



MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON

Fees and Refunds Policy

POLICY OWNER: Director of Finance
COMMITTEE: Finance, Resources & Fundraising
LAST APPROVAL: 15 December 2015
NEXT REVIEW: July 2021

Equality Analysis Screening

Equality analysis is a way of considering the effects on different groups protected from discrimination by the equality act. Consider if there are any risks within this policy that will adversely affect a particular group or a variety of groups. Are there any changes that need to be made to the policy itself or additional actions that need to be made to mitigate the risks? The protected characteristics are:

- Race
- Gender
- Disability
- Age
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender reassignment
- Religion and Belief
- Maternity and Pregnancy
- Marriage and Civil Partnership

Risks identified:

The level of fees set and rates for concessions could disproportionately affect those in higher age groups and those with disabilities because of lower disposable incomes of those groups. Similarly those in lower age bands doing higher level loan-funded courses may be disproportionately affected as they may also have lower incomes.

Evidence used:
(data, consultation)

De facto circumstances (senior fees and receipt of benefits are criteria for concession fee eligibility).

Does this policy need a further action before it can be approved?
(changes made to policy or further equality analysis needed)

No

MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON

Fees and Refunds Policy

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The Fees and Refunds policy provides a basis on which the fees, charges and refunds the College makes to its students are arrived at, the circumstances in which some students may not be required to pay fees or charges, and the conditions under which the College will refund to students fees and charges they may have already paid.

2. MORLEY COLLEGE LONDON IN CONTEXT

The College seeks to generate appropriate course fee income to cover the cost of delivering courses in accordance with relevant current guidance and to contribute to the overhead costs of the College.

Within the context of reducing further education budgets for adults, there is an expectation of a greater contribution towards the costs of education and training from individuals and employers, particularly for intermediate and higher level skills. This has led to the introduction by the government of Advanced Learner Loans for students aged 19 or older studying courses at level 3 and level 4. The College is also investing in HE provision from 2017-18 onwards, the fees for which will be largely loan generated.

The College has an Equality and Diversity policy and seeks to ensure that arrangements for fees, charges and refunds are consistent with this.

The College administers an allocation of student support funds and bursaries to provide financial help to students whose access to, or completion of, education or training is inhibited by financial constraints or barriers.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Tuition Fees and Related Charges

- a) ESFA Funded Courses for Students aged under 19

Students meeting eligibility criteria, who are enrolled on a study programme and aged under 19 on 1 September will not be charged a tuition fee.

- b) ESFA Funded and Loan-Supported Courses

- Eligible learners enrolling on eligible provision aged 19 or over on 1st September studying on non-regulated or on Entry, Level 1 or Level 2 courses will be charged a tuition fee calculated in line with ESFA guidance, unless they are eligible for fee remission. A course may offer a concessionary fee rate in line with the College's policy on concessions.

- The College retains the right to set tuition fees for unregulated courses at the discretion of the Principal to reflect market demand, the College's positioning in the market after external competitor analysis or the direct cost of specific provision. Rates will be set with the objective of providing optimum revenue after taking account of such market limitations
 - Fee rates will be determined each year as part of the College's curriculum planning process. Rates for individual courses will be determined from a "rate card", set out in Appendix C below, according to the nature of the course, the anticipated class size and the market environment. A course may offer a concessionary fee rate in line with the College's policy on concessions.
 - Level 3 and above courses are not supported by ESFA funding unless the student qualifies for fee remission and will therefore generally be charged a tuition fee reflecting the full funding per student as calculated from the Funding LARS database. Eligible students enrolling on eligible provision will, however, be able to apply for Advanced Learner loans for all or part of the tuition fee due. The fees quoted for students on these courses are quoted for the full duration of the course.
 - Eligible students enrolled on HE courses will be able to apply for a loan to cover part or all of their course fee. The fee per student will be calculated with reference to HEFCE guidance.
 - Where students opt to take an advanced learning or HE loan for less than the full fee or choose not take up a loan they will be responsible for the balance of the full tuition fee.
 - Tuition fees for individual courses will be published by the College in the college prospectus and/or on the college website, and will take account of any material or supplementary charges (see below).
- c) Students Ineligible for ESFA Funding
- Students on ESFA funded courses who are ineligible for ESFA funding, including overseas students from outside the EU, will be expected to pay a tuition fee of twice the rate of those who are eligible
- d) Full Cost Courses (i.e courses not funded by ESFA or supported by Advanced Learner Loans or HE loans)
- Rates for individual courses will be selected from a "rate card" according to the nature of the course, the anticipated class size and the market environment. Rates will be set with the objective of providing optimum revenue after taking account of such market limitations - see Appendix C.
 - No remissions will be allowed, but a course may offer a concessionary fee rate in line with the College's policy on concessions.

