

FURTHER EDUCATION TUITION FEE POLICY 2026/2027



Scope

- 1 This policy covers the fee structure for adult further education courses. It specifically does not cover:
 - Apprenticeships
These will be negotiated with the employer for each Apprentice
 - Commercial courses
These are covered by a separate Financial Regulation
 - University courses
These are determined in conjunction with the awarding University and Office for Students (OfS) and covered by the BCUC Fee Policy.

Funding Rates 2026/2027

- 2 The minimum fee level for adult (19+) further education courses for 2026/27 is set at the value determined by the Lancashire Combined County Authority (LCCA). In 2026/2027, the base assumption for this would be 50% of the un-weighted rate for the qualification, plus exam/registration fees and course specific charges, however this may vary in particular circumstances.
- 3 Adult learners may be fully funded (no fees payable by the learner) or co-funded (where the learner or employer pays a fee, but also attracts 50% of the funding from the LCCA). Adult learners may also be expected to take out a loan (see paragraph 11). The Free Courses for Jobs (FCFJ) funding may be available to adults undertaking a level 3 qualifications (where qualifications are eligible under FCFJ), allowing adults to get that level of training for free at any age. Tailored Learning funding may also be available for adult students on specific courses.
- 4 The LCCA guidance summarises the fully funded/co-funded funding position of specific learners. Additionally, learners in receipt of a low wage may be eligible for full funding through the earnings threshold mechanism and for 2026/27 this is set at £29,431 for Level 3 and at £25,750 for Level 2 and below. In addition Adults under formal notice of redundancy will be able to access fully-funded provision. Learners who may not be eligible for full funding may be eligible through the College bursary scheme, depending on factors such as their household income.

Other Proposals

- 5 Variation of Fees
There may be exceptional circumstances where it is beneficial to vary the standard charge made for a course below the funding rates. It is not expected that this will be significant, but provision is required to give College senior management the operational authority to do this. It is proposed that any variation of fees requires the written authorisation of the Principal or Deputy Principal. As a general principle, no course fee should be reduced to a nil cost. However, financial support or assistance may be offered to a student on an individual basis.

6 Eligibility for funding

LCCA adults skills funding will only be available to those living in a Lancashire postcode. Fee reduction will be available to learners in line with the standard LCCA guidance for reduction. By using these guidelines, the College will be able to claim funding from the LCCA for any reduction granted.

In addition, the Principal and Deputy Principal will retain discretion on fee reduction for specific considerations.

The bursary scheme will also continue to operate in order to support 19+ learners on an individual basis. In 2026/27 the scheme will continue to be open to all learners wanting to enrol on a further education LCCA funded course.

7 Other Supported Courses

Successful bids for projects may require courses being available at no or reduced charge for tuition fees. In these instances, applications for the variation of standard fees will require the approval of the Principal and Deputy Principal following financial regulations.

8 Bespoke Employer Development courses

Bespoke courses are developed with employers. The charging mechanism for the course will be led and developed separately by the Deputy Principal.

9 Market Related Fees

Where market circumstances dictate, fees higher than standard may be charged, for example, in vocational areas, which have a high cost and again will be dealt with in accordance with the provision for Variation of Fees.

10 Refunds

Refunds shall be given where a course is cancelled by the College, and other exceptional circumstances dependent upon the specific merits of the situation. Clear guidelines are outlined at the point of enrolment, but where necessary future course discounts would be encouraged.

11 Residency

A non UK citizen may be eligible for funding depending on their situation and residency status.

12 Burnley College Staff

The College continues to provide training to its full and part-time staff as part of its Staff Development scheme. This is reported on a regular basis to the Human Resources Committee. Under these arrangements, it is necessary for any impact upon contractual hours to be properly and formally addressed and recorded.

13 Examination Fees

The charging of examination/registration and other fees occurs at the point of enrolment. These charges are covered for those learners who are fully funded.

The College reserves the right to charge students for awarding body examination and resit costs and replacement certificates.

14 Advanced Learner Loans and Lifelong Learning Entitlement

Where an adult learner wants to study a Level 3, 4, 5 or 6 programme, if they are not entitled to their fees being paid, they may be entitled to an Advanced Learner Loan or Lifelong Learning Entitlement to cover the fees associated with the course. The fee will be set at or below the published rate.

Owner	Chief Finance & Operating Officer
Reviewed	Annually
Last Reviewed	June 2026