

## **UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE TUITION FEES POLICY -**

**September 2022**

The University of Central Lancashire has a consistent and transparent policy in respect of tuition fees and charges made to students. The Tuition Fee Policy has been produced for the benefit of potential applicants, current students and University staff and applies to students enrolled in an academic year.

The University ensures transparent compliance with all applicable statutory requirements and external funding agencies including Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), the Office for Students (OfS), the Student Loans Company (SLC) and NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA).

This Tuition Fees Policy applies to all UCLan provision at its UK campuses. There is a separate Fees Policy for the Cyprus campus.

In those areas where the University has discretion to determine fee levels, fees will be set with due regard for financial viability and market forces. Conscious of its mission however, the University makes provision through the operation of its Tuition Fees Policy to encourage access to its courses amongst all sections of the population with ability to benefit.

The University believes that it is in the interests of both the student (or student's sponsor), and the University, 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 University, there is, exceptionally, a need to increase fees previously notified to applicants and students, or to impose additional costs, the University will apply the principles below to minimise the impact on students.

Equally, the University holds responsible students and/or their sponsors for prompt payment. Defaults on payment are treated seriously and will lead to the application of sanctions which could inhibit a student's ability to continue in their studies.

Students who have previously studied at higher education level, regardless of how far back this dates, should be aware that future entitlement to Student Finance is affected by previous study. Previous study includes time spent on a full-time higher education course or any specifically designated publicly funded HE course, whether or not in the UK. Students that do not qualify for a tuition fee loan will be required to self-fund. The regulations are complicated and students should seek advice from both the University and Student Finance as soon as possible.

### **General Principles**

1. Tuition fees are published by the University in advance of the academic cycle and are subject to annual review.

2. For each course of study the University will set, publish and charge tuition fees for the full duration of the course, including sandwich placement years. 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. Where it is not possible to confirm the total costs of a modular course, the University will provide as much information as possible, such as the likely number of credits and the cost of individual credits that are available.
3. All costs that relate to items that are essential to complete the course of study will be included in the tuition fees. (Please note there are some limited exceptions to this such as for courses which involve a mandatory period of study abroad. Where exceptions do apply, the additional fees payable for those courses, in addition to tuition fees, will be made clear to students prior to application. Some postgraduate Research, Doctoral and Masters students must pay bench fees in addition to tuition fees – see appendix 4). 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 costs and the optional costs for each course of study will be published before the start of the application process. This will include confirmation or an estimate of each type of optional cost, wherever possible.

The University reserves the right to charge for Accreditation of Prior Experiential Learning at 25% of the current module fee rate where this is used as a contributory element to a programme of study.

4. Tuition fees include:
  - Scheduled course tuition, academic, technical and administrative support, use of course equipment and facilities;
  - Course-related induction activities;
  - Course assessment and awards;
  - Access to the University's library and online resources, including on-campus wifi, networked and remote access to the University's virtual learning environment;
  - Use of the University's estate and resources for scheduled activities and learning support;
  - Dissertation, project and/or thesis printing and binding where the submission of printed and bound documents is a requirement for assessment of the module;
  - Use of the University's technical equipment and materials identified by the course teaching team as essential for the completion of the course.
5. Students repeating module/s, placement or programme of study will be charged at the relevant rate according to their programme and year of study.
6. In determining fee levels, the University will consider nationally-published guidelines where these exist. Fees for full-time undergraduate Home status students are set in accordance with the levels permitted by the UK Government. Full-time fees for the

Channel Island and Isle of Man students are negotiated between the Island Authorities and the British Government.

7. The University operates a common fee structure for all its courses, which incorporates provision in Partner institutions, unless published as an exception, as approved by the University's Vice Chancellor's Group. No additional discounts may be offered without the approval of the University's VCG.
8. Any proposed increase in fees beyond the published amounts will require the approval of the Vice-Chancellor. Increases will only be permitted in exceptional circumstances to applicants where offers of a place have not yet been made by the University. For the avoidance of doubt, increases in tuition fees will not be made for applicants who have received offers, regardless of whether or not the offers have been accepted. There will be no increases in tuition fees for enrolled students unless a course change creates a scenarios whereby fees need to be recalculated.
9. Where it is intended to increase fees beyond the amounts previously notified pursuant to point 6 above, the University will:
  - a. notify applicants as early as possible of the increased fees;
  - b. explain why it is necessary to increase fees;
  - c. 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;
  - d. consider any evidence of hardship submitted by applicants and offer assistance where it reasonably can.
10. The University will ensure that the Tuition Fees Policy is operated fairly and consistently across the institution.
11. The University will ensure the prompt invoicing and collection of tuition fees.
12. The University operates various scholarship, bursary and fee remission schemes, which are approved from time to time by the University's VCG, and for which separate arrangements and procedures apply.
13. Tuition fee reductions and discounts are listed in Appendix 1.
14. When a student completes the enrolment process and registers or re-registers for their course, they become personally liable for the payment of tuition fees. (Except where the University holds a separate contract with an employing authority / government agency or other officially recognised body for the payment of fees.) This includes arrangements where students obtain sponsorship or funding, should the sponsor default or, where funding is refused under the rules operated by Student Finance - see also point 22.

