

Higher Education Tuition Fee Policy

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Table of Contents

Higher Education Tuition Fees Policy	1
General Principles	2
Appendix I	3
Appendix II	4

Higher Education Tuition Fees Policy

This Tuition Fees Policy applies to all higher education programmes delivered at Hugh Baird College.

The College sees its role as vital in offering opportunities for the local community and its further education students to access higher education locally and at an affordable cost and through the operation of its Tuition Fees Policy will encourage access to its courses amongst all sections of the population with ability to benefit.

- The College believes that it is in the interests of both the student (or student's sponsor), and the College, that applicants and students should be notified as early as possible of the total fees due for their courses, including any additional costs, along with the arrangements for payment. Where, for reasons outside the control of the College, there is exceptionally a need to increase fees previously notified to applicants and students, or to impose additional costs, the College will apply the principles below to minimise the impact on students.

Equally, the College believes that students and/or their sponsors are responsible for prompt payment. Defaults on payment are treated seriously and will lead to the application of sanctions. (see point 11)

General Principles

1. The College will set, publish and charge tuition fees for the full duration of the course and the level of tuition fees for the full duration of each course of study will be set and published before the start of the application process. All tuition fees are reviewed annually by the College in line with its published Access and Participation Plan.
2. All costs that relate to items that are essential to complete the course of study will be included in the tuition fees. Costs that relate to items that are not essential to complete the course of study and hence are optional for students are not included in the tuition fees. A list of the essential and optional costs is published on the HBUC website. This will include confirmation or an estimate of each type of optional cost wherever possible.

3. The College will ensure that the Tuition Fees Policy is operated fairly and consistently across the institution.
4. Any proposed increase in fees beyond the published amounts will require the approval of the Full Corporation.
5. Where it is intended to increase fees beyond the amounts previously notified, the College will:
 - notify applicants as early as possible of the increased fees;
 - explain why it is necessary to increase fees;
 - consider carefully any representations made by affected applicants, either as to the amount of the fee increase and/or to the timing of payment of the increased fee;
 - consider any evidence of hardship submitted by applicants and offer assistance where it reasonably can.

The College believes that it is in the interests of both the student (or student's sponsor), and the College, that applicants and students should be notified as early as possible of the total fees due for their courses, including any additional costs, along with the arrangements for payment. Where, for reasons outside the control of the College, there is, exceptionally, a need to increase fees previously notified to applicants and students, or to impose additional costs, the College will apply the principles below to minimise the impact on students.

6. All students will be charged the full published fee for their course. Should a student not complete their course or wish to suspend their study for any reason – such as interruption of study or illness – it is the responsibility of the student to contact Student Finance England with regards to fees payable.
7. College employees taking a programme with an awarding body where a local agreement is in place, may be subject to a reduction in fee. In this instance, information about any reduced fee shall be communicated during the application and enrolment process.
8. The College will ensure the prompt collection of tuition fees. Full details are given in Appendix 1.
9. Any scholarship or bursary scheme run by the College will be subject to separate arrangements and procedures than those contained in this document.
10. When a student completes the enrolment process they become liable for the payment of tuition fees. The College applies a policy of calculating

non-completion charges where students are unable to complete the academic session and withdraw from or suspend their studies. Full details are given in Appendix 1.

11. Where exceptional circumstances force a student to withdraw from a course, which were unknown to the student at the point of enrolment, that student may request a review of the tuition fee charged, and the College may request such documentary or any other evidence as it shall reasonably require. The outcomes arising from this process will be informed after due consideration of the individual circumstances in question.
12. The College adopts a supportive approach to its students with regards to the collection of tuition fees. The College will take steps to obtain the payment of tuition fees and course costs and in doing so will provide assistance to students where reasonable to help them meet their financial obligations. Where necessary and proportionate, the College reserves the right to apply one or more of the following sanctions to any student who defaults:
 - withdrawal of College library and computing facilities
 - termination of enrolment and withdrawal from the College
 - refusal to re-enrol
 - withholding final award certificate
 - denial of attendance at awards ceremonies
 - include relevant details in any reference provided to a third party
12. In deciding what steps to take in respect of the payment of tuition fees and course costs, the College will consider all the circumstances of each affected student's case.
13. In addition to those steps referred to in point 11 above, the College reserves the right to pursue and / or seek recovery of any outstanding tuition fees through the courts. The College also reserves the right to refer students' unpaid accounts to external agencies.
14. Where a sponsor is paying on behalf of the student, the terms are due and payable upon date of invoice.
15. If a student is paying their own fees or where funding is being provided through sponsorship, loan etc. and has yet to be confirmed the student will be sent an invoice in the first semester which includes details of the fees charged, payment dates and a details of how to make their

payments. The student is responsible for making sure that fee payments are made on or before the instalment dates. If the student considers that they should not have received an invoice or that the fees charged are incorrect, they should contact the General Ledger Accountant and Finance Team in the first instance.

16. If a student is paying their own fees they will be invoiced for half of the fees by the end of October and the balance by the end of January.
17. If a third party is paying the student fees they will be invoiced for half of the fees by the end of October and the balance by the end of January.

The College reserves the right to correct administrative errors and recover any shortfall in fees, within the published tuition fee listings for the appropriate academic session.

Appendix I

Collection of Fees following Withdrawal or Interruption to Studies

When a student completes the enrolment process they become liable for payment of tuition fees. Students who decide to permanently withdraw from their course or who are granted an authorised interruption of studies must follow the formal process to withdraw or suspend their studies in order to curtail their continued accrual of fee liability for the relevant registration period. Failure to do so will mean that the student continues to accrue fee liability. The withdrawal date shall be taken as being the date on the **Withdrawal from Study** form or the last the last date of attendance as stated in the College's registers, whichever is the later date.

For a student paying fees by a student loan

1. Should a student withdraw from their study, the proportion of the annual fee that the College will retain and for which the student would be liable for shall be charged on a pro-rata basis as detailed below:

Leaving Date	Proportion of annual fee retained
On or prior to the end of the autumn term	25%
On or prior to the end of the spring term	50%
Any point after the end of the spring term	100%

Note: The cut-off dates stated above match Student Loans Company payment dates;

For a student paying their own fees or having them paid by a sponsor

2. Should a student withdraw from their study, the proportion of the annual fee that the College will retain shall be charged on a pro-rata basis as detailed below:

Leaving Date	Proportion of annual fee retained
On or prior to the end of the semester 1	50%
Any point after the end of semester 1	100%

Appendix II

Cancellation

1. Students will have the statutory right to cancel within 14 days from the date at which the Hugh Baird College enrolment form was signed. Details of this process will be provided within the material information that will be provided to students prior to their course commencing.
2. In the instance of cancellation, the College will reimburse all payments received from the student (or their sponsor) within 14 days from the date of which notice of cancellation was received.
3. Should notice of cancellation be received after the statutory 14 days' period (taken from the date at which the Hugh Baird College enrolment form was signed) then the College reserves the right to collect outstanding fees in line with Appendix I above.

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