

Higher Education Tuition Fees and Academic Related Charges 2024-2025



Revision number:	18
Applicable from:	01/08/2024
Approved by:	Leeds Conservatoire Board
Date of approval:	27 June 2024
Date of next review:	June 2025
Scope of policy (audience):	Staff, students, prospective students
Policyholder:	Student Funding and Accommodation Manager
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Alternative formats:	Large font – on request

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Introduction

Leeds Conservatoire is part of the Luminate Education Group and is registered separately as a publicly funded provider with the Office for Students. This policy applies to all new entrants and continuing students who have completed enrolment and who are studying at Leeds Conservatoire. When a student enrolls on a course at Leeds Conservatoire, they become liable to pay tuition fees, those costs relating to learning and teaching. This policy sets out the tuition fee charging principles of Leeds Conservatoire and it explains how tuition fees will be recalculated from changes in circumstances that may arise during a course of study. Leeds Conservatoire operates under a shared service agreement with Luminate Education Group – see appendix 1 for departmental responsibilities.

Equality Impact Assessment Information

The policy is considered to be neutral in that it will not adversely affect any stakeholders in any of the protected characteristic groups more than any other group. The main impact is an economic one on all students.

Definitions

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)	Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) issued to international applicants who require a Student Visa and current international students who need to extend their Student Visa. The CAS reference number is issued when the applicant or student has fulfilled the necessary requirements.
Enrolment	Enrolment is the process whereby persons enrol with Leeds Conservatoire and provide relevant personal information and payment to become an officially recognised student of the institution.
EU (European) Student – Settled Status	A person who has right to live in the EU without restriction and is in the UK for the purpose of study and has been granted settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme eligible for student funding from Student Loans Company.
Fee status	Can be either Home or International and refers to the level of fee a student pays for their course. The conservatoire will follow government regulations to determine which fee status will apply to a student.
Home Student	A British citizen or a person who has the right to live in the UK without restriction and has been living here for 3 years prior to starting the course. Eligible to apply for full funding from Student Loans Company.
International Student	Does not meet home fee status criteria. Normally a person who has travelled from their country of origin to the UK for the purpose of study and usually requires a Student Visa, not eligible for funding from

	Student Loans Company. Typically, will pay own fees or have a sponsor.
Islands Student	Person who has the right to live in the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and eligible for Home fees and funding from Islands authorities.
Office for Students (OfS)	Independent regulator of Higher Education in England
Student Loans Company (SLC)	A not for profit company in the UK that provides financial support to students in universities and colleges in the UK

Policy

Leeds Conservatoire is committed to providing a fair and transparent fee policy in respect of charges made to students and aims to show:

- How tuition fees are determined and what is included.
- How fee status is calculated
- Payment options
- Tuition fee liability points and how they are set.
- Tuition Fees for early withdrawals, suspensions and repeat year
- How refunds and discounts are applied

Leeds Conservatoire will achieve these aims by:

- Publishing tuition fees on its website and other communications, at the start of each application cycle, subject to formal approval by Leeds Conservatoire Board.

HOW THE TUITION FEE RATES ARE DECIDED

Undergraduate

Home Fee Status - tuition fees are regulated by the Office for Students and there are three categories of enrolment which are linked to access to public funding. Leeds Conservatoire is an "Approved (fee cap)" provider and the tuition fees are capped at £9,250 for 2024.

International Fee Status - tuition fees are unregulated and are determined by market intelligence and recruitment levels.

Postgraduate

Home / International - tuition fees are not capped and are determined by market intelligence and recruitment levels and reviewed annually.

TUITION FEE INCREASES

Tuition fees for Home and Islands students may increase each year in line with inflation (RPIx), subject to maximum fee limits set out in regulations. For International students' fees may increase subject to approval of the Leeds Conservatoire Board. The policy is to set the tuition fee at the relevant rate for the academic year, at the point of entry onto the 3-year undergraduate degree course, and then it will remain fixed for the remainder of the course. The foundation (year 0) of the 4-year course is **not** included in the fixed rate of tuition fee.