- e) Variation to Standard Tuition Fees
- Any variations to standard tuition fees above must be given prior approval by the Senior Management Team.
- f) Examination Fees
- No examination and assessment charges will be charged to eligible learners aged under 19 on 1st September or to learners for whom no fee has been charged
 - For learners for whom a fee has been payable, an additional charge will be payable to cover examination costs unless it has been explicitly stated that these are already covered by the course fee.
 - The College reserves the right to levy a charge where the student wishes to re-sit an exam to improve a pass grade.
- g) Material and Supplementary Charges
- Additional charges may be levied, where appropriate, on a course-by-course basis to reflect the specific requirements of the course. These charges cover items including but not limited to protective clothing, kits, tools, books, learning materials and a basic allowance of consumable materials.
 - Such charges may be added to the hourly rate determined from the “rate card” to produce the published fee for the course.
 - Charges for such items included in the published fee are not made where the learner is aged under 19 on 1st September or is on a funded course where the learner is eligible for fee remission. These charges are also deemed to be included within the fee where the fee given in the “rate card” is determined on a whole course rather than hourly basis (e.g. Advanced or Higher Learning courses).
 - Where students, including those aged 16-18 at enrolment, wish to use materials beyond the basic allowance included within the fee, the College will charge for the additional materials at a rate agreed in advance.

Remissions and Concessions

- Students seeking a reduction of fees may be required to produce satisfactory documentary evidence of their entitlement to reduced fees or of their membership of the relevant group.
- A list of the fee remission categories (those groups who are not required to pay a fee) is given in Appendix A, and of concessionary (those groups eligible for a reduced fee) or discount categories in Appendix B.

Staged payments

- Where the total fee on enrolment is greater than or equal to £200, students may be

permitted to pay course fees in stages. If a student withdraws, unless otherwise stated, the student will remain liable for all outstanding fees at the point of withdrawal. The standard number of staged payments will be three per term. The maximum number of staged payments is 12 and the period of staged payment must not fall outside one year.

4. POLICY OBJECTIVES

This policy provides a framework for staff involved in setting fees, charges and refunds to ensure consistency and fairness of approach and clarify the extent of public subsidy which supports the College's courses, and to provide transparency to students and other stakeholders where needed.

5. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy applies to all staff and registered students of Morley College London in addition to partners of the College.

6. RESPONSIBILITY STRUCTURE

The Senior Management Team and Heads of Schools are responsible for leading and monitoring the implementation of the Policy.

7. PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

The policy will be implemented through the College's Curriculum Review and Validation process.

8. COMMUNICATION AND TRAINING

The policy will be communicated to staff involved in the fees, charges and refunds setting process through the College's internal committee structures and will be made available to all via the College's intranet and website.

9. REVIEW AND MONITORING OF POLICY

The Policy will be reviewed every four years or sooner if changes in the rules governing public funding require it. Monitoring of the individual rates set under the policy will be undertaken annually as part of the curriculum review and validation process.

APPENDIX A – FUNDING AND FEE REMISSION ELIGIBILITY

A summary of 'eligible students' as interpreted by the College is set out below.

