


## FEES POLICY (FE) 2023-24

Policy Review					
Author/Owner	Position	Approved by Corporation	Approval Date	Review Cycle	Published on website Y/N
Donna Short	VP QoE	Signed: 	6 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Annually June 2024	Y

### Document Control – Revision History (Policies only)

Author/Owner	Summary of Changes	Date	Date last reviewed by SED	Version	Recommend to SED Y/N
E Cox	Sections re-ordered by learner age category and content consolidated; Annex 1 removed and readers directed to website information.	06.09.16	-		Y
E Cox/S Pyle	Amendments made to reflect introduction of resource fee and changes to benefits, student loan procedures, HE and Apprenticeship funding criteria.	03.08.17	16.09.16		N
E Cox/S Pyle	Reference to fees for HE learners deleted and contained within separate policy	06.06.18	16.09.16		N
E Cox/J Warren	Amendments made	03.07.19	16.09.16		N
E Cox/J Warren/ A Clancy	Amendments made	15.6.22		v1	N
A Porter	Amendments made	26.06.23		v1.1	

### Initial Equality Impact Screening

Has anyone else been consulted on this policy and/or procedure?

What evidence has been used for this impact screening (e.g. related policies, publications)?

#### Declaration (please tick one statement and indicate any negative impacts)

X I am satisfied that an initial screening has been carried out on this Policy and/or Procedure and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required. There are no specific negative impacts on any of the Protected Characteristics groups.

I recommend that an Equality Impact Assessment is required by the Equality and Diversity group, as possible negative impacts have been identified for one or more of the Protected Characteristics groups as follows:

- Age
- Disability
- Gender Reassignment
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual orientation
- Marriage & civil partnership
- Pregnancy & maternity

Completed by: Donna Short Position: VP QofE Date: 28.06.23

Reviewed by Equality & Diversity Group: YES/NO If Yes: Date:

I confirm that any recommended amendments have been made

## PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

This policy details how Yeovil College will establish fee levels for courses from Entry level to Level 3 funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and those courses where the college receives no government funding which are referred to as “Full Cost” provision. This policy details the circumstances in which fees are chargeable by the college for provision of services and also details financial support available to learners.

### 1. SCOPE

- 1.1. The details of the intended course fees for 2023-24 are set out below; the Fees Policy is reviewed annually and fees will increase appropriately.
- 1.2. The Fees Policy does not apply to commercial, partnership or subcontracted provision, which is negotiated separately.
- 1.3. All applicable fees must be paid when enrolling onto the course. For full time further education courses, fees are payable at the start of each academic year.
- 1.4. The college may, at its discretion, vary fees and charges in line with market conditions and special initiatives. Variations can only be authorised by the Vice Principal Finance & Resources.

### 2. GENERAL FEES

- 2.1 Full Cost Fees: the college reserves the right to charge premium fees on individual programmes where market demand and/or cost justifies (within the appropriate funding body parameters) and similarly to reduce/waive fees in exceptional circumstances. Authorisation must be obtained from the relevant Curriculum Area Manager
- 2.2 Awarding Body Registration, Examination Entry and Certification Fees: will be charged at the time a learner enrolls. These fees are non-refundable.
- 2.3 Other charges: may apply to individual courses and will be identified separately. These are not refundable.
- 2.4 Tuition Fees: the full course fee (regardless of duration) must be paid at enrolment. Tuition fees may be waived as outlined in the following sections.

### **3. LEARNERS AGED UNDER 16**

- 3.1 Individual learners under the age of 16 for whom no approval for funding has been given and who seek to enrol on a college course will normally require a letter of support from their school or educational psychologist. The school (i.e. the Local Authority for maintained schools) or parents will be required to pay a fee based upon the income that the college would have received from the appropriate funding body.
- 3.2 The standard fee for a full time learner in 2023-24 undertaking a study programme will be the full funding rate enhanced by programme cost weightings. Where appropriate, weekly, daily and hourly rates will be calculated pro-rata to the total planned hours for the programme. Any additional costs which may be incurred over and above a normal programme will be charged in addition to the basic fee rate.
- 3.3 Some Key Stage 4 pupils will be attending Yeovil College on a part time basis (and in a minority of cases on a full time basis) as part of our partnership with local secondary schools and the alternative provision programme. The funding for these learners will either be direct from the school or other referring agency or through the alternative provision programme.
- 3.4 Under no circumstances should a learner under 16 years of age be enrolled on to any course, during school hours, without the approval of the Vice Principal Quality of Education.
- 3.5 Learners under 16 wishing to join a non-subsidised course must pay the full cost of the course along with a parent/guardian who would also have to pay and attend the course. Permission must also be obtained from the appropriate Curriculum Area Manager.