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TUITION FEE

All appropriate teaching and services towards your intended award. This depends on the actual course undertaken - see the course descriptions for each programme on our website at:

<https://www.leedsconservatoire.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-study/undergraduate-courses/>

Workshops, masterclasses and visiting speakers/professionals

Library and computing facilities*

Access to practice rooms, studios and performance spaces (determined by your course) *

Equipment and instrument loan (students are expected to have their own main instrument) *

Admissions and course administration

Assessment, validation (the charge that we pay to our validating partner) and graduation (excluding gown hire)

Support, advice and wellbeing services

Careers, employability and Alumni services

Students' Union membership

*In the event that services are unavailable, we will seek to provide a reasonable alternative that enables fulfilment of the learning outcomes.

DETERMINING TUITION FEE STATUS

Students on Higher Education programmes are required to pay the tuition fee appropriate to their programme of study, and according to their status, as a home or international student. Your fee status is determined according to set criteria provided by the Government for each of the four countries of the UK: England, Scotland, Wales, or Northern Ireland.

Publicly funded Higher Education Institutions are permitted to charge "International" rates to students who do not fulfil certain residence and immigration status requirements. The conservatoire has established procedures in place to determine fee status where this is not clear from the initial application. Before your enrolment your fee status will have been assessed as "Home" or "International" and will be indicated on your offer letter.

STUDENTS WITH PREVIOUS EQUIVALENT LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS

Students studying for a second qualification at the same or a lower level are not eligible for public funding, with the exception of those who are eligible for the Disabled Students' Allowance, or those who are undertaking a foundation degree. Leeds Conservatoire will charge the standard home fee to such students but they will not have access to the student funding system so are advised to contact the Student Fees and Funding staff in order to clarify their financial position prior to accepting a place at Leeds Conservatoire.

PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Students cannot be fully enrolled without an acceptable payment method being agreed. All students will be given information regarding acceptable payment methods and instalment options, as part of their joining instructions. These are reviewed from time to time, depending on funding methodologies. Tuition fee payment must be made in GBP £ Sterling.

International students will be required to pay the tuition fee in full before enrolment is completed, with the exception of those providing written evidence of payment by an official government or company sponsor, in which case the payment arrangements will be agreed according to the timing of the receipt of the funds. Those requiring a CAS number to apply for a Student Visa will be required to pay 50% of the tuition fee before the issue of a CAS number, and 50% before completing enrolment. Where the visa application is declined, approved too late, or the applicant does not meet the offer conditions, the amount paid will be refunded, after

deduction of an administration fee of **£200**. International students not requiring a visa will be required to pay in full at or before enrolment, unless otherwise agreed. Any currency conversion or bank charges are the responsibility of the student and cannot be deducted from the fee payable.

Home students: Students who wish to pay via the tuition fee loan system must apply for the loan as soon as possible. If a student has not had their tuition fee loan application approved by the end of October, an invoice will be sent to the student. Students whose tuition fees are being paid directly by a sponsor or third party must provide written evidence of this at or before enrolment. For those that are not in receipt of a tuition fee loan, Leeds Conservatoire may allow tuition fees to be paid in instalments. However, all such students must pay a minimum of 34% of the course fee before enrolment is completed.

TUITION FEE LIABILITY POINTS AND HOW THEY ARE SET

Tuition fee liability determines:

- When the cooling-off periods start
- When you become liable for tuition fees
- How much money you can have back if you leave or suspend your studies.

Liability points are set up in line with the Student Loans Company (SLC) principles of 3 terms. If you're an undergraduate student in receipt of a tuition fee loan, these dates determine:

- When we send attendance confirmations to the SLC
- When you receive your maintenance payments

All fees are subject to liability points, and your financial liability increases during the year.

TUITION FEES AND REFUNDS FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL OR SUSPENSION

Policy for all Undergraduate Home students

Undergraduate students withdrawing or suspending from their course of study will be charged tuition fees based on liability periods in the academic year as follows:

Agreed date of withdrawal/suspension	Fee liability points	Percentage of fee liability
Prior to the start of week 3 of teaching, as indicated on the published academic calendar		Nil
Start of week 3 of teaching, as indicated on the published academic calendar. New students 14 calendar days from the day after you enrol or start of week 3 of as indicated on the published academic calendar, whichever is later	Liability 1 (L1)	25%
From the first day of term following the Christmas vacation as indicated on the published academic calendar.	Liability 2 (L2)	50%
From the first day of term following the Easter Vacation up to the end of the academic year, as indicated on the published academic calendar	Liability 3 (L3)	100%

NB the calendar weeks referred to are listed as teaching/assessment weeks, not the weeks as they appear on the Celcat room booking system.

