Tuition Fee Policy 2025/26

Introduction

This Policy aims to set out how the College will:

- adhere to the Department for Education (DfE) funding rules and regulations
- adhere to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) funding rules and regulations
- be clear and transparent with regard to the setting of fees and charges
- be fair and consistent when charging fees to students and employers

This document is intended to act as a reference source and guide for fees, fee waivers, payment arrangements and other charges for the academic year 2025/26. It should be used in conjunction with the latest DfE/LCRCA funding rules which ultimately determine whether a student is eligible to receive funding.

This policy is subject to potential further amendments and clarifications.

The range of people that this Policy applies to are:

- Students funded by the DfE
- Students funded by the LCRCA
- Students funded by the Student Loan Company (SLC)
- Students or employers paying direct

Throughout this policy, reference is made to "home" students. Unless stated differently, "home" is defined as being normally resident for 3 years in the UK, including EU/EEA nationals with "settled status" before 1 January 2021.

16-19 DfE Funded Provision (Includes 19-24 year olds with EHCP)

Learners who are/will be 16, 17 or 18 on the 31st August in the calendar year when they begin a programme of study, and are "home" students are eligible for full funding by the DfE. These students will not be charged tuition or awarding body registration fees.

Students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan), who are aged 19-24 years old on the 31 August in the calendar year when they begin a programme of study, and are "home" students are eligible for full funding by the DfE. These students will not be charged tuition or awarding body registration fees.

Where clothing or equipment is necessary for the student's health or safety, a charge may be made for clothing and equipment that the student retains, but only if the student also has the option of borrowing the clothing or equipment free of charge.

In certain areas students will be encouraged to purchase their own kit, which they can take with them when they leave.

The College may charge for examinations and re-sits when funding criteria are met. A full set of charges rules in relation to 16-19 year old learners can be found in the DfE Funding Guidance for Young People here:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-funding-regulations-for-post-16-provision/advice-funding-rules-for-16-to-19-provision-2025-to-2026

Adult Skills Fund Provision - Classroom based

The devolution of adult skills fund to specified combined authorities and the Mayor of London will apply. The College will be subject to different Adult Skills funding rules dependent on the residency of the learner.

Students who are aged 19 or over on the day they start their qualification and who are "home" students may be eligible for funding by either the DfE or LCRCA, depending on their individual circumstances and the qualification they wish to study.

Adult Skills Funded Provision – resident of LCR (funded by LCRCA)

Learners unless otherwise agreed in writing with the Combined Authority. Learner postcodes can be checked for eligibility at https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council

LCRCA-ASF-funding-rules-2025-to-2026-Version-1-July.pdf

The following is an extract from the Adult Skills Funded provision - management rules funded by the LCRCA:

LCR ASF Contribution Table 1: Learners aged 19 to 23 years

The level of government contribution for LCRCA funded ASF is as follows:

Provision	19 to 23-year-olds	Notes
English and maths for those aged 19 and over, up to and including level 2	Fully funded	Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications
Essential Digital Skills Qualifications up to and including level 1	Fully funded	Must be delivered as part of the Digital legal entitlement qualifications list
First full Level 2 (excluding English & maths and Digital)	Fully funded	All resident eligible learners will be able to access full funding at level 2 and below without the requirement to study statutory entitlements in the first instance.
Learning aims to progress to a full level 2 – up to and including level 1	Fully funded	Must be delivered as entry or level 1 provision from LCRCA Level 2 and below flexibility
LCRCA Level 2 Flexibility	Fully funded	Expands fully funded ASF provision up to and including subsequent level 2 training to all LCR residents aged 19+
Level 3 legal entitlement (learners first full Level 3) other qualifications included in the Level 3 Adult Offer	Fully funded	First full level 3 must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications
Level 3 Adult offer / Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer (all FCFJ aims for 19–23-year-olds will be funded through your ASF allocation)	Fully funded	Learners without a full level 3 or above can access a qualification on the level 3 adult offer qualification list or agreed as a locally approved learning aim. Learners who already hold a level 3 or higher and meet the definition of unemployed or meet the low wage threshold
Level 3 Advanced learner loan	Loan funded	Advanced learner loans Advanced Learner Loan: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – not funded via LCRCA
English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learning up to and including level 2	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed or on a low wage or due to LCRCA specified flexibility otherwise funded through our local Level 2 and below flexibility.
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner has already achieved a first full level 2, or above	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed or on a low wage or due to LCRCA specified flexibility otherwise funded through our local Level 2 and below flexibility

