their course) on Level 3 and 4 full-time (above 485 annual guided learning hours) courses will be set during the planning process, an Advanced Learner Loan may be available.

Adult Students whose tuition fees are funded through a bursary or other fee remission will not be charged awarding body registration or accreditation fees. However, all adult students will be charged associated fees and subscription charges made by professional bodies (e.g. AAT). The college's Fee Remission Policy is detailed at section 4 of this document.

3.1.3. Part-time Adult Students (19+)

Full funding is available for a limited number of level 3 qualifications as part of the Government's Free Courses for Jobs project. Eligible students above 19 years of age can be fully funded on eligible qualifications. Not all level 3 qualifications are eligible within the project, a full list of available qualifications nationally can be found [here](#) by filtering for by 'Qualification Offer'. An eligible student enrolling to an eligible learning aim will have their tuition fees, and the costs examination and registration remitted.

Where the ESFA co-fund a student's programme of study the tuition fee payable is reduced by an assumed contribution rate of 50% of the national funding rate.

The tuition fee for adults aged 19 and above (as at the start date of their course) on ESFA funded part-time Entry level, level 1 and level 2 courses will be set during curriculum planning and indicated in the part-time course prospectus.

The tuition fees are for the whole of a qualification. Awarding organisation registration and accreditation fees will be added on top of the tuition fee and will be payable in year 1 of a multi-year course.

Adults students whose tuition fees are funded through a bursary or other fee remission, will not be charged awarding organisation registration or accreditation fees. However, all adult students will be charged associated fees and subscription charges made by professional bodies (e.g. AAT).

3.1.4. Payment of fees by 19+ Advanced Learner Loans

You can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan from Student Finance England to help with the tuition fee of a course at a college or training provider in England. 19+ Advanced Learner Loans are available in 2024/2025 for Certificates and Diplomas (Level 3 - 6) up to the maximum funding rate as set by the ESFA. This funding rate is shown in the catalogue of funding rates published by the ESFA (Find a Learning Aim). The college is permitted to charge higher fees than shown in the catalogue; a student must make other arrangements to pay the difference. The college has only decided to exceed the above rates in exceptional circumstances, therefore additional fee

payments by students are unlikely. Other associated fees and subscription will be charged (e.g. AAT membership fees).

The actual fee will normally be the rate in the catalogue of funding rates published by ESFA for Advanced Learner Loans. In exceptional circumstances the rate may be adjusted based on the advice of the Curriculum Director to the Vice Principal of Quality, Apprenticeships and Information and the Finance Director.

Please note not all learning aims offered, particularly Awards at Level 3 or 4, are eligible for a 19+ Advanced Learner Loan. Where available, the college is keen to ensure the facility is available to students, but this cannot be guaranteed.

Advanced Learner Loans are drawn down and paid to the college over the duration of their course, but only while a student continues to attend the course.

Students leaving the course early whose fees are funded by 19+ Advanced Learner Loans will be required to pay the difference between amounts paid to the college on your behalf by Student Finance England and the total fees due for the course unless the outstanding balance of fees due is waived. See section 6 for further detail regarding Fee Waivers.

Transfers between 19+ Advanced Learner Loans course. are not permitted by the college.

Students choosing to take an Advanced Learner Loan to fund their tuition fees will have their examination registration fees waived, however any other associated costs, e.g. materials, will still be charged. The college reserves the right to apply charges for courses where examination registrations fees are excessive.

3.1.5. Apprenticeships

All medium and large employers of apprentices of any age are now liable to pay a fee. Small employers (under 50 employees) must pay a fee for any apprentice aged 21+ at start. The level of fee is agreed with the employer at initial engagement by the Apprenticeship Recruitment Co-ordinator. These fees will be based on the cost of sign-up, delivery, and end-point assessment; they are governed by a nationally agreed cap. The college may choose to charge above the cap level for some apprenticeship standards; the employer is liable for any proportion of a fee agreed above the cap level.

A contract for the apprenticeship delivery and associated fees must be signed prior to delivery commencing.

Levy paying employers will have the agreed fee automatically paid to the college from its digital levy account by the ESFA. Should the employer utilise all of its levy funds, the funding approach reverts to a co-financing arrangement.

From this point 5% of all future planned payment will be liable to the employer and 95% will be paid by the ESFA.

Non-Levy Paying Employers must pay 5% of the agreed fee to the college based on the terms in the signed contract. The remaining 95% will be paid to the college by the ESFA.

