Fees Policy 2026-27

This is a B&FC Group policy

Date approved: 2 June 2026
Approved by: Corporation Board
Responsible Manager (s): Director of Registry
Executive Lead: Chief Operating Officer

Applicable to employees:	Yes
Applicable to students and apprentices:	Yes
Accessible to students and apprentices:	Yes
Accessible to general public: (including clients)	Yes

Consultation

Consultation undertaken with:		Date:
• Cross College Leadership Team	~~Yes~~/No*	XXX
• Academic Management Team	~~Yes~~/No*	XXX
• Other – please state	NA*	

Policy review frequency, normally: annually

Contents

1. Purpose & Scope

Blackpool and The Fylde College's (B&FC Group's) Governing Body has the responsibility for setting the policy which determines tuition fees and other fees payable to B&FC Group.

The College Executive sets the actual fees which are payable and it does so operating within the framework set by the Governing Body. The purpose of this policy is to clearly articulate the approach to charging of fees for the different cohorts of learners provided fo by B&FC group. The policy is applicable to all learners register with B&FC Group.

2. Policy Statement

B&FC Group aims to optimise income from tuition fees by adopting a market-driven approach to fee levels but will also, on a case by case basis, take into account the individual student's ability to pay those fees.

This Fees Policy will always operate in accordance with direction or guidance published by the government's funding agencies or any other regulatory body empowered to influence further education policy (see Section 7).

Fees are collectable from, or on behalf of, all students enrolled at B&FC Group. Fee remission will be offered to students who are eligible according to Department for Education funding rules. In exceptional circumstances, fees may be waived by the Chief Operating Officer (COO) or by one of the following operating on behalf of the COO: the Director of Registry, the Director of Operational Finance or the Head of Management Information & Funding.

As far as possible, within available resources, and aligned with B&FC Group's policies for inclusion, students will not be denied access to the College for financial reasons.

Where the award of a grant supports the teaching/learning activity, the terms of that grant will take precedence if different from the policy principles.

These principles extend to all areas of charging for teaching and related services.

3. Setting Fees

Tuition fees for 16 to 18 year old students (per DfE funding definition) are aligned with published weighted national rates which are fully funded by the Department for Education (DfE). Therefore no tuition fees are payable by the student. There may be charges for other equipment or course trips.

Adult fees for FE courses are aligned with both DfE published Funding Rates (on the [Find a Learning Aim] site) and the Lancashire County Combined Authority (LCCA) regulations. Adult FE fees will usually be 100% of the weighted funded rate. However, B&FC Group will also consider market conditions and College strategy, DfE or LCCA funding regulations and the cost of running the course.

Adult students who are fully funded by the DfE in accordance with the Adult Skills Funding Rules (see Section 7) will pay no fees and tuition costs will be covered by B&FC Group's contract with the DfE or LCCA.

Adult students who are partially funded (co-funded) by the DfE or LCCA according to the Adult Skills or LCCA Funding Rules (see Section 7), will pay a fee set by B&FC calculated as 50% of the unweighted National Funding Rate for the learning aim to which they enrol (per fees published on the Find a Learning Aim site).

Eligibility for funding (full or co-funding) is dependent on both the student's circumstances and the course type to which they enrol. Full details can be found in the funding rules at the foot of this page or see Table at Appendix A for a summary of current guidance as to eligibility of students to be fully funded, co-funded or unfunded.

Note

- Where unemployment forms part of the criteria for funding, the definition is per the funding rules of DfE or LCCA depending on circumstances
- rules and thresholds are subject to change according to government and DWP policy

Where a course lasts for two or more academic years, the tuition fee may be charged annually or up front and in full. The fee payable will be applicable for the duration of the course and indicative fees for future years may be given but these are subject to change unless the student pays up front.

Adults enrolling to courses at level 3 or above who are not funded in any alternative manner have the option of applying for an Advanced Learner Loan (where the course is loans fundable according to the Find a Learning Aim site). These students will pay the full fee as published by the DfE.

