

DCG

Fees Policy Supplement

Higher Education Fees

Applicable for all higher education

courses within the Academic Year

2025/2026

1.0. Introduction

- 1.1 The Higher Education and Research Act (HERA) 2017 created a regulatory framework for Higher Education (HE) with the aim to increase competition, student choice, ensure value for money and strengthen the research sector. It is a replacement to the Further and Higher Education Act 1992. The Office for Students (OfS) are the appointed regulator of Higher Education within the UK.
- 1.2 The role of the OfS is to help students get into and succeed in HE, help students stay informed, make sure they get a high-quality education that prepares them for the future, and protects the students interest. The OfS introduced a limit on tuition fees to ensure that students do not pay more than they need to. Approved providers must not charge above limits set by government. Derby College Group (DCG) is an approved provider.
- 1.3 Mandatory fee limits are set out in accordance with Schedule 2 of HERA, which determines that fee limits are based on the provision of an access and participation plan (APP), and in accordance with the TEF (Teaching Excellence Framework) award where this is in operation. The APP will be published on the DCG website for open access.
- 1.4 The Student Loans Company (SLC) is a non-profit making Government-owned organisation with the main aim of providing loans and grants to students in universities and colleges in the UK. This also includes the provision of bursaries and scholarships.
- 1.5 DCG aim to support all students accessing higher education and recognises that financial affordability can be a barrier to students choosing to progress to higher level study. Due to this, DCG charges fees which are below the maximum higher fee amount.

2.0 General Principles

- 2.1 The HE Fee policy of DCG aims to:
 - 2.1.1 Be simple to explain;
 - 2.1.2 Take account of the ability of students to pay;
 - 2.1.3 Take into account regulatory advice and guidance
 - 2.1.4 Take into account competitor pricing;
 - 2.1.5 Ensure that the HE courses offered remain financially viable and reduce the financial burden;
 - 2.1.6 Incorporate a flexible element to allow students and the College to adapt to changing circumstances;
 - 2.1.7 Comply with contractual requirements and ensure alignment, where appropriate, with partner Universities;

3.0 Higher Education courses

- 3.1 The OfS publish annual guidance for fee limits which can change from year to year. This will be reflected through an annual update to the HE Tuition Fee Supplement.
- 3.2 The below fees are based on the following assumptions that DCG has a TEF award and an approved APP. All fees are set with regard to the Basic and Higher Fee Amounts as stated by The OfS¹. They are based on the 24/25 fee limits as advised by the OfS. At the time of writing, fee caps for 25/26 have not been published. Should there be a significant upward difference between the 24/25 fee limits, DCG are committed to remaining with minimum fees wherever is possible. Any mid-year fee changes will be communicated to applicants, and this document will be updated.

3.3 The definitions of full time and part time are specified as follows:

- 3.3.1** “Full Time” is based on completing 120 credits per academic year
- 3.3.2** “Part Time” is based on completing less than 120 credits in one academic year, but more than 60 credits and therefore approximated as completing on average 90 credits per academic year.
- 3.3.3** Each course will be calculated based on the number of credits per academic year and the fee per credit, as set out in the below table.

3.4 Table 2: HE Fees for the Academic Year 2025/2026 for home students unless otherwise designated as ‘international student’

Funding status	Fee to be paid
Higher level courses encapsulated within the ESFA adult funding rules or Apprenticeship funding rules.	See the College’s main fees policy
Non-STEM courses* £62.50 per credit, equating to:	Full time: £7,500 Part time (90 credits): £5,625
STEM courses** £70.83 per credit, equating to:	Full time: £8,500 Part time (90 credits): £6,375
Postgraduate £70.83 per credit, equating to:	Full time: £8,500 Part time (90 credits): £6,375
International student £112.50 per credit equating to:	Full Time: £13,500 Part time (up to): £10,125

- 3.5 *Non-STEM courses offered by DCG broadly include those courses within the arts, humanities, land based, sports and social sciences.