Definition of withdrawal and suspension dates

The vast majority of home students are funded by the tuition fee loan system and Leeds Conservatoire is required to confirm the attendance of students before each loan instalment is paid. Students are considered to be in attendance and therefore liable for tuition fees until they formally withdraw or suspend from their course of study. Simply not attending does not constitute withdrawal. Withdrawal is clarified in the Student Loans Company's "Student Information Service" service definition:

A withdrawal refers to the point at which scheduled learning, teaching and assessment activities, and other active and on-going engagement ends, in agreement with the provider.

A suspension is by mutual agreement, between the student, Leeds Conservatoire and our validating body, the University of Hull.

Students considering withdrawal or suspension should consult the Funding team for advice regarding the financial consequences, before making a decision. Leeds Conservatoire will confirm that you are enrolled at three points during the academic year (Liability Points) based on the term dates given to the SLC. **Students will need to agree a withdrawal or suspension, and complete and return the relevant documentation on a working day, prior to the first day of the next term, to avoid tuition fee liability for the following term/s.**

This applies to all students in this category, including those who are not in receipt of a tuition fee loan.

Policy for Undergraduate International students

If the student is being funded by an official external organisation on an instalment basis, which has curtailed the funding due to the withdrawal, no further instalments will be payable.

Where an international student has paid a deposit prior to applying for a student visa, but the visa application is subsequently declined or delayed beyond when it would be possible to enrol, the applicant will be entitled to a refund of the deposit, minus an administration fee of **£200** and any bank/currency exchange charges.

Agreed date of withdrawal/suspension	Fee liability points	Percentage of fee liability
From the first day of term as published in the academic calendar.	Liability 1 (L1)	25%
From the first day of term following the Christmas vacation as indicated on the published academic calendar.	Liability 2 (L2)	50%
From the first day of term following the Easter Vacation up to the end of the academic year, as indicated on the published academic calendar.	Liability 3 (L3)	100%

Students will need to agree a withdrawal or suspension, and complete and return the relevant documentation on a working day, prior to the first day of the next term, to avoid tuition fee liability for the following term/s.

Students who change their mind about coming to study at Leeds Conservatoire, or have used their visa to enter the UK, or have started the course and subsequently leave, Leeds Conservatoire reserves the right to retain £1,000 of the total tuition fee payment.

Students affected by exceptional circumstances such as conflict, natural disaster, social/economic unrest, bank closures, currency crashes, health emergency (but not limited to these events) can apply for a fee waiver. Applications will be looked at on a case by case basis and approval and the level of the fee waiver are at the discretion of Leeds Conservatoire. The usual fee waiver will be

25%, however this can be varied, dependent on the circumstances. The highest fee waiver would reduce the fee charged to the standard 'Home' fee.

If the student wishes to request a refund on the grounds of quality, they must follow the complaints procedure to be considered for a refund.

Policy for Home Postgraduate students

Postgraduate courses are delivered over three trimesters and as such, Leeds Conservatoire liability dates reflect this. Trimesters are indicated on the published academic calendar. Students will be charged the appropriate fee up to the end of the trimester in which they withdraw. This is indicated in the table below:

Date of withdrawal (definition as per undergraduates)	Percentage of fee payable
After enrolment and within 1st two weeks of teaching as indicated on published academic calendar or 14 calendar days from the day after you enrolment, whichever is later.	0%
During trimester 1, as indicated on the published academic calendar	33%
During trimester 2, as indicated on the published academic calendar	66%
During trimester 3 (MA only) as indicated on the published academic calendar	100%

If the student wishes to request a refund on the grounds of quality, they must follow the complaints procedure to be considered for a refund

Policy for International postgraduate students

Postgraduate courses are delivered over three trimesters and as such, our liability dates reflect this. Trimesters are indicated on the published academic calendar. Student will be charged the appropriate fee up to the end of the trimester in which they withdraw. This is indicated in the table below:

Date of withdrawal (definition as per undergraduates)	Percentage of fee payable
During trimester 1, as indicated on the published academic calendar	33%
During trimester 2, as indicated on the published academic calendar	66%
During trimester 3 (MA only) as indicated on the published academic calendar	100%

Where an international student has paid a deposit prior to applying for a Student Visa, but the visa application is subsequently declined or delayed beyond when it would be possible to enrolment, the applicant will be entitled to a refund of the deposit, minus an administration fee of **£200** and any bank/currency exchange charges.