Eligible Students

Most individuals will be eligible for funding if they:

- are a citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) or other countries determined within the EEA, including those with bilateral agreements such as Switzerland, or have the Right of Abode in the UK, and
- have been ordinarily resident in the EEA (as above) for at least the previous three years on the first day of learning.
- A non-EEA citizen is eligible for funding if they have permission granted by the UK government to live in the UK, which is not for educational purposes, and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least the previous three years before the start of learning.
- Any individual with any of the statuses listed below, is eligible to receive funding and are exempt from the three-year residency requirement rule, the college must see the learner's immigration permission in these circumstances.

Refugee Status

Discretionary Leave to Enter or Remain.

Exceptional Leave to Enter or Remain

Indefinite Leave to Enter or Remain

Humanitarian protection

Leave Outside the Rules

The husband, wife, civil partner and child of any of the above

Asylum seekers are eligible to receive funding if:

- they have lived in the UK for six months or longer while their claim is being considered by the Home Office, and no decision on their claim has been made, or
- they are in the care of the local authority and are receiving local authority support under section 23C or section 23CA of the Children Act 1989 or section 21 of the National Assistance Act 1948

Family members of EU citizens who do not have EU passports themselves can be eligible, please ask for clarification.

Remitted Fees

Those entitled to full fee remission are currently assumed to be (though this may yet be subject to further change):

- students aged under 19 on 1st September 2017
- students enrolling for English and Maths courses up to and including GCSE level
- first Full Level 2 Courses, where students are 19-23
- first Full Level 3 Courses where students are 19-23
- they receive Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), including those receiving National Insurance credits only

- they receive Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and are in the work-related activity group (WRAG)
- they receive Universal Credit, earn either less than 16 times the national minimum wage / national living wage a week or £330 a month (this is subject to change) and are determined by Jobcentre Plus as being in one of the following:

All Work-Related Requirements Group
Work Preparation Group
Work-Focused Interview Group

- Providers may also use their discretion to fully fund other learners if all of the following apply:

The learner receives other state benefits and earns either less than 16 times the national minimum wage a week or £330 a month.

The learner wants to be employed (or progress into more sustainable employment, if they earn less than 16 times the national minimum wage a week or £330 a month) and you are satisfied that the learning is directly relevant to their employment prospects and the local labour market needs.

A discretionary zero fee applies to LLDD courses.

APPENDIX B – CONCESSIONARY RATE ENTITLEMENTS AND DISCOUNTS

- Students on courses which the College determines should offer concessions and who are in receipt of income based benefits, but who do not qualify for full remission will be offered a concessionary rate which will normally be a percentage of the published full fee as determined annually as part of the curriculum review and validation process.
- Students on courses which the College determines should offer a senior fee, who are over 65 years of age and whose individual income is below £17,000, will be offered a senior fee rate which will normally be a percentage of the published full fee as determined annually as part of the curriculum review and validation process. The senior fee will typically be a higher percentage of the full fee than the normal concessionary fee and not be available for evening classes. Students whose main income is the state pension will be offered the concessionary rate as described above.
- Staff (employees on the College's payroll) will receive 100% fee remission where the enrolment is a part of an agreed programme of staff development and has been approved in advance by the Director of Finance.
- Where staff wish to take courses for personal enrichment outside normal working hours, subject to eligibility criteria staff and volunteers may access a discount on the quoted full fee. See the Staff Discount Procedure for further details.
- Students enrolling on a course from half-term or later for term-long courses, or from later than half way through a course for other courses will be eligible for a 30% discount on the full fee.

APPENDIX C –SUMMARY OF TUITION FEES FOR 2017/18

The fee rates set out below are as agreed by the Senior Management Team and approved by the Governing Body. They are a supplement to the College fees policy.