Should an apprentice change employer during their apprenticeship, the appropriate proportion of any outstanding fees must be paid by the new employer.

For further information on the approach to Levy based fees please contact the Apprenticeship Recruitment Co-ordinator.

If an apprentice fails to achieve during End Point Assessment (EPA) the resit cost must be paid by the employer; the college will not pay for resits of EPA. Should an apprentice or employer refuse to allow EPA to take place the college will charge the employer the lost income attributed to the completion payment.

3.1.6. Workplace Learning (NVQ Only)

NVQs delivered in the workplace are fully funded for those aged 19-23 years old without a first full level 2 (for level 2 aims) or a first full level 3 (for level 3 aims). Functional Skills English and Maths learning aims delivered in the workplace are also fully funded for students of all ages. All other aims in the workplace are delivered on a full cost basis, fees will vary based on the relative size and level of qualification and will be set during the curriculum planning process. The college reserves the right to vary this fee based on volume arrangements with individual employers.

3.1.7. International Students

Students not entitled to “home” fees according to Department for Education (DfE) on a full-time FE programme will be charged £9,975 per year plus the appropriate awarding organisation registration fee. Part-time overseas students will be charged pro-rata.

International students studying a full-time Office for Student (OfS) funded college HE programme will be charged £9,975 per annum; part-time will be charged on a pro-rata basis.

International students requiring additional learning support will be charged £40 per hour for this service.

3.2. Full Cost Recovery Tuition Fees

Full cost recovery courses will be appropriately costed considering teaching and support costs, accreditation costs, premises and overhead costs, and margin.

Any costs related to resitting an exam assessment must be paid in full.

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Full cost course fees will be approved on a course-by-course basis by either the Vice Principal – Quality, Apprenticeships, and Information or the Finance Director.

3.3. Higher Education (HE) Fees

HE fees are based on a charge of £61.88 per credit. For a 2-year course this results in annual charges for first years as follows:

Full-time: £7,425 (Subject to OfS agreement)

Part-time: £61.88 per credit, dependent on number of credits (usually around £3,713)

Fees for second and third years will remain at original levels; based on £61.88 per credit for the duration of the programme. The fee a student is charged in the first full year of a course will be the fee that they are charged for all subsequent years unless the year is only a part year when a reduced fee will apply.

Note that for part-time HE fees Curriculum Directors can request exceptional variations, which should be upwards only, for approval by the Finance Director or Vice Principal – Quality, Apprenticeships, and Information.

The exception to this is the PGCE/Cert Ed in Post Compulsory Education and Training where the charge is £4,500 per annum.

HE fees are inclusive of examination costs.

3.4. Tailored Learning Fees

Fees for Tailored Learning are calculated to cover costs. The fee has already been subsidised in the curriculum planning process. Remitted fees are available for students who are eligible for the college adult bursary scheme.

3.5. Payment of Fees

Published fees usually relate to the full cost of the course, except for full-time and HE provision which both have annual fees.

Fee payment is due at enrolment and all enrolling students will be expected to make payment at that point, unless they qualify for remission of fees (see section 4 below) or if any of the points below apply. Failure to make arrangements for payment within 14 days of enrolment may result in being asked to leave the course until such time as the account is settled.

Payment can be made by cash, cheque, debit card or credit card.

Payment may also be made by direct debit, usually by 4 instalments of which the first instalment must be paid at enrolment.

If a student is being sponsored by an employer, fees can be invoiced to the employer provided the student produces a signed letter from the employer on headed paper at enrolment confirming the arrangement. Employer sponsored student fees must be paid within 14 days of receipt of invoice. If the fee is not received from the employer the student will become liable for the fee.

For courses that qualify for an HE Student Loan or a 19+ Advanced Learner Loan, the loan application should be in place by the start date of the course. The student should bring evidence that the loan is in place when they enrol.

Where a student intends to apply for a HE Student Loan or a 19+ Advanced Learner Loan but has not done so at the point of enrolment, or does not have evidence of the loan, the student will initially be invoiced the full course fee. Confirmation of the loan must then be provided to the college's Finance Department within 4 weeks of the start of the course. If the student does not complete the application process or fails to secure a loan within six weeks of the start of their course the full invoiced amount becomes payable immediately. Failure to pay fees will result in being asked to leave the course until such time as the amount due is settled or alternative arrangements are agreed with the college's Finance Department.

3.6. Fees Flow Chart

A fees flow chart for classroom learning is attached at Appendix 1 of this document.