They remain liable for those fees for the whole of the registration period unless they formally withdraw from the course. The University applies a policy of non-completion

charges where a student withdraws from their studies. Details of such charges are provided in Appendix 2. Where a student is granted an approved interruption to study, their fee liability will be reduced as set out in Appendix 2.

15. Should a student's tuition fee liability change during their academic year due to a requested change in mode of study, or additional registration of credits, it is the student's ultimate responsibility to ensure that financial provision is made to cover any additional tuition fee liability.
16. Where exceptional circumstances force a student to withdraw from their 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 University may request such documentary or any other evidence as is reasonable to be able to consider such a request. Former students may appeal within a reasonable time period, normally 3 calendar months from leaving the University.
17. The University will develop and operate flexible procedures for the collection of fees to the benefit of students and the University.
18. The University has special requirements for the payment of fees and deposits by international students as set out Appendix 3.
19. The University adopts a supportive approach to its students with regards to the collection of tuition fees. The University 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. (For the avoidance of doubt, this does not include financial assistance unless otherwise specifically agreed.)
20. **Where necessary and proportionate, the University reserves the right to apply one or more of the following sanctions to any student who defaults on payments of tuition fees:**
  - a. suspend from study University library and computing facilities;
  - b. termination of enrolment and withdrawal from the University;
  - c. withholding certified transcript;
  - d. refusal to re-enrol;
  - e. withholding final award certificate;
  - f. denial of attendance at awards ceremonies;
  - g. refusal to issue Confirmation of Acceptance to Study (CAS);
  - h. include relevant details in any reference provided to a third party.
21. In deciding what steps to take in respect of the payment of tuition fees and course costs, the University will consider withdrawal of all access to learning.

22. In addition to those steps referred to in point 18 above, the University reserves the right to pursue and /or seek recovery of any outstanding tuition fees through the courts. The University also reserves the right to refer students' unpaid accounts to external debt collection agencies.
23. If a sponsor or third party fails to pay some or all of the tuition fee on behalf of a student, the student will become personally liable for payment of the outstanding amount on the date which it was due from their sponsor or the third party.
24. The University reserves the right review and amend the Tuition Fees Policy at any time as appropriate.

## Appendix 1: Tuition Fee Reductions and Discounts

Tuition fee reductions and discounts are set out below:

### (i) Reductions:

- (a) a 50% reduction of tuition fees is made for part-time students in receipt of a state retirement pension.
- (b) a 50% reduction of tuition fees is made to staff of the University, or a Partner institution\* who are registered on a course which forms part of their personal and professional development plan and which is approved by their line manager.
- (c) a 50% reduction of tuition fees is made to retired University members of staff who are also members of the Alumni Association.
- (d) a 100% reduction of tuition fees is made to members of academic staff who are required to complete the PG Cert in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and the Teaching Toolkit, as a condition of their contract of employment.

### (ii) Postgraduate Courses Discounts:

- (a) a 20% discount is available to UCLan award holders studying a postgraduate taught course, or a postgraduate research degree (full or part time).

Note 1: Only one of the reductions specified in (i) and (ii) above may be granted to a student in any given academic year.

Note 2: Students who are registered on Higher / Degree Apprenticeship programmes are not eligible for the 20% discount or any other discounts.

Note 3: Students enrolled on courses or research degrees in Postgraduate Dental Education will not be eligible for discounted fees.

Note 4: With the exception of degree apprenticeship students, a part-time undergraduate student is defined as anyone undertaking up to and including 4.5 modules (90 credits) in a standard academic year for that course. Postgraduate students will be deemed to be part-time if they are undertaking up to and including 8.0 modules (160 credits) in a standard academic year of that course.

Note 5: Reductions apply to tuition fees only.

Note 6: For Cert Ed / PGCE students discounts will be at the discretion of the Partner institution\*.

\*A Partner institution in this instance is defined as an institution, in the UK and overseas, with a signed agreement with the University for the delivery of courses, or part courses, contributing towards qualification for University awards.

## **Appendix 2: Tuition Fee Liability for Withdrawal and Authorised Interruption of 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 interrupt from 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 University operates the following policy with respect to non-completion charges when a student does not complete the academic session and withdraws permanently from the course or is granted an authorised interruption to studies:

### Undergraduate students and Postgraduate Taught students

Categories: all undergraduate students and postgraduate taught students

Those students who withdraw from or have an interruption to their studies will be charged a tuition fee based on their attendance on the course in accordance with the following scale:

Withdrawal/Interruption in term 1: 25% of the total annual tuition fee is charged

Withdrawal/Interruption in term 2: 50% of the total annual tuition fee is charged

Withdrawal/Interruption in term 3: 100% of the total annual tuition fee is charged Postgraduate Research students

Categories: full and part-time postgraduate research\*\*

Where a student permanently withdraws from studies in the first 4 months of the academic year, 25% of the total annual fee is charged.