Students who change their mind about coming to study at Leeds Conservatoire, or have used their visa to enter the UK, or have started the course and subsequently leave, Leeds Conservatoire reserves the right to retain £1,000 of the total tuition fee payment.

Where an International Postgraduate student has been withdrawn from the course due to academic failure, and not permitted to proceed to the next stage, the fee relating to the trimester not undertaken will be refunded. (Fees are calculated pro-rata at one third of the full fee per semester).

If the student wishes to request a refund on the grounds of quality, they must follow the complaints procedure to be considered for a refund.

REFUNDS WHERE THERE IS AN OUTSTANDING DEBT – ALL STUDENTS

Where a student withdraws early and is entitled to a refund of tuition fees, Leeds Conservatoire will deduct the cost of any other outstanding debt from the refund at the behest of the student, **except** in the case where a student's fees are paid through a tuition fee loan. This would mainly apply to, for example, outstanding library replacement invoices, studio fines, or course fees for additional courses undertaken.

FEES SCHOLARSHIPS AND EARLY WITHDRAWAL – ALL STUDENTS

Where a student who has been awarded a scholarship giving partial remission of fees, withdraws or suspends study before all instalments of the fee have been paid, the scholarship will not be counted and the fee charged will reflect the full amount owed, as per the relevant policy above.

POLICY FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING IN AFTER ENROLLING AT ANOTHER HE PROVIDER (Home undergraduates with a tuition fee loan)

Undergraduates are only eligible for a tuition fee loan amounting to a percentage of the fee, at certain liability points, subject to the HE Provider confirming their attendance. The liability dates are at enrolment, and the start of the 2nd and 3rd trimesters as defined to the SLC for the purpose of tuition fee loans. If the HE provider confirms that the student is in attendance on the relevant date, the student is eligible for a proportion of the tuition fee loan and the HE provider is entitled to receive it as follows:

- 25% - payment on 3rd Wednesday in October
- 25% - payment on 1st Wednesday in February
- 50% - payment 1st Wednesday in May

If Leeds Conservatoire therefore offers a place to an applicant who has already enrolled on a course at another provider, the first provider will be entitled to receive the first 25% of the tuition fee loan. Therefore, the fee charged to those transferring into Leeds Conservatoire under these circumstances will be 75% of the full amount.

TUITION FEES FOR UNDERGRADUATES REPEATING A FULL ACADEMIC YEAR

Students will be charged at the relevant rate for the academic year in which study is being repeated.

TUITION FEES FOR UNDERGRADUATES REPEATING PART OF AN ACADEMIC YEAR

Where an undergraduate student is undertaking fewer than 100 credits, but more than 60 credits, with attendance, tuition fees will be charged on a pro-rata basis per 10 credits, with the calculation based on the full fee payable, divided by 120. Students repeating 100 credits or more will pay the full standard fee applicable to that year of study.

WAIVERS AND DISCOUNTS

Leeds Conservatoire may occasionally award full or partial fee waivers, as Scholarships, at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team. Information about all types of scholarships are published on the website. An **alumni discount** of 10% of the total tuition fee is available to students studying at postgraduate level, who have graduated from an undergraduate course at Leeds Conservatoire. Where students may be awarded or entitled to more than one fee reduction per year, these will be calculated to maximise benefit to the student. The International Scholarship is awarded on the basis that it is subject to the student passing each year of study **without re-sits or repeat years**. The scholarship can be re-instated for subsequent years if the student then progresses without resit.

REPLACEMENT RESULTS TRANSCRIPTS

A fee is charged to cover the administrative costs of producing and despatching replacement results transcripts or, in the case where Leeds Conservatoire does not have one on record, a confirmation of attendance letter. No discounts are available but a fee may be waived exceptionally at the discretion of the Head of Registry.

REPLACEMENT ID CARDS

Access to Leeds Conservatoire requires an ID card. There is no fee for the first replacement card. Students may be charged a fee to cover the cost of subsequent replacements.