4. Fee Remission Policy

4.1. FE Courses

The college operates a Fee Remission Policy in line with ESFA fee remission guidance. There are also student support funds to support individual students with payment of tuition and exam fees. Government rules on funding and benefits may change up to the point of enrolment.

A separate ring-fenced bursary fund is also available to provide limited support to students 19+ Advanced Learner Loans.

Details of the support available are documented in the college's Student Bursary and Hardship Policy.

Remission categories are as set out in Appendix 2.

4.2. HE Courses

4.2.1. Full and Part-time Students

There is no remission for HE courses.

4.2.2. Intermitting Students

Students who, in exceptional circumstances and with the permission of the Director of Higher Education, take a break from a HE course will remain on the same fees package and would not fall under any new loan agreement. If they withdraw and then apply to return to the same or a different course, they would then be subject to any new tuition fee loan arrangements.

In the academic year of intermitting, fees will be owed based on 25% in term 1, 50% in term 2 and 100% in term 3. Partial attendance within a term constitutes liability for the whole of that term's fee. Fees will not be applied pro-rata within a term.

5. Amendments to the Fee, Fee Remission and Refund Policy

The college applies tuition fees and fee remission inline with ESFA Funding Rules 2024 to 2025. These rules are subject to change at any time. If the guidance requires changes to the college's Fee, Fee Remission and Refund Policy, the Principal has delegated authority from the Corporation to approve the changes.

6. Refund and Fee Waiver

This element of the policy sets out the circumstances in which unpaid fees may be reduced (a fee waiver) or where fees already paid will be repaid (a refund). Requests for refunds or fee waivers must be made using the form attached at Appendix 3.

- 6.1.** No promises of a full or partial refund or fee waiver may be given by any staff member until agreement has been received from the Finance Director or Vice Principal – Quality, Apprenticeships, and Information.
- 6.2.** Before a request to refund or waive fees to a full-time student can be accepted, the student must have formally withdrawn.
- 6.3.** HE students who withdraw from their course in the first term will be liable for 25% of the fee as per Student Loans Company loans. Students who leave in the second term will be liable for 50% of the fee and leavers in the third term will be liable for the full fee. Partial attendance within a term constitutes liability for the whole of that term's fee. Fee waivers will not be applied pro-rata within a term.
- 6.4.** In the event that the college is unable to run a course for any reason a full refund of all amounts paid shall be made to any individual who had already paid. Where an individual wishes to transfer to a future instance of that course, and wishes to secure their place using the amount already paid, the college may accept the fees paid against the future course instead of being refunded.
- 6.5.** In the event that a student withdraws from the course with 2 weeks or more prior notice before the start of the course, a full refund of all amounts paid shall be made.
- 6.6.** In the event that a student withdraws from the course within 2 weeks of the start of the course 50% of the fees due will be refunded of all amounts paid shall be made.
- 6.7.** Normally the college will not refund or waive fees after the start date of the course. However, the college does have the discretion, in exceptional circumstances, to refund or waive fees on a pro rata basis. This is likely to be because of an extraordinary and unexpected change in personal circumstances that prevents attendance, such as loss of work, long-term illness or recovery from illness, permanent or long-term disability or the need to provide care for an immediate family member due to an unexpected deterioration in their health. Appropriate evidence of such exceptional changes in circumstances must be provided to support requests for a fee waiver. A change in student circumstance is not an automatic reason for a refund or fee waiver. An individual's decision to curtail their studies because of a

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change in heart, subsequent decision to seek employment, or to relocate are not considered to be exceptional circumstances.

- 6.8.** If a student is withdrawn from a course by the college due to conduct reasons no refund shall be due.
- 6.9.** If, once a course has started, a student requests to transfer to a different course with a lower fee, the college will not refund the difference in course fees. However, any additional course fees must be paid.
- 6.10.** Costs incurred on the behalf of the student will not be refunded or pro-rated in any circumstances. All outlay for examination and registration fees, materials fees if bought specifically for that student, plus a £20 administration fee shall be deducted from any fee waiver or refund.
- 6.11.** Where applicable, pro rata refunds or fee waivers will be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Amount due} = \left(\text{Tuition fees} \times \frac{\text{No. of weeks attendance}}{\text{No. of course teaching weeks}} \right) + \text{Exam, Admin Fee \& other costs}$$

For the purpose of the pro-rata calculation the Number of week's attendance is deemed to be the higher of either the number of weeks actually attended or the number of weeks of possible attendance before the student actually notified the college of their intention to leave.