### **4 FEES FOR LEARNERS AGED 16-18**

- 4.1 Tuition fees, materials, examination and registration fees are not generally chargeable to 16–18 year old learners as defined in the ESFA's funding guidance. The exceptions to this are where the equipment purchased will belong to the learner (e.g. knives for catering learners) or where additional courses are being offered that are not directly funded by the ESFA. Fees can generally be charged to 16-18 year old learners undertaking non-ESFA funded courses. The 16-18 age category relates to the age of the learner as at the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the appropriate academic year and therefore a learner who commences a two year learning aim at the age of 18 will not be liable to pay fees when they enrol on to their second year (aged 19).
- 4.2 16-18 year old learners that are enrolled on a programme of study at another college or school should not enrol on single subjects at the College. The ESFA expects that these learners are enrolled onto all subjects at their school.

### **5. ADULT LEARNERS (19+) STUDYING FURTHER EDUCATION COURSES**

- 5.1 Adult co-funded learners enrolling onto courses at Yeovil College will be charged tuition, examinations, materials and certification fees as appropriate at enrolment. Learners are deemed to be classified as adults if they are aged 19 or over on the 31<sup>st</sup> August of the academic year of the start date of their learning aim.
- 5.2 The following adult learner classifications may be eligible for tuition and examinations fee remission (i.e. eligible for full funding) depending on the qualification, prior attainment and circumstances as below. Evidence of eligibility must be provided at enrolment. Where a learner is unable to provide evidence they will only be enrolled if they agree to be invoiced for the full course fee and remain liable until evidence is produced. Where evidence is subsequently produced, any payments made will be refunded to the learner.

- 5.3 Learners aged 19 or older at the start of their course are defined as unemployed if one or more of the following apply:
- 5.3.1 In receipt of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), including receiving National Insurance credits only;
  - 5.3.2 In receipt of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA);
  - 5.3.3 In receipt of Universal Credit (UC) and their take-home pay as recorded on their Universal Credit statement (disregarding UC payments and other benefits) is less than £617 a month (sole adult benefit claim) or £988 a month (joint benefit claim with partner).
  - 5.3.4 Evidence of eligibility must be provided at enrolment and dated within three months of the learner's learning start date. Evidence may include a letter of confirmation from Jobcentre Plus, Universal Credit Statement or a bank statement indicating that the payment has been made into the learner's bank account.
  - 5.3.5 Learners who are released on temporary licence (RoTL) and studying outside a prison environment and not funded by the Ministry of Justice.
  - 5.3.6 Learners in receipt of low wage studying at level 2 or below who would be eligible for co-funding and earn less than £20,319 annual gross salary. Evidence of eligibility must be provided at enrolment and dated within three months of the learner's learning start date. Evidence may include a wage slip, Universal Credit statement or a current employment contract which states gross monthly/annual wages.
  - 5.3.7 Receives another state benefit not listed above, is studying at level 2 or below to progress into more sustainable employment and their take-home pay (disregarding UC payments and other benefits) is less than £617 a month (sole adult benefit claim) or £988 a month (joint benefit claim with partner).
- 5.4 Learners aged 19+ that are enrolling onto either a functional skill or GCSE qualification in English or maths where the learner has not previously attained a grade 9 – 4 (A\* - C).
- 5.5 Learners aged 19-23 enrolling onto an entry or level 1 qualification (excluding English or maths) in order to progress to their first full level 2 qualification.
- 5.6 Learners aged 19-23 enrolling on either their first full level 2 or first full level 3 qualification.
- 5.7 Learners aged 19+ enrolling on a qualification from the level 3 free courses for jobs offer who do not hold a full level 3 (or above) qualification or have not achieved a qualification available through the level 3 adult offer, unless that qualification is a short qualification.
- The ESFA funds eligible learners to take one short qualification, followed by one further qualification in the level 3 adult offer, without exhausting their eligibility.
- 5.8 Learners aged 19+ enrolling on a qualification from the level 3 free courses for jobs offer who are either classified as unemployed or in receipt of low wage and earn less than £20,319 annual gross salary and:

- already have an existing full level 3 qualification or higher, or have achieved any other qualification included in the level 3 adult offer qualifications list or
- have achieved a short qualification from the level 3 adult offer.

## **6. FEES FOR LEARNERS AGED 19+ STUDYING BELOW LEVEL 3**

- 6.1 For learners aged 19+ at the start of their course studying at level 3 or below who do not fall within a category within section 5, the fee for full time ESFA funded courses in 2023-24 will be dependent on the qualification studied and is payable at enrolment.
- 6.2 For part time ESFA funded learners that do not fall within a category within section 5, the tuition fee will be set at 50% of the ESFA's unweighted funding rate.