School of Visual and Digital Arts

| CATEGORY | CATEGORY NAME | COURSES (examples) | 16/17 Rate | 17/18 Rate |
|----------|--|--|------------|------------|
| V1 | Art classes, studio based | P&D, Sculpture, Jewellery, Ceramics, Textile, Print, Fashion, Photography etc. | £8.32 | £8.95 |
| V2 | Art classes, studio based with model or technician | P&D, Sculpture etc. | £9.52 | £10.23 |
| V3 | Art workshop, studio based, technician led | P&D, Sculpture, Jewellery, Ceramics, Textile, Print, Fashion, Photography etc. | £6.24 | £6.70 |
| V5 | Art classes, classroom based | Art History | £7.87 | £7.87 |
| V8 | Sculpture intensive | - | £14.50 | £15.59 |
| V9 | Fine Art Mentoring Course | - | n/a | £16.00 |
| V10 | Metal Sculpture | - | n/a | £12.91 |

School of Music and Performing Arts

| CATEGORY | CATEGORY NAME | COURSES (examples) | 16/17 Rate | 17/18 Rate |
|----------|---|--|------------|------------|
| M1 | Music, standard group size | Instrument playing, singing, appreciation etc. | £7.16 | £7.70 |
| M2 | Music and dance, standard group size with accompanist | Instrument playing, singing, appreciation etc. | £7.80 | £8.39 |
| M3 | Music, large group size | Choirs, Ensembles etc. | £6.63 | £7.12 |
| M4 | Music, very large group size with accompanist | Choirs, Ensembles etc. | £4.11 | £4.41 |
| M5 | Music professional training | Opera School, Opera Diploma etc. | £8.23 | £8.85 |
| M8 | Dance all | All dance courses | £7.05 | £7.57 |
| M9 | Drama | Acting, Theatre and Performance skills | £6.50 | £6.98 |
| M10 | Drama professional training | Master classes | £6.97 | £7.49 |

School of Humanities and Applied Sciences

| CATEGORY | CATEGORY NAME | COURSES (examples) | 16/17 Rate | 17/18 Rate |
|----------|---|---|------------|------------|
| H1 | Maths and English | Lit, Num, GCSEs | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| H2 | ESOL, other accredited Essential Skills and Community based | All ESOL accredited/non-accredited courses | £3.00 | £3.23 |
| H3 | EFL and small group languages | All EFL courses and some small group languages | £9.70 | £10.43 |
| H4 | Languages and Humanities | All Languages and Humanities non-accredited courses | £8.19 | £8.81 |
| H5 | Humanities off-site | Walk London with US | £6.25 | £6.72 |
| H6 | Complementary Health classes | All non-accredited comp. health courses | £7.57 | £8.14 |
| H7 | Complementary Health classes ext. accredited | Hypno etc. | £9.03 | £9.71 |
| H8 | Complementary Health CPD | All comp health workshops | £12.11 | £13.02 |
| H9 | Fitness classes | All non-accredited fitness classes, e.g. Yoga, Shiatsu, Pilates | £6.35 | £6.83 |
| H10 | Business Introductory | | n/a | £11.50 |
| H11 | Business Intermediate | | n/a | £19.50 |
| H12 | Business Advanced | | n/a | £27.00 |
| H12 | Accredited Business Courses | | n/a | £5.15 |

Cross School Provision

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|
| C1 | SLDD | Courses in al School for SLDD e.g. Drama Music, Arts etc. | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| C2 | Level 2 accredited (non priority) | Counselling, C&G Dip Beauty, C&G Photography 1-2, (not E&M GCSEs) | £11.77 | £12.66 |
| C3 | Level 3 accredited - not loan funded | C&G Photography 3 | £5.90 | £6.34 |
| C4 | Level 3 accredited - loan funded | Access, Art Foundation etc. | Matrix rate | Matrix rate |
| C5 | Premium and short courses | | £12.32 | £13.24 |
| C6 | Digital technology | | £7.37 | £7.92 |
| C7 | Digital technology advanced | | £10.25 | £11.02 |

APPENDIX D: REFUNDS

The full impact of learning is achieved through course completion. However, in the instances where refunds are applicable they will be applied as outlined below.