- 6.12.** In the case of refunds the amount due will be deducted from the amount actually paid by the student to determine the refund due to the student.
- 6.13.** Where a fee refund is due because of an error in the amount charged, or if a course is cancelled no administration fee shall be applied. The Provision Coordinator is responsible for submitting a fully completed fee refund form (Appendix 3) to Finance to enable the refund payment to be made.
- 6.14.** Amounts paid for Trips or Visits will be refunded in full if the trip is cancelled unless there was clear notification at the point of booking or payment that deposits paid were non-refundable. Any student who decides to withdraw from a Trip or Visit, or withdraws from the college, will not be entitled to a refund unless their place can be filled by another student. Please see the Trips and Visit Policy for further information regarding Trips and Visits.
- 6.15.** Finance is responsible for checking the student's payment record for any outstanding welfare loans, planned future Discretionary or Bursary Fund payments and expected payments for visits and for making appropriate adjustments before completing a payment of the refund in a timely manner.
- 6.16.** All refunds must be approved by the Finance Director or the Vice Principal – Quality, Apprenticeships, and Information prior to payment being made.
- 6.17.** Refund requests for anything other than student fees should be directed to the Finance Department.

7. Equality and Diversity

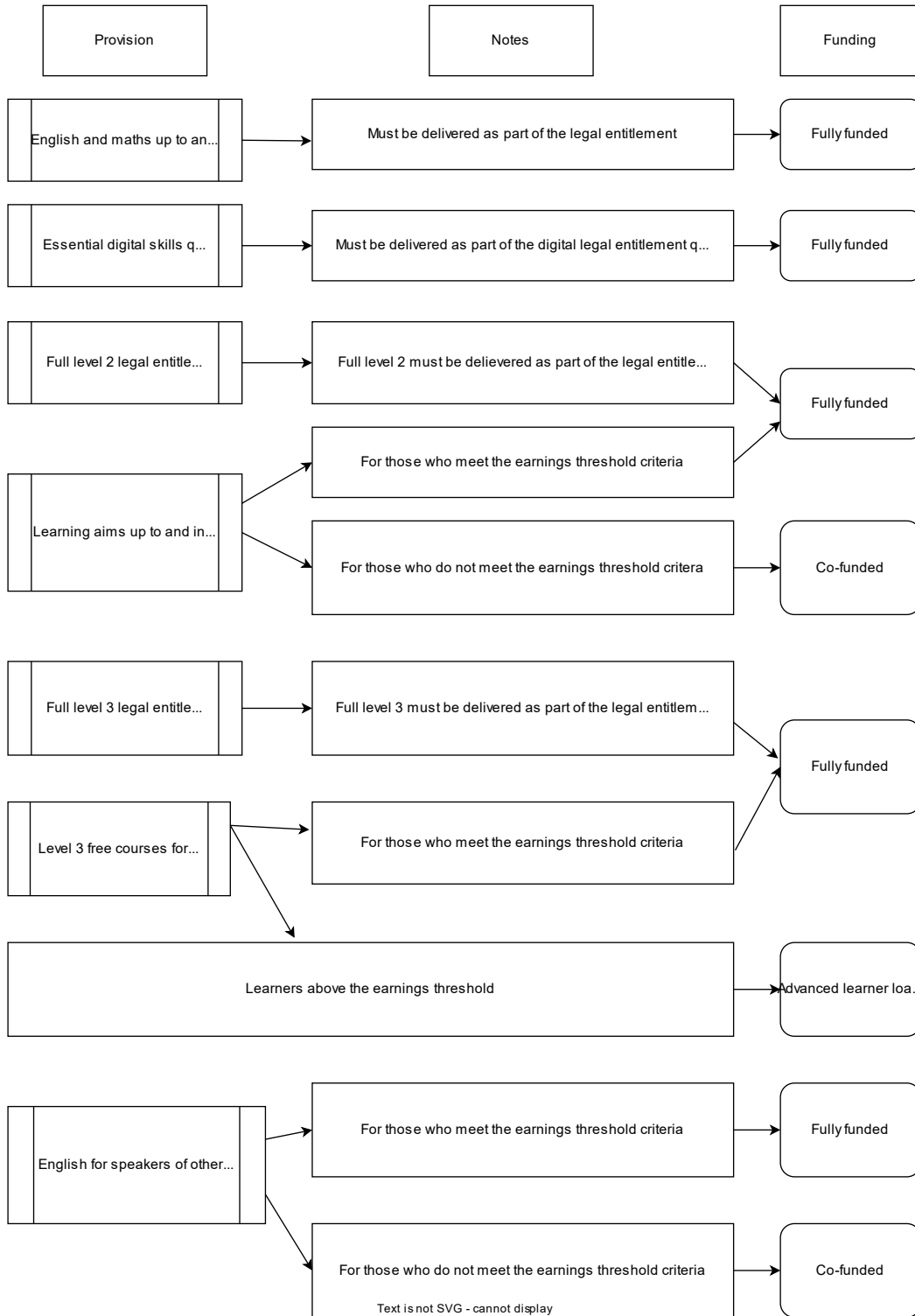
This Policy has been subject to an Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment. All individuals will be treated equally and fairly in the application of this policy. All reasonable requests to accommodate requirements in terms race, age and disability will be accommodated, as long as it is practicable to do so.

8. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 and Data Protection Act 2018

Any and all Personal data collected during the process of taking or refunding payment of fees is subject to GDPR and DPA 2018. See the college's General Data Protection Policy and Privacy Notices: available at www.scg.ac.uk/policies.

Appendix 1 – Fees

Adult Fees 19-23 Years Old



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Adult Fees 24+ Years Old

Provision	Notes	Funding
English and maths up to and i...	Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement	Fully funded
Essential digital skills qual...	Must be delivered as part of the digital legal entitlement q...	Fully funded
Level 2 and learning up to a...	For those who meet the earnings threshold criteria	Fully funded
	For those who do not meet the earnings threshold criteria	Co-funded
Level 3 free courses for jobs...	For those who meet the earnings threshold criteria	Fully funded
	For those who do not meet the earnings threshold criteria	Advanced learner loa...
English for speakers of other...	For those who meet the earnings threshold criteria	Fully funded
	For those who do not meet the earnings threshold criteria <small>Text is not SVG - cannot display</small>	Co-funded

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Appendix 2 - TUITION FEE REMISSION POLICY HOME AND EU STUDENTS – 2024/2025

Remission Type	Remission Categories	2023/2024 Policy	Recommended Policy for 2024/2025	Notes
ESFA	Full-time and part-time students (who are not also studying full-time elsewhere) aged under 19 years on the 31 August in the calendar year when their course commences.	Nil fee; plus voluntary contribution.	Nil fee; plus voluntary contribution.	Statutory requirement and fee remission claimed from ESFA.
ESFA	16-18 students enrolling to Adult Community Learning courses. Must have prior approval from Curriculum Director for appropriateness based on Safeguarding and Health & Safety considerations.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Statutory requirement and fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	Under 16 students enrolling to any college provision and NOT in other statutory education.	Nil fee; plus voluntary contribution.	Nil fee; plus voluntary contribution.	Statutory requirement and fee remission claimed from ESFA
College	Under 16 students enrolling to any college provision whilst also in other statutory education. Must have prior approval from Curriculum Director for appropriateness based on Safeguarding and Health & Safety considerations.	Full Cost Recovery	Full Cost Recovery	Enrolment should be verified by the CL for Safeguarding and H&S purposes.
ESFA	19-23 year old students who do not have a full Level 2 or higher qualification who need the additional step to at Entry Level or Level 1 to enable them to progress to full level 2 in future.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	19-23 year old students studying their first full Level 2 qualification, and enrolled to an eligible aim.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	19-23 year old students studying their first full Level 3 qualification, or jumping to Level 4 without first full level 3 qualification, or a second Level 3 and on benefits or low wage (£25,000), and enrolled to an eligible aim.	Nil fee (19-23 year olds)	Nil fee (19-23 year olds)	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	24+ year old students studying their first full Level 3 qualification, or a second Level 3 and on benefits or low wage (£25,000) and enrolled to an eligible aim within the Free Courses For Jobs.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	24+ year old students studying their first full Level 2 qualification from the legal entitlement list. Funded under Local Flexibilities.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	Unemployed students, enrolling to an aim up to Level 2 to help them enter employment, in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) OR Employment Support Allowance (ESA) OR Universal Credit (UC) earning less than £25,000 annual gross salary.	Nil fee (all 19+)	Nil fee (all 19+)	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	19-23 year old unemployed students, enrolling to an aim at Level 3 or above to help them enter employment, in receipt of Jobseekers' Allowance (JSA) OR Employment Support Allowance (ESA) OR Universal Credit (UC) earning less than £25,000 annual gross salary.	May be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan	May be eligible for an Advanced Learner Loan	Loan facility provided by ESFA and Student Finance England
ESFA	Unemployed/Employed students earning less than £25,000 annual gross salary. Evidence must be provided.	Nil fee (19+ up to Level 2)	Nil fee (19+ up to Level 2)	Fee remission claimed from ESFA