## **7. FEES FOR LEARNERS AGED 19+ STUDYING LEVEL 3 AND ABOVE**

- 7.1 Learners aged 19-23 enrolling on their first full level 3 qualification may be eligible for fee remission dependant on the learner's self-declaration and review of their previous qualifications.
- 7.2 Unless 5.8 above applies, learners aged 19-23 who already hold a full level 3 qualification can apply for an advanced learning loan to cover their course fees; fees will not be remitted for this category of learner. Learners do not have to apply for a loan and can pay the course fees themselves.
- 7.3 Unless 5.7 or 5.8 above apply, all employed or unemployed 24+ learners enrolling onto a level 3 qualification may apply for an advanced learning loan to cover their course fees; fees will not be remitted for this category of learner.
- 7.4 The fees for advanced learning loans learners will not exceed the weighted funding rate unless approved by the Vice Principal Finance & Resources (the approved loan value cannot exceed the weighted rate. Any difference would need to be paid by the learner). For more information on Advanced Learning Loans please refer to the ESFA's 'Advanced Learner Loans funding rules 2023 to 2024' webpage (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advanced-learner-loans-funding-rules-2023-to-2024/advanced-learner-loans-funding-rules-2023-to-2024>) or visit <https://www.gov.uk/advanced-learner-loan/overview>.  
The fee charged will be for the planned duration of the qualification (with fee adjustments for learners that have studied some elements of the learning aim previously e.g. 90 credit/Extended Diploma learning aims).

Learners enrolling on to courses at level 3 and above that require a loan must apply for their loan via the government loans portal before enrolment and provide evidence of the approved loan application at enrolment. The learner is responsible for applying for their loan in advance of enrolling on the course. Where the learner is unable to provide evidence of the approved loan they will only be enrolled if they agree to be invoiced for the full course fee and remain liable until the loan is confirmed. Where loan confirmation is subsequently received, any payments made will be refunded to the learner.

## **8. INTERNATIONAL FE LEARNERS**

International learners are generally non UK/EEA nationals and those learners who have not been resident in the EEA for 3 years prior to the start of the course or are nationals from outside of this area with "Permanent Leave to Remain" without restriction. Non EEA or Swiss Nationals require Immigration Sponsorship and a Certificate of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) from Yeovil College to present to the UK Border Agency (UKBA) as part of the entry requirements to the UK. Detailed information can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas>.

All international FE learners are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of £1000 when their application offer has been approved.

International Higher Education learners are required to pay a non-refundable fee of £1000 prior to the confirmation of a place and provision of a CAS to progress a visa application. The costs associated with the learner attaining an appropriate Student Visa for entry into the United Kingdom will be carried by the learner. More information on these costs can be located at <https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas>

It must be noted that learners from outside the EEA who do not hold “Permanent Leave to Remain” can only apply for Full-time Further and Higher Education programmes which are 15 hours per week of in-class study (or greater). The programme must be for a general duration of over 1 academic year (depending on circumstances). Applicants must also demonstrate the appropriate English Language qualification to meet UK Visa and Course entry requirements – which are specified in course details, but equates to a minimum of IELTS 6.0/6.5.

- 8.1 The learner must have the necessary finances as detailed in Yeovil College’s Tier 4 Points Based System Policy Guidance. This must be open to demonstration at the time of application for sponsorship through Tier 4 licence procedures.
- 8.2 The Full Time Further Education course fees for 2023-24 are £8,500 for each year.
- 8.3 A deposit of 50% is required upon acceptance of an offer of a place for both Full & Part Time FE. The remainder of the fee must be paid prior to the commencement of the course unless the learner enters into an instalment agreement with the college. Refer to Section 11.
- 8.4 The Part Time Further Education course fees for 2023-24 will be based on the number of hours taught.
- 8.5 All fees paid are non-refundable, unless entry to the UK is denied. In such cases 95% of the learner’s deposit will be refunded.
- 8.6 If additional learning support is required, this will be charged in addition to the international fee above.
- 8.7 All Higher Education course fees both direct and non-direct are listed on the College website. A deposit of 50% is required upon acceptance of an offer of a place for Full time HE provision. The remainder of the fee must be paid prior to the commencement of the course unless the learner enters into an instalment agreement with the college. Refer to Section 11.
- 8.8 For further information on international learner conditions and procedures, please contact the Student & Customer Services Team.

## 9. SUPPORT WITH COSTS

- 9.1 Bursary Support Funds are available to support students who are assessed as being in need of financial assistance on either full or part time funded courses. Please refer to our Student Support Funds Policy.