¹ [Fee limits - Office for Students](#)

- 3.6 **STEM courses offered by DCG broadly include those courses within engineering, construction and computing.
- 3.7 The above fees will apply unless the demand for the course or competitive market forces allow for discounts.
- 3.8 DCG reserve the right to increase tuition fees by inflation and/or the maximum permitted by law or Government policy in the second and subsequent years of your course. This will be communicated to you by the end of June of the academic year before the one in which we intend to exercise that right.
- 4.0 **Home students** are defined as those living within the UK or Republic of Ireland and EU nationals with settled status. To meet the criteria of a home student you must:
- 4.1.1 Be settled in the UK (no immigration restriction on the length of your stay)
 - 4.1.2 Ordinarily be a resident in the UK and have been for the full three years before the first day of the academic year.
 - 4.1.3 The main reason for you being in the UK was NOT to receive full time education
- 4.2 **International students** are those students who do not fall under the definition of a Home student. Further definition can be found at UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs)².
- 5.0 Included within tuition fees**
- 5.1 Tuition fees stated cover all teaching provided for the course, all mandatory study trips (if present with the course), access to core textbooks through the DCG library (or partner institution if applicable), some specialist equipment relevant to the course.
- 5.2 If there are mandatory elements to the course that are not covered in the tuition fee, this will be advertised on the course website with an approximate cost associated.
- 5.3 The tuition fees do not include any additional extras such as optional study trips or visits, additional kit or equipment, or travel expenses for work placements.
- 6.0 Payment of tuition fees**
- 6.1 All fees are required to be paid in full before the start of the course, unless alternative arrangements have been approved (see below).
- 6.2 Fees shown in the prospectus will reflect the current year only. Courses running over two or more years may attract new fees at the beginning of each year (see section 3.6).
- 6.3 A tuition fee loan to cover the full cost of tuition fees may be available from the Student Loans Company (SLC), subject to certain criteria.
- 6.4 To assist with the payment of fees the College offers instalment facilities, payable by Direct Debit for courses, under the following conditions:
- 6.4.1 Course length is at least 30 weeks
 - 6.4.2 Fees are at least £200
 - 6.4.3 The fees will be payable in the following way

² [UKCISA - international student advice and guidance - Home or Overseas fees: the basics](#)

- 6.4.3.1 20% of the course fees is payable on enrolment
- 6.4.3.2 Balance payable in monthly equal instalments on the 5th day of the month over the number of months of the course less two
- 6.4.3.3 For Example: a course with a charge of £8,000 starts in September and finishes in June. This equates to 10 months. 20% of £8,000, £1,600 would be due at enrolment, followed by 8 equal instalments starting in October of £800 each. The full amount would then be paid by 5th May.
- 6.4.3.4 The student must complete a direct debit mandate at the time of enrolment for all instalment plans. If a direct debit instalment defaults, the student becomes liable for the debt in full, immediately.
- 6.4.3.5 Interest will not be charged to a student, provided the fees are paid in accordance with the instalment plan. The college reserves the right to charge interest where the instalments are not paid within the agreed instalment plan at the rates set in the Late Payment of Commercial Debt Act 1998

- 6.4.4 DCG reserve the right to offer alternative payment methods where a strong case exists to support an exceptional student circumstance. Where this is applied, it will first be approved by the CFO or Director of Finance.
- 6.4.5 Note different arrangements may exist when paying directly to one of DCG approved University partners.
- 6.4.6 Students wishing to take a break from their studies must be aware that this may impact on their course fees. Any breaks in study must be first authorised by the college with an agreement in place for payment of outstanding fees. Breaks in study without prior agreement may result in full liability for fees based on the original timetable of study.

7.0 Student Loans

- 7.1 Students are able to obtain loans, grants, scholarships or bursaries or sponsorship to pay for their HE course at DCG.
- 7.2 The Student Loans Company (SLC) and Student Finance England (SFE) administer financial support to eligible students pursuing higher and further education in accordance with the student support regulations and relevant public policy objectives.
- 7.3 Specific grants students may be eligible for:
 - 7.3.1 **Tuition Fee loan (SLC):** covers the tuition fee charged by the college. They will be repaid and are subject to interest, with the amount to be repaid each month based on current income.
 - 7.3.2 **Maintenance Loan (SLC):** Assistance towards living