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Remission Type	Remission Categories	2023/2024 Policy	Recommended Policy for 2024/2025	Notes
ESFA/ SFE	19+ students enrolling to an aim at Level 3 or above, where aim is available for an Advanced Learner Loan and is not available as part of the Free Courses for Jobs.	19+ may access an Advanced Learner Loan for Tuition Fee only, other fees are payable at enrolment	19+ may access an Advanced Learner Loan for Tuition Fee only, other fees are payable at enrolment	Loan facility provided by ESFA and Student Finance England
ESFA	Students studying English and maths learning aims at Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 that are part of the approved suite of English and maths qualifications as described in the ESFA's Funding Rules 2024 to 2025.	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
ESFA	GCSE English/maths for all adult students who do not have A* to C or 9 to 4 in the subject already and who will be attending classes i.e. funding is not available for re-sits only. (This does not apply to International GCSE's)	Nil fee	Nil fee	Fee remission claimed from ESFA
College	19+ students enrolling to Tailored Learning courses.	Standard Course Fee Applies	Standard Course Fee Applies or zero fee if eligible for adult bursary.	No cost to the college
College	College staff (where a course is outside normal working hours).	Nil tuition fee, however staff member to pay cost of reg/cert.	Nil tuition fee, however staff member to pay cost of reg/cert.	Marginal cost to the college.
<p>The college reserves the right to charge an appropriate fee to students who enrolled under "remission" status and a change in status puts them into a "non-remitted" category at a later date during their programme.</p> <p>The college reserves the right to waive individual fees at the discretion of the Finance Director or the VP – Quality, Apprenticeships & Information.</p>				

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Appendix 3 - Application for the Refund or Waiver of Fees

Application for the Refund or Waiver of Fees

Please refer to the Fee Policy for guidance on fee rules before completing this form.

Part 1: To be completed by the Student and returned to the Curriculum Director (via Reception).

NAME:	Date of this Refund Application:
Contact Telephone Number:	
Address:	
Student Number:	
Course Title:	Course Ref:
Are you requesting a refund or waiver?	For how much?
Bank Account:	Sort Code:
What is the reason for your request? (Please give as much detail as possible, and attach additional information as required or use additional space overleaf):	
Signature:	Date:

Part 2: To be completed by the Curriculum Director then submitted to the relevant Provision Coordinator.

NAME:	Date of this Review:
Have you confirmed the student & course details above?	
Recommendation (including details of the student's attendance, rationale for recommendation and any other relevant information):	
Signature:	Date:

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Part 3: To be completed by Finance

Confirmation of Amounts Owing as:
Comments:
Finance Name and Signature:
Date:

Part 4: To be completed by Finance Director or VP QA&I

Decision (circle): Approved / Declined
Rationale:
Authoriser's Name and Signature:
Date:

Additional Information

Please use this space for any additional information (or attach to the form):

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Appendix 4 - Process Flow for fee refund and waiver applications

Step 1	Form Completed by Student or Provision Co-ordinator (PC) for Course Closures or Change	Student Request: Name, student number & contact details, date of refund application Course Title & Ref Amount of refund/waiver requested Reasons for refund/waiver Any supporting information attached Form is available from Moodle or Reception	Course Closure or Change: PC completes single top sheet PC prints Bulk Refund from Report Centre Course Sales Team contact each student to inform of change and collect refund/bank details from students if no alternative available
Step 2	Form submitted to Curriculum Director	Either directly or via reception	Course Sales Team submit form to CD
Step 3	Curriculum Director Review	CD to Make a recommendation, including rationale and any relevant background information CD to send forms to Finance	Target: Within 7 days of Step 2
Step 4	Finance Review	Finance confirm amounts owing Finance submit to Finance Director/VP QA&I	Target: Within 14 days of Step 3
Step 5	Finance Director or VP – QA&I Review	Review and approve or reject refund application	Target: Within 7 days of Step 4
Step 6	Decision communicated via Letter to applicant	Standard letter, amended according to circumstances, communicating the decision Sent by the Finance Director Finance Director to advise Finance to process payment or credit note	Target: Within 7 days of Step 5
Step 7	Approvals communicated to Finance	Finance Director to advise Finance to process payment Finance raise payment or credit note	Target: Within 7 days of Step 6