Students who fail to complete a DfE, LCCA or loans-funded FE programme within the allocated time will not be eligible for further funding. Students wishing to return to complete those studies will be charged subsequent fees.

Tuition fees for apprentices which are payable by employers are set to take account of the expectations of Skills England. Fees will usually be aligned with the top of the agreed funding band for the apprenticeship in question. Note that these band values may change according to Skills England and DfE policy. Any such changes will apply to new starts after the date of change.

Exceptions may be made as a result of negotiations with employers for exceptional cohorts, market competition or specific contracts.

Fees for Higher Education students are determined and published in accordance with B&FC Group's [Higher Education Fees Policy](), approved annually by the Governing Body and aligned to Office for Students requirements (see Section 7). Fee setting takes into account course length, full or part time attendance, mode, additional teaching hours, expected average group size and any other relevant costs. The basic fee payable is determined by B&FC Group based on full or part time attendance and in conjunction with the appropriate validating University, where applicable.

Lifelong Learning Entitlement (from Jan 27)

From January 2027, the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) will create a single funding system to help students pay for college or university HE courses.

Under the LLE, eligible students will be able to access

- A tuition fee loan up to a maximum entitlement of £39,160
- A maintenance loan to cover living costs or additional costs such as childcare

Students will manage their loan balance through a personal LLE account.

B&FC Group will operate LLE fees in accordance with any published rules and regulations and will make such information available to students as and when it is published.

Fees payable by International Students will differ from those payable by home students dependent upon cost and visa conditions. Contact our Admissions Team for details about these fees.

Fees for all other full cost/commercial courses will be set at a level that results in an appropriate contribution to College overheads. Fees will be moderated, where necessary, by comparing proposed fees with competitors and other providers.

4. Collection of Fees

Tuition fees for 16 to 18 year old students (per DfE funding rules definitions) are collected through the College funding agreement with the DfE, providing conditions of funding (see Section 7) are met.

Eligible fees for adults studying FE courses will be collected through the College funding agreement with the DfE. Student contributions may be required depending on the individual status of the student. More information can be found in the Adult Skills Funding rules (see Section 7).

Fees of less than £200 which are payable by individual students will be due in full on enrolment or in accordance with an agreed payment plan. Payment plans must be paid in full within 1 month of course completion. Payment plans will usually be

Fees £ 200 - £ 499	33% deposit + 2 monthly instalments of 33% each
Fees £ 500 - £ 799	25% deposit + 3 monthly instalments of 25% each
Fees £ 800 - £ 999	20% deposit + 4 monthly instalments of 20% each
Fees £1000 - £2999	16.6% deposit + 5 monthly instalments of 16.6% each
Fees £3000 - £4999	14.3% deposit + 6 monthly instalments of 14.3% each

Fees £5000+	12.5% deposit + 7 monthly instalments of 12.5% each

Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis by the Chief Operating Officer (COO) or by one of the following operating on behalf of the COO: the Director of Registry, the Director of Operational Finance or the Head of Management Information & Funding

Fees funded through students loans (Higher Education and Further Education) will be collected in accordance with the prevailing rules and regulations (see Section 7). Students who apply or intend to apply for a loan will be required to set up an instalment plan aligned to the following until the loan is confirmed:

Fees £ 300 - £ 499	3 monthly instalments of 33% each payable by direct debit
Fees £ 500 - £ 799	4 monthly instalments of 25% each payable by direct debit
Fees £ 800 - £ 999	5 monthly instalments of 20% each payable by direct debit
Fees £1000 - £2999	6 monthly instalments of 16.6% each payable by direct debit
Fees £3000 - £4999	7 monthly instalments of 14.3% each payable by direct debit
Fees £5000+	8 monthly instalments of 12.5% each payable by direct debit

Students who apply for a loan which is not approved by the Student Loans Company will be required to pay using the instalment plan in place.