Procedure

The policy is affected by appropriate procedures and guidance which are reviewed and signed off by the Office of Students and relevant Head of Department annually:

- Higher Education and Research Act 2017
- Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (2011/1986), as amended.
- Student Loans Company Student Information System service definition
- Leeds Conservatoire access and participation plan 2020-2025
- Leeds City College group financial regulations
- Leeds Conservatoire manual of financial procedures
- Leeds Conservatoire tuition fee debtor process
- International Student Recruitment Policy

Breach of Policy

FAILURE TO PAY

- Students are personally liable for payment of their tuition fees and if a student defaults on the agreed tuition fee payment plan, the tuition fee debtor process will be followed.
- Failure to pay the agreed tuition fees or to pay according to agreed arrangements may result in any, or all of the following sanctions being implemented:
 - **Suspending you from your course.** This means that you cannot attend class, submit work, access your student email or SPACE or come into Leeds Conservatoire buildings without an appointment to meet with Leeds

Conservatoire staff. If you have student funding, the relevant student funding body will be notified and they will stop your maintenance loan payments.

- **Withdrawing sponsorship of your Student Visa.** This means you will be informed by the UKVI that you need to leave the UK.
- **Not permitting you to take part in any paid activity at Leeds Conservatoire** e.g. student ambassador roles/part time work
- **Withholding your certificate or results**
- **Prohibiting you from attending your graduation ceremony**
- **Having formal third party recovery action taken (i.e. by a debt collection agency).** (Subject to approval by ELT after full consideration of the individual circumstances.)
- **Not permitting you to enrolment** for the following academic year

The ultimate sanction is to **withdraw you from your course** if no arrangements are made to settle your account or you default on the agreed arrangements. If you are withdrawn from your course you will have to re-apply to continue studying with us.

The agreement of a payment plan means that your suspension will be ended and you will be reinstated as a student. However, any non-compliance with the payment plan will again result in sanctions being implemented as above.

International students

If you are studying at Leeds Conservatoire on a Student Visa and you are withdrawn from your course, Leeds Conservatoire must notify UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) and end its sponsorship of your visa with immediate effect. This means you will have to leave the UK and will be unable to re-enter the UK using your existing visa. It may also mean that it affects your immigration record for future visa applications.

Any student who is in financial difficulty should seek advice from Student Services staff at the advertised times, as soon as possible.

Appendix 1 Departmental Responsibilities

Luminate Transactional Services Department:

- Responsible for monitoring, recording and reconciliation of tuition fees paid, on Leeds Conservatoire's systems.
- Invoicing and credit control.
- Liaison with Funding team regarding SLC and other awarding authority tuition fee income.
- Updating the conservatoire staff with regard to fee receipts made via all payment methods
- Liaison with the conservatoire staff regarding prevention of access to the conservatoire of students in default.

Leeds Conservatoire Student Support:

- Managing the relationship with SLC on behalf of Leeds Conservatoire.
- Communications to applicants and full-time students regarding fees, discounts and waivers (i.e. website, prospectus, funding booklet etc.),
- Annual review of tuition fee policy.
- Compiling joining instructions regarding payment of fees, fee remissions etc.
- Advice to full time students and applicants.
- Liaison with MIS and Registry regarding processes for online enrolment and for collection of fees.

- Identifying those who have a tuition fee loan and those who need to pay their tuition fees.
- Processing of fee changes due to withdrawals, suspensions and transfers on Leeds Conservatoires' student records systems (SITS), and on the SLC system for those with tuition fee loans.
- Reconciling tuition fee loans and grants with amounts owed.
- Answering individual queries from full time students and applicants regarding fee payments, funding options and financial difficulties.

Leeds Conservatoire Admissions:

- Tuition fee status decisions.

Leeds Conservatoire Registry:

- Setting the fees up on the student record system at enrolment
- Ensuring that the correct documentation is in place for students who are withdrawing / suspending or resuming studies and for keeping the Funding team informed of student changes.

Leeds Conservatoire MIS:

- Populating and updating fees, waivers and exceptions information on Leeds Conservatoire student record system (SITS), prior to online and manual enrolment processes.

Leeds Conservatoire Security staff:

- Liaison with LCC Finance Department, Student Services and Registry regarding access to Leeds Conservatoire for students in default.