

NCG Higher Education Fees Policy



<u>Policy Title</u>	NCG Higher Education Fees Policy
<u>Policy Category</u>	Compliant
<u>Owner</u>	Academic Registrar
<u>Group Executive Lead</u>	Deputy Principal HE
<u>Date Written</u>	May 2022
<u>Considered By</u>	HE Governance Committee
<u>Approved By</u>	Corporation
<u>Date Approved</u>	July 2022
<u>Equality Impact Assessment</u>	The implementation of this policy is not considered to have a negative impact on protected characteristics
<u>Freedom of Information</u>	This document will be publicly available through the Group's Publication Scheme.
<u>Review Date</u>	July 2023
<u>Policy Summary</u>	This policy is to advise of the Higher Education Fees including those for students who withdraw across NCG. This directly links to the approved Access and Participation Plan.

<u>Applicability of Policy</u>	<u>Consultation Undertaken</u>	<u>Applicable To</u>
Newcastle	Yes	Yes
Newcastle 6th Form	No	No
Carlisle	Yes	Yes
Kidderminster	Yes	Yes
Lewisham	No	No
Southwark	Yes	Yes
West Lancashire	No	No
Group Services	Yes	Yes

<u>Changes to Earlier Versions</u>	
	<u>Summarise Changes Made Here</u>
2 nd updated in light of fees agreed in the NCG Access and Participation Plan	
September 2020 Update – Revised review date of February 2021 to bring in line with an annual review cycle. No changes required at this stage.	
December 2020 update – Changes to terminology and inclusion of the withdrawal fees	
May 2022 Update Changes to date written Update the liability point table with 2023-24 term dates All NCG Colleges to charge £9,250 for full time HE programmes from September 2023. The inclusion of international fees within the policy	

<u>Linked Documents</u>	
<u>Document Title</u>	<u>Relevance</u>
None	N/A

Equality Impact Assessment

	Judgement	Explanatory Note if required
EIA 1 - Does the proposed policy/procedure align with the intention of the NCG Mission and EDIB Intent Statement in Section 2?	Yes	
EIA 2 - Does the proposed policy/procedure in any way impact unfairly on any protected characteristics below?		
Age	No	
Disability / Difficulty	No	
Gender Reassignment	No	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No	
Race	No	
Religion or Belief	No	
Sex	No	
Sexual Orientation	No	
EIA3 - Does the proposed policy/processes contain any language/terms/references/ phrasing that could cause offence to any specific groups of people or individuals?	No	
EIA4 - Does the policy/process discriminate or victimise any groups or individuals?	No	
EIA 5 - Does this policy/process positively discriminate against any group of people, or individuals?	No	
EIA 5 - Does this policy/process include any positive action to support underrepresented groups of people, or individuals?	No	
EIA 6 - How do you know that the above is correct?	Consultation with a wide range of peers and appropriate groups of people in the Group.	

1. Introduction

The OfS has approved our fees for 2020-25 as presented in our Access and Participation Plan (<https://www.ncgrp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/NCG-Access-and-Participation-Plan-2020-2025.pdf>).

2. Financial commitment

Where a provider charges a fee above £6,165, they are required to outline within their Access and Participation Plan how they will increase expenditure on improving the equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups to access, succeed in and progress from higher education (the student experience).

NCG has committed to spend 32.6% of our High Fee Income on Access and Participation activities. High fee income is the difference between the basic fee of £6,165 and the fee that is charged within the fee cap £9,250. This percentage is institution-based, as the OfS state:

“We will not set a minimum expected level of expenditure. Our focus will be on the outcomes that providers achieve and the level of the ambition they set, rather than inputs in the form of investment. We will challenge providers’ investment through our assessment of whether we believe their plans to be credible given the level of intended investment”.

3. Full time fee - £9,250

From September 2023 the fee for all full time home fee paying students will be £9,250.

With this higher fee we are also implementing a standard approach to student bursary and student experience expenditure being:

- Targeted WP bursary offer for all full time HE students, which is:
 - £1,000 for students from the lowest participation wards and in receipt of full maintenance loans via SLC.
 - £4,00 for all other students.
 - Access to a hardship fund.
- NCG wide student experience expenditure which is:
 - Student fellowship opportunities appropriate for the size of provision.
 - Committed “Work and Study Ready” guarantee expenditure for L4/5 students.
 - Student scholarships appropriate for the locality and size of provision.

Study ready expenditure is the purchase of core texts for each student. Work ready expenditure is a per capita budget for training, experiences, resources and memberships which enhance NCG graduates employability. Study ready assists students transition in to higher education and is therefore available to L4 students only. Programmes teams have discretion to utilise work ready expenditure at L4 in lieu of study ready based on need of cohort.

NCG fee level by programme type

Programme Type	Fee
Full Time UG programmes	£9,250
Part Time UG programmes	£4,625
Masters with the exception of MBA	£6,000
MBA	£8,250
International Full time UG programmes	£12,000*
International Masters with the exception of MBA	£12,000*
International MBA	£13,000*

*International Scholarships

The above international fees are applied to applicants determined as 'overseas' for fee purposes. International fee payers are eligible for a scholarship of £1,500 for each year of their undergraduate programme and £1,500 for post-graduate programmes. For example, for a full time undergraduate programme the fee is £12,000 and with the £1,500 scholarship applied the total fee due would be £10,500.

4. Withdrawal fee

All students have a 14-day designated cooling off period preceding the start date of their programme. If a student decides to leave within that period they will not incur any tuition fee liability and will be eligible for a refund in full.

All withdrawals after 14 days will incur tuition fee liability, even if a student has not taken the opportunity to attend or engage with the programme.

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If a student cancels any third-party tuition finance such as Student Finance England, this does not constitute formal notification of their intention to withdraw and they will still be liable for any outstanding fees.

All outstanding fees become due immediately upon withdrawal from a course as set out in the table below:

Liability point	Start date	End date	Liability	Refund
Liability pt 0	September 2023*	September 2023*	0%	100%
Liability pt 1	September 2023*	January 2024*	25%	75%
Liability pt 2	January 2024*	April 2024*	50%	50%
Liability pt 3	April 2024*	-	100%	0%

***dates to be confirmed in January 2023**