Where a student permanently withdraws from studies in months 5 to 8 of the academic year, 50% of the total annual fee is charged.

Where a student permanently withdraws after month 8 of the academic year, 100% of the total annual fee is charged.

\*\*except for full time students in the writing up year for whom there is no fee reduction for non-completion

Where a student is granted an authorised interruption of studies, their fee liability will be reduced pro-rata. On resumption of studies, the tuition fee liability will re-commence.

All students remain liable for fees during any unauthorised interruption to study. Retrospective approvals of interruptions to study are not permitted. Should a student seek approval of a retrospective interruption to study, liability for the payment of fees accrued will be determined by the Academic Registrar (or nominee).

### **Appendix 3: Tuition Fee Deposit Policy for International Applicants**

The following policy applies to international applicants for entry to full-time programmes. The following policy excludes sponsorship students where a formal sponsorship letter from an employer or embassy has been submitted to the International Office or the Research Student Registry.

All new international students must pay a deposit of 50% of their tuition fee before an unconditional offer letter and UK Visa and Immigration Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) will be issued (does not apply to Distance Learning). The requirement for the payment of a deposit will be detailed on all conditional offer letters. Subject to statutory cancellation rights, the deposit will only be repayable in one or more of the following circumstances:

- i) the University's entry requirements are not met;
- ii) a visa is refused which causes the application to be withdrawn (evidence will need to be provided);
- iii) In exceptional circumstances where evidence is reasonably provided.

Under each of these circumstances an administrative fee of £250 will be retained by the University out of the deposit.

Students on UCLan franchise courses will be subject to separate arrangements that will be communicated via their institution.

#### **Students applying to the Pre-sessional Programme**

For those students applying to the Pre-Sessional programme, payment of tuition fees in full is required before an unconditional offer letter would be produced and a CAS issued.

#### **Students progressing from UCLan or Cambridge Education Group programmes**

Students who are wishing to progress onto a further course of study at UCLan (i.e. UG to PG or IFP to UG; or CEG to UG or PG) will be required to pay a tuition fee deposit of £1,000. Subject to statutory rights of cancellation, the deposit will only be repayable in the circumstances described at i) to iv) above.

### **International Tuition Fee Payment policy**

The deposit must be paid prior to the issue of an unconditional offer letter and CAS.

There are two payment options for the balance of the fees:

1. students who pay in full by the 1 October will receive an additional £300 bursary (except franchise and Jiangnan articulation students)
2. students can choose to pay in two instalments (for which there is an administration fee of £150 payable on enrolment)

### **Appendix 4: Postgraduate Research Doctoral and Masters students only**

**ONLY APPLICABLE TO NEW STUDENTS IE THOSE STARTING THEIR COURSE IN SEPTEMBER 2015 OR LATER**

#### **Policy on charging bench fees leading to a Postgraduate Research Degree award.**

1. A bench fee is defined as a fee charged, in addition to Tuition Fees, to cover specific extra costs associated with laboratory or field work, which is part of an individual's doctoral or master's thesis proposal. Bench fees are an annual charge which will apply in addition to the tuition element of fees in each year of the programme, except the writing up year or period.
2. Only the following extra costs may be charged as bench fees:
  - a. Laboratory or specialist consumables;
  - b. Specialist technical support which is not available within the University;
  - c. Specialist off-site testing of samples or processing of data which cannot be done at the University;
  - d. Travel to other laboratories or field sites, which is essential to complete the project.

3. Bench fees for new entrants will be applied at the following rates:

Band 1	£0
Band 2	£750
Band 3	£1500
Band 4	£2250
Band 5	£3000
Band 6	£5000
Band 7	£8000
Band 8	£10000

4. Where bench fees are applied these must be clearly set out in the offer documentation, on the website or wherever else the programme is advertised. The offer letter should specify the aggregate fee for each year of study (i.e. the total of the tuition fees and bench fees), and this aggregate fee should be the total annual fee due for the programme.

5. Bench fees will not apply to costs which are included within Tuition Fees.
6. The Research Degree Tuition Fees include:
  - Scheduled course tuition, supervision, academic, technical and administrative support;
  - Use of standard equipment and facilities;
  - induction activities;
  - Course assessment, annual progress monitoring, viva examination and awards;
  - Access to the university's library and online resources, including on-campus wifi, networked and remote access to the university's virtual learning environment;
  - Use of the university's estate and resources for scheduled activities and learning support;
  - Final dissertation and/or thesis printing and binding where the submission of printed and bound documents is a requirement for assessment;
  - Use of the university's standard technical equipment and materials.

The Research Degree Tuition Fee does not include the post-viva fee for re-registration if applicable.