Students who opt to take a loan for less than the full course cost will be required to pay the difference either in full or by an agreed instalment plan set up at enrolment.

Fees payable by employers, including those for apprenticeships where the employer does not pay the Growth and Skills Levy (previously the Apprenticeship Levy) will be invoiced and are payable in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions outlined in the relevant contract. Collection of 5% of the full fee will be directly from the employer via the normal College invoicing system. Credit (as a proportion of the 5% payment) will be issued for withdrawals, breaks in learning and changes of employer.

Apprenticeship fees for employers who pay the Growth and Skills Levy (previously the Apprenticeship Levy) will be charged the full fee through their levy account, the amount due to the College being paid monthly in arrears by the DfE. Credit (as a proportion of the full payment) will be issued for withdrawals, breaks in learning and changes of employer.

Other apprenticeship fees will be collected from the DfE under B&FC Group's funding agreement with them.

5. Early Withdrawals

Following student withdrawals, fees collected via Funding Agreements with the DfE, LCCA, Office for Students or loans companies will be subject to refund, or otherwise, in accordance with their prevailing funding rules (see Section 7).

For all other fees paid by students or sponsors, refunds will be considered in accordance with B&FC Group's Refund Policy.

6. Non-Payment of Fees

B&FC Group will endeavour to collect all fees receivable.

Where a student chooses not to pay their tuition fee, B&FC Group reserves the right to take appropriate action. This may include removal of access to classes, suspension from studies, withdrawal from programme, refusing enrolment to future courses (or future stages of the current programme) and withholding certificates. Full details which apply to Higher Education students are set out in the Higher Education Fees Policy.

Debt collection processes will commence in accordance with B&FC Group's Student Debt Policy and Procedure.

At all times, B&FC will:

- Make available information regarding all sources of finance to all students
- Provide, or signpost, expert advice about the rules which relate to fees and to Advanced Learner Loans
- Make maximum use of student support funds, grants or other bursaries to support students in financial difficulty. The student services team can advise.
- Investigate available sources of finance for tuition fees, exam fees, materials and travel expenses to support students
- Support students by negotiating flexible payments plans where appropriate
- Ensure that application forms for financial assistance are dealt with equitably
- Maintain open lines of communication with students who require support

7. Linked Policies and Procedures

B&FC Policies and Procedures applicable to the academic year in question:

Tuition Fee Payment Policy
Higher Education Tuition Fee Policy 2026-27
International Student Fees Policy 2025-26
Refund Policy
16-19 Financial Support Policy and Procedure (FE Students)
19+ Financial Support Policy (FE Students)
Advanced Learner Loan Financial Support Policy and Procedure (19+ FE Student)

And external policies and regulations relating to the academic year in question:

DfE 16-18 Funding Rules

DfE Adult Skills Funding Rules (LCCA funding rules available on request)

Advanced Learner Loans Funding Rules

Student Finance England Loans Guidance

Office for students fees rules

8. Equality Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment for the 4 strands of Equality, Safeguarding, Health and safety and Sustainability	
Initial Form to be completed with Risk Assessments or as part of a proposal or change to a policy, plan or new way of working	
Title of Activity: Fees Policy 2026-27 Name and title of proposer: Linda Smith – Head of Management Information & Funding	☐New or ☒Revision ***(tick as appropriate)***

Equality and Diversity.
Are there students, apprentices, other customers, community/stakeholders, and/or colleague concerns that the proposed policy, project or change may be discriminatory or have an adverse impact on people with protected characteristics?