Refunds of course fees (excluding advanced learning or HE courses)

Refunds for courses are only granted in certain circumstances which are detailed below. Refunds will normally be issued by the Finance Department within 14 working days of the request being received by the College. Exam fees are non-refundable, unless otherwise stated.

- Student requests refund before start of the course: Written notice of withdrawal (or by e-mail) must be received by the College at least 10 working days before the start of the course. The student will receive a refund of fees paid, less a cancellation fee in accordance with their course fees, to cover the administration costs for the cancellation. Exam fees where paid will be refundable.

| Refund amount (course fee) | Student cancellation fee |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Upto £100 | £10 |
| £101-£200 | £20 |
| £201-£500 | £30 |
| Above £500 | £50 |

- Cancelled course: If the College cancels a full course of study the students will receive a full refund, usually within 14 working days. If the College cancels a course after a number of sessions have been completed, a pro rata refund will be offered.
- Cancelled session: If a session cannot go ahead then the College will try to make up the lost session. If this is not possible, or a student is unable to attend the re-scheduled session, then an e-voucher will be provided to the student in recompense, which can be used as payment for other courses.
- Refunds will not be payable and extra sessions will not normally be provided if the cancellation is for reasons outside the direct control of the College (e.g. because of very bad weather conditions, industrial action, security alert etc.). Students will normally be notified by telephone or email when a session is cancelled, where the student has provided up to date contact details. The College is not able to refund travel expenses incurred when a session is cancelled and the student has not received the notification.
- Student requests refund due to change in day or time of a course: If Morley makes a change to the day or time of the course and the student is unable to attend due to the change, then a full refund will be issued, or a pro-rata refund if some sessions have already been attended. Students should submit a request on these grounds to the Departmental Administrator. Exam fees where paid will be refundable.

- Morley reserves the right to change course tutors or venues from those advertised. Changes to the tutor or venue would not be considered a valid reason for a refund to be granted.

Employer-funded provision

- Where an employer is funding a student's course fees, the above refund provisions will apply. Where e-vouchers are issued, these may be transferrable between employer-sponsored students.

Refunds for Advanced and Higher Learning provision

- In the event that the College fails to deliver the agreed provision, or where there is evidence that the College has not followed an Awarding Organisation's policies and procedures, including appropriate registration, any self-funded fees will be repaid and student loans will not be activated.
- Cancelled session: If a session cannot go ahead then the College will make up the lost session over the course of the year; no refund or partial refund will therefore be payable.
- If a loan-funded student withdraws from the course either before the start of the course or during the course, the College's attendance records will ensure that loan funding ceases - the College will notify the Student Loan Company of a Change of Circumstance and the student's loan balance would be adjusted accordingly. The College will not actively seek to recover the remaining course fees from the student.
- For all year-long courses, if a self-funded student who is paying their fees in staged payments withdraws from the course, the student will be liable for the accrued fee at the point of withdrawal. The College will not actively seek to recover the remaining course fees from the student.
- If a self-funded student requests a refund before the start of the course, the provisions for mainstream provision described above will apply.

APPENDIX E: STAGED PAYMENT AGREEMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Eligibility

- A student who wishes to take up the staged payment option must apply at the time of enrolling on the course(s).
- Staged payment agreements are available to students where the total fee on enrolment is greater than or equal to £200.00.

Collection of payment

- All payments will be collected directly from the card on the dates shown in the payment schedule.
- In the event that a payment is not collected successfully the student is required to make payment for all outstanding fees immediately. Should payment not be received within 14 days the college reserves the right to exclude the student until full payment of all amounts outstanding is received.
- The student will be liable for any charges incurred as a result of non-payment and the College reserves the right to add these charges to the balance owed.

Cancellation

- The student will remain liable for all outstanding fees in the staged payment agreement except for any refund which has been approved by the College (refer to the Refund Policy for further information).