LCR ASF Contribution Table 2: Learners aged 24+ year olds

The level of government contribution for LCRCA funded ASF is as follows:

Provision	24+ year olds	Notes
English and math's, up to and including level 2	Fully funded	Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications list
Essential Digital Skills Qualifications up to and including level 1	Fully funded	Must be delivered as part of the legal entitlement qualifications list
Full Level 2 (excluding English and math's)	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed or on a low wage
Learning to progress to full level 2	Fully funded	For those eligible for their first full level 2 through unemployed or low wage or due to LCRCA Level 2 flexibility
Level 3 Free Courses for Jobs offer	Fully funded	Learners without a full level 3 or above accessing a qualification on the level 3 adult offer qualifications list or agreed as a locally important learning aim. Learners who already hold a level 3 or higher and meet the definition of unemployed or in receipt of a low wage
Level 3 Advanced Learner Loan	Advanced Learning Loan funded	Advanced learner loans Advanced Learner Loan: Overview - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) – not funded via LCRCA
English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) learning up to and including level 2	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed, the LCRCA definition of economically inactive or on a low wage or due to LCRCA specified flexibility
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner **has** already achieved a first full level 2, or above	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed or on a low wage or funded through or local Level 2 and below fully funded flexibility.
Learning aims up to and including level 2, where the learner **has not** achieved a first full level 2, or above	Fully funded	For those eligible through unemployed or on a low wage or due to LCRCA specified flexibility

Kits and Uniforms

Basic kit and uniforms will be made available where applicable. In certain areas students will be encouraged to purchase their own kit, which they can take with them when they leave.

Unemployed status

For funding purposes, we define a Learner as unemployed if one or more of the following apply:

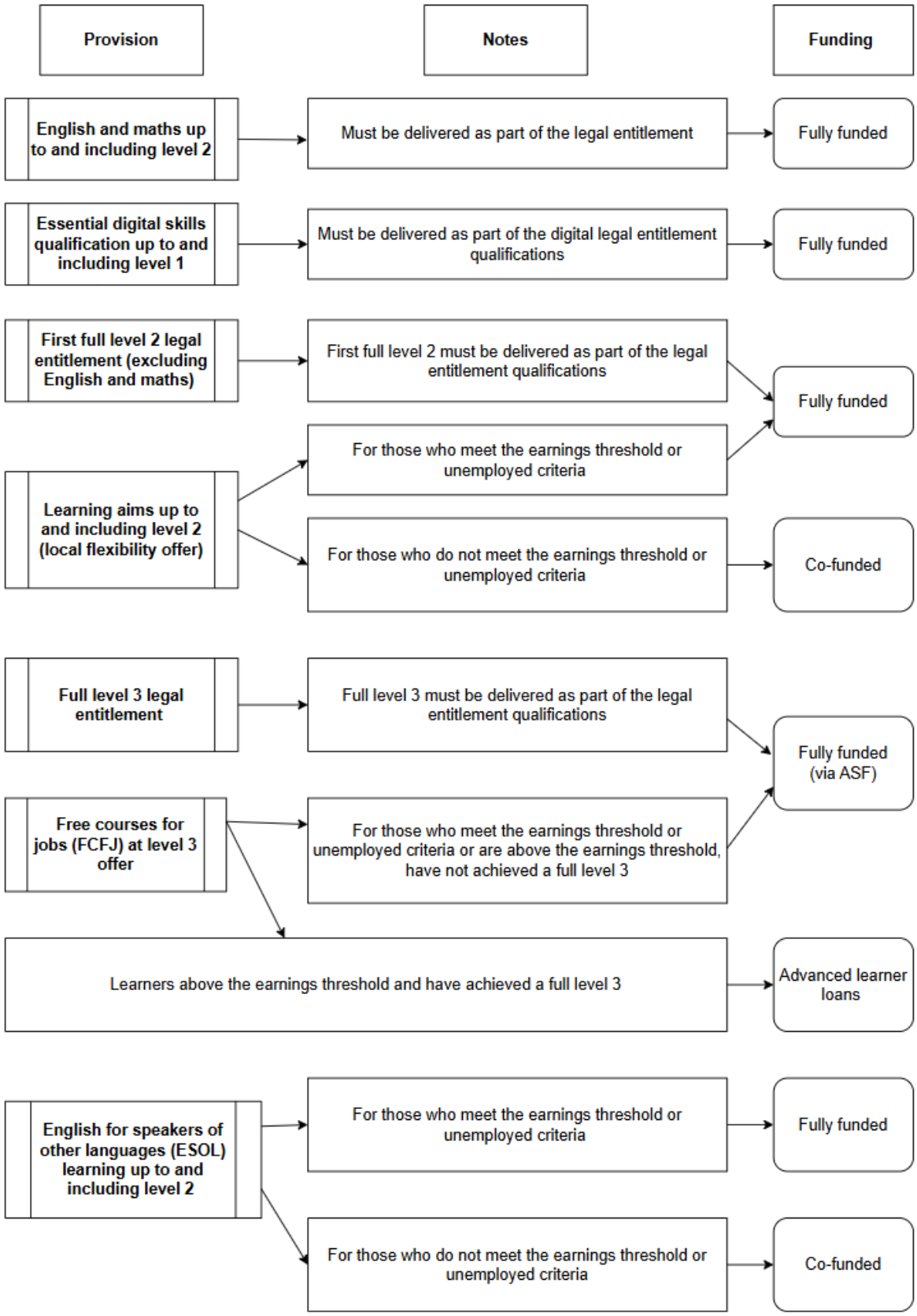
- They receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), including those receiving National Insurance credits only
- They receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- They receive Universal Credit, and their take-home pay as recorded on their Universal Credit statement (disregarding Universal Credit payments and other benefits) is less than £952 a month (and the learner is sole adult in their benefit claim) or £1,534 a month (learner has a joint benefit claim with their partner) which will be updated to align to any revisions made by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
- They are released on temporary licence, studying outside a prison environment, and not funded by the Ministry of Justice