A	Students/Apps/Customer	No	If so, how many individuals/which groups are likely to be affected?	
B	Community/stakeholders	No		
C	Colleague	No		

Equality group	Positive impact **High Low None**	Negative impact **High Low None**	Reason / comments for positive impact why it could benefit any /all of the equality groups	Reason /comments for negative impact /what could disadvantage any/ all of the equality groups
Sex	None	None		
Gender reassignment (Male/ female/ Non-binary/ Transgender)	None	None		
Age	None	None		
Race or ethnicity	None	None		
(Disability) Learning difference	None	None		
(Disability) Physical and/or sensory	None	None		
(Disability) Mental health need	None	None		
Sexual Orientation	None	None		
Religion and Belief	None	None		
Marriage and civil partnership	None	None		
Pregnancy and maternity	None	None		
Carers/care experienced	None	None		
Socio Economic deprivation indicators	High	None	Funding rule changes offer more adults on low incomes the opportunity for free training	

What changes or actions do you recommend to improve the service, project, policy, or change to eradicate or minimise the negative impacts identified? None
Who will be responsible for monitoring these actions? N/A

Have students, apprentices/other customers, communities and/or colleagues been consulted in the review / proposed change?

A	Students/Apps/Customers	*No*
B	Community	*No*
C	Colleague	*No*
If yes, who and how many have you involved and how have they been involved?		None – this policy has been a requirement until this year and it continues to serve the need to make available fee information

Safeguarding: Are there any aspects of this proposal which could cause a Student/member of staff/visitor to feel unsafe? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks? What are the benefits?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Health and Safety: Have any risks been identified? If yes, how has this been considered? What are the risks What are the benefits?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Sustainability: Are there expected benefits or impacts on sustainability issues? If yes, how have these been considered?	☐ Yes ☒ No
Evidence: What evidence do you have for your conclusions and expectations for these conclusions? How will this impact be monitored for all these considerations?	Review of complaints or refund appeals
Is this policy of a high/medium or low risk?:	☐High ☐ Medium ☒Low

Appendix 1: Eligibility for Waiving of Fees for Adults studying FE courses

FE Fees and Waivers Table 2026-27

Level Enrolling To	Must be delivered as	Age	Prior Attainment Level	Unemployed, Below earnings threshold (or Under redundancy consultation for LCCA	Above earnings threshold
Any	Any	16-18	Any	Fully Funded	
English and maths Entry Level, Level 1 & 2	Legal Entitlement	19+	No GCSE grade 4(C) or above	Fully Funded	Fully Funded
Essential Digital Skills Entry Level, Level 1	Legal Entitlement	19+	IT Skills below Level 1	Fully Funded	Fully Funded
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) learning Entry Level, Level 1 & 2	Local Flexibility	19+	Any	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
Entry Levels	Local Flexibility	19-23	Below Full Level 2	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
			Full Level 2 or above		
		24+	N/A		
Level 1	Local Flexibility	19-23	Below Full Level 2	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
			Full Level 2 or above		
		24+	N/A		
Level 2 not Full Level 2	Local Flexibility	19-23	Below Full Level 2	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
			Full Level 2 or above		
		24+	N/A		
Full Level 2	Legal Entitlement	19-23	Below Full Level 2	Fully Funded	Fully Funded
			Full Level 2 or above	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
		24+	Below Full Level 2	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
			Full Level 2 or above	Fully Funded	Co-Funded
Full Level 3	Legal Entitlement / Loan Funded	19-23	Below Full Level 3	Fully Funded	Fully Funded
			Full Level 3 or above	Fully Funded	Loan or Self-Funded
		24+	Any	Loan or Self-Funded	Loan or Self-Funded
	Free Courses for Jobs Offer includes any L2 which is included in FC4J offer (Construction, Engineering)	19+	Below Full Level 3	Fully Funded	Fully Funded
			Full Level 3 or above	Fully Funded	Loan or Self-Funded
Level 4 and above FE **not** prescribed HE	Loan Funded	19+	Any	Loan or Self-Funded	Loan or Self-Funded

Earnings threshold may vary - at time of going to print: For courses **up to Level 2** = **£25,750** For **level 3 FCFJ** courses = **£29,431**