## 10. OTHER

- 10.1 Apprenticeships: In May 2017, the government reformed the way that employers contribute to the funding of apprenticeship provision, employers will now contribute to funding apprenticeships from their main levy pot if they have an annual wage bill greater than £3m or contribute 5% to apprenticeship funding (from April 2019) if they have 50+ employees and an annual wage bill of less than £3m, employers with less than 50 employees and an annual wage bill of less than £3m **who have an apprentice aged 16-18** will have the 5% contribution waived.

Employers that are interested in exploring apprentice options with Yeovil College should contact the Employer Engagement team directly.

- 10.2 Full Cost Recovery Courses: these should be fully costed and make a contribution to overheads plus a surplus in accordance with the current Employer Engagement fee paying guidelines.
- 10.3 Late starters: these learners should be charged the full fee if they start after the course has commenced.
- 10.4 External Candidates: an administration charge of £150 in addition to the exam fees will be made to any candidate whom the college enters for an examination and who is not a registered learner of the college. Where the costs of providing exam centre services exceeds £150, additional charges may be made to the learner. The college reserves the right to refuse any such entry.
- 10.5 The college reserves the right to vary any fee levels to enable it to respond to exceptional circumstances, individually negotiated contract opportunities, or market conditions.

## 11. PAYMENT OPTIONS

- 11.1 All appropriate fees must be paid at enrolment. However, to assist learners who would otherwise suffer financial hardship in paying their fees in one sum, fees over £300 may be paid by instalments.
- 11.2 For learners who opt to pay their course fees by instalments, the first instalment must be paid and all instalment paperwork must be completed and agreed at the time of enrolment. The remaining instalments will be taken over consecutive months by direct debit. All instalment plans will be prepared to ensure fees are settled in full in line with the agreed payment schedule before the end of the course.
- 11.3 If an instalment is declined or cancelled, the full outstanding amount will become payable by the learner. In this instance, the college reserves the right to withdraw the learner from the course if applicable.
- 11.4 Payment options are not available to companies/sponsors, or for course fees under £300.
- 11.5 Where payment is made by instalments, and a learner has started the course then withdraws before the whole fee has been collected, any amounts outstanding remain payable and will be collected by the College. If an advanced learning loan application is successful and the learner later withdraws from their course, the learner will become liable to the college for all fees outstanding. For HE courses, see HE Fees Policy for further information on liability.
- 11.6 The College will pursue all debts owed to them and utilises the services of a debt collection agency where necessary. Intervention of a debt collection agency may affect a learner's credit rating.

## 12. REFUND POLICY

- 12.1 If the College cancels a course, we will contact the learner and automatically refund the fees paid by the learner for the course by the original payment method.
- 12.2 If a learner withdraws due to a serious medical condition or other exceptional circumstances, the student must write to the Head of Finance attaching a medical certificate or other supporting documentation as evidence. Requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.
- 12.3 If a learner withdraws before the course start date or does not attend the course in the first 28 days, they **may** be eligible for a refund of fees proportionate to the length of the study

programme excluding registration and exam fees. Requests will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- 12.4 Learners in receipt of an advanced learning loan who withdraw before the end of the course are liable to pay all outstanding fees as the loan only covers the period the learner has confirmed to be in attendance.
- 12.5 Due to the short duration of Just for fun, First Steps, Next Steps and Further Steps courses, (Night school) these course fees are non refundable unless the college cancels the course.
- 12.6 Where an application for a refund is declined by the Head of Finance, the Head of Finance will advise the learner directly.
- 12.7 If a learner wishes to appeal, they must write to the Vice Principal Finance & Resources within 14 days of receipt of notification of the refund refusal.

## **RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY**

All staff enrolling learners onto courses are responsible for ensuring that all fees, remissions or discounts are applied in accordance with this policy.

## **RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES, DOCUMENTS, DEFINITIONS**

This policy must be applied in conjunction with the procedures that set out fees and rates for the current year and are updated annually.

The following documents should be read in conjunction with this policy:

- Customer Service Policy (Handling complaints)
- Financial Regulations
- Admissions Policy
- Student Support Funds Policy



## OTHER CHARGES

Fee Type	Amount	Scope – Courses	Scope – Learners
Exam Fee	Awarding Body Fee + 10%	Courses with Exams + Registration/ Certification	All learners (excluding 16-18, 19+ FT and Skills for Life)
Exam Re-sit Fee	Variable + 10%	Applies to all courses	Applies to all learners
Exam Fee - Private Candidates	Variable	Applies to all courses	Applies to private candidates
Specialist course materials/kit fees and charges (no refund)	Variable	Variable	All learners, including those entitled to fee remission