Low wage flexibility referred to must be eligible for co-funding and earns less than £35,864.40 annual gross salary.

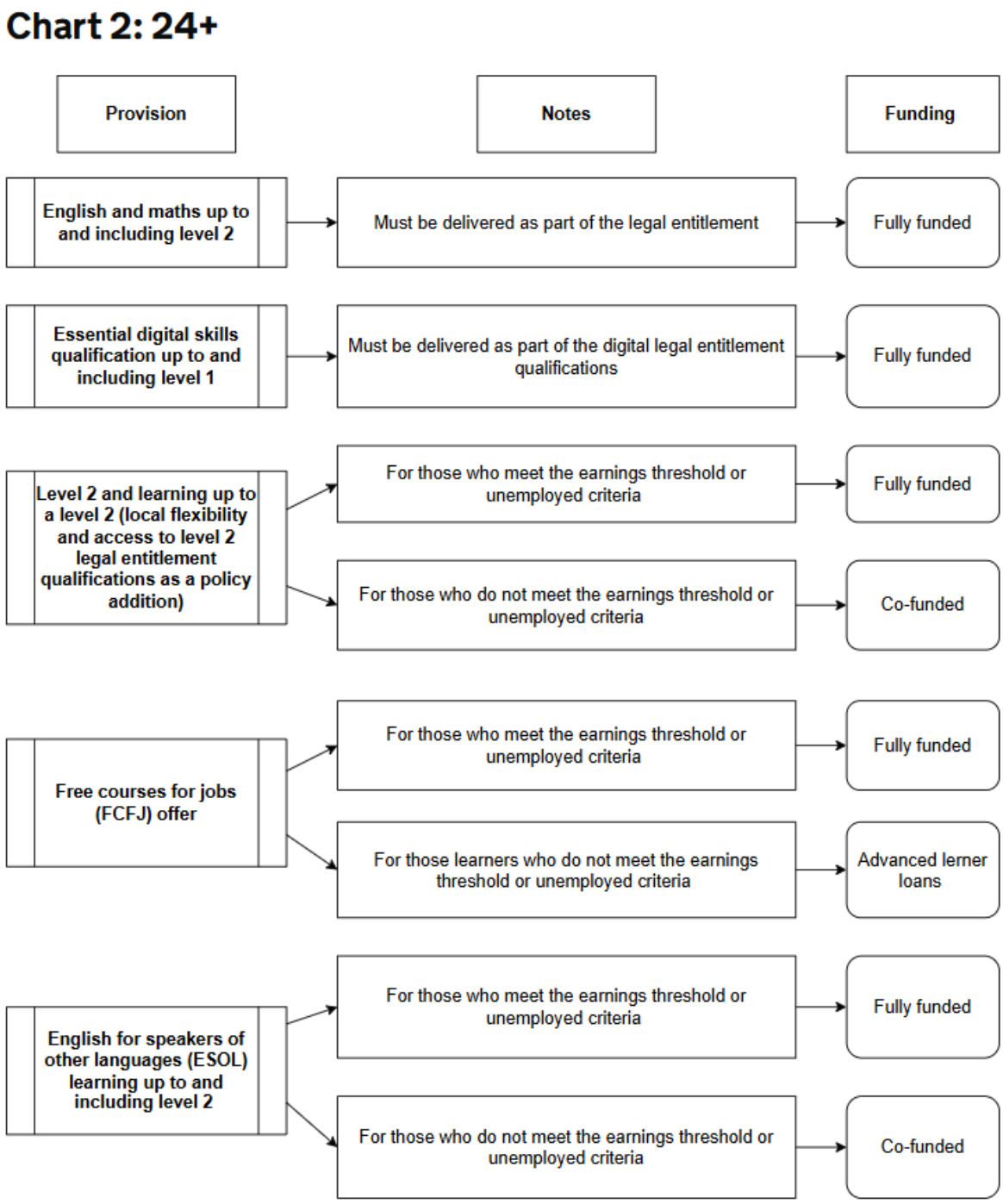
Adult Skills Provision – resident of non-devolved area (funded by DfE)
The following is an extract from the Adult Skills Provision - management rules funded by the DfE:

Government contribution table 1: 19 to 23-year-old years

Chart 1: 19 to 23-year-olds



Government contribution table 2: 24+



A full set of funding rules in relation to 19+ learners can be found in the DfE funding guidance for Adult Skills Fund:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-skills-fund-funding-rules/adult-skills-fund-funding-rules-2025-to-2026

Kits and Uniforms

Basic kit and uniforms will be made available where applicable. In certain areas students will be encouraged to purchase their own kit, which they can take with them when they leave.

Earnings threshold

The DfE will fully fund learners who are unemployed, employed, or self-employed, up to and including level 2 and the level 3 offers, if they earn below £25,750 annual gross salary.

Adult Skills Fund Provision – resident of another devolved area

The College does not have a funding allocation for any other devolved area and therefore any adult learner from a devolved area would be unfunded and subject to a tuition fee.

The LCRCA has an arrangement for Adult Skills Funded Cross Border Learners with Greater Manchester Combined Authority however, this will be included in the main Adult Skills Funded allocation. This reciprocal arrangement does not apply to the National Skills Fund Level 3 Adult offer.

Higher Education fees

The Consumer Protection guidance for HEIs requires that fees must be set and published in good time for the marketing cycle therefore fees for 2026/27 are:

Full-Time Courses	**2025/26**	**2026/27**
BA / BSc (3 years) FT - Year 1	£8,400	£8,618
BA / BSc (3 years) FT - Year 2	£8,400	£8,618
BA / BSc (3 years) FT - Year 3	£8,400	£8,618
BA / BSc Top up (1 year) FT	£8,400	£8,618
Foundation Degrees- Year 1	£8,300	£8,516
Foundation Degrees -Year 2	£8,300	£8,516
HNC	£6,700 (except £7,400 for C&E)	£6,874 (except £7,592 for C&E*)
HND – top up	£6,700 (except £7400 for C&E*)	£6,874 (except £7,592 for C&E*)
HND (2 years) in Games Design / Computing – Year 1	£8,900	£8,900
HND (2 years) in Games Design / Computing – Year 2	N/A	£8,900
PGCE/PGDipE/Certificate in Education FT	£8,450	£8,670

Part-time HE Courses	**2025/26**	**2026/27**
PGCE/PGDipE/Certificate in Education PT - Year 1	£4,200	£4,309
PGCE/PGDipE/Certificate in Education PT- Year 2	£4,200	£4,309
Foundation Degree Dental Technology (3 year) - Year 1	£5,600	£5,746
Foundation Degree Dental Technology (3 year) - Year 2	£5,600	£5,746
Foundation Degree Dental Technology (3 year) - Year 3	£5,600	£5,746
HNC (2 year) - Year 1	£3,350 (except £3,700 for C&E*)	£3,437 (except £3,796 for C&E*)
HNC (2 year) - Year 2	£3,350 (except £3,700 for C&E*)	£3,437 (except £3,796 for C&E*)
BA/BSc Top up (2 years) PT – Year 1	£4,200	£4,309
BA/BSc Top up (2 years) PT – Year 2	£4,200	£4,309

* C&E is Construction and Engineering. The higher rate applies to all programmes in these subject areas only.

HE bursaries are offered subject to eligibility criteria.

In future years we anticipate increasing the fees in line with the annual inflation level (capped at RPI All Items Excluding Mortgage Interest (RPIX)).

For EU students with settled or pre-settled status and Irish citizens, the rate is the same as the Home Fees. The College does not currently offer courses for international students, including those from Europe, who require a visa to study in the UK.

The College does not currently offer courses for international students outside the EU. For students from within the EU, the rate is the same as the Home Fee.

Managing Agents (Indirect Apprenticeships)

	2025/26
Infill	All 2025/26 new starts will be agreed on a case by case basis by the Executive team. It is expected that the Training Provider will pay the College at minimum of 80% of the funding received for the competences being delivered.

Schools Provision

	2025/26
Discrete group (hourly rate)	Schools – Minimum of £200 per hour (plus materials & exams); however, the College reserves the right to negotiate rates with individual schools
Infill (per hour) aged 14-19	Minimum of £14 per hour; however, the College reserves the right to negotiate rates with individual schools
Alternative Provision	As specified in the Alternative Provision contract with Liverpool City Council
Additional learning support	Specific rates to be determined based on students' identified needs.

Other Charges

Other Charges	**2025/26**
Income Generation Activities	Refer to list of fees for specific courses
Additional learning support for students on IG courses	Specific fees to be determined based on students' identified needs.
Adult Safeguarded Learning	Refer to list of fees for specific courses
ID card replacement (staff and students)	£2 (one replacement card per annum provided free of charge)
Instalments Threshold at which payment by instalments is available (subject to terms and conditions)	Course fee in excess of £250 and course duration over 12 weeks
Instalment administration fee	£12.50 +VAT
Private candidates	Examination fee plus administrative fee

Instalment arrangements for students paying their own fees

DfE Funded courses, Income Generation and HE:

Instalment offer is subject to students meeting the terms and conditions.

For enrolments taking place in September on a 1-year course, up to 8 instalments and up to 15 instalments for 2 year courses. The number of instalments decreases depending on the date of enrolment and length of course

First instalment is due at enrolment. See "Student Payment of Course Fees" document for further details

NB: For learners experiencing financial difficulties, it may be possible to make payment arrangements with Financial Services via automated collection from learner's debit / credit cards.

In certain circumstances, the College may remove the option to pay by instalments when there is a risk that non-recovery of fees may result in the course not being financially viable. The Deputy Chief Executive is delegated to approve an amendment where it makes commercial sense to do so.

Apprenticeship Provision

	2025/26
Employer Fees for Apprenticeships (non-levy paying employers)	Employers will be required to pay 5% of the cost of apprenticeship training with the government paying the remaining 95%
Employer Fees for Apprenticeships (levy paying employers)	Employers will be required to pay for the apprenticeship training from their apprenticeship service account
Employer Fees for Apprenticeships (levy paying employers) who do not have enough funds in their apprenticeship service account	Employers will be required to pay 5% of the cost of apprenticeship training with the government paying the remaining 95%

Exemption to the co-investment fee above for employers who do not pay the levy, if at the start of their apprenticeship training, the apprentice is aged between 16 and 21 years old or 22 to 24 with an EHCP. A full set of charges rules in relation to apprenticeships can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6875204b55c4bd0544dcae08/Apprenticeship_funding_rules_2025_to_2026_v2.pdf

Apprenticeship co-investment fees

Employers should be encouraged to pay the full amount up front. Where instalments are requested, the payments will be over 3 instalments over the first academic year. College term dates are available on the website (www.liv-coll.ac.uk)

For apprenticeships which are high value (over £12,000) and 2 years or more in duration, the employer may request additional instalments which will be considered on a case-by-case basis and approved by the Head of Finance.

If a learner withdraws, the College will refund pro rata over the duration of the apprenticeship.

Fee reassessment/refund

Fees are refundable in full if the College cancel the course.

In certain circumstances, students may be eligible for a refund/reassessment of the fee which is documented in the College Fee Reassessment / Refund. The student must complete the Student Application Form and in line with the policy, the College may authorise a refund for a proportionate amount of the tuition fee applicable to the remaining classes of the course which the student will be unable to attend.

A copy of the College Fee Reassessment / Refund procedure is available upon request from the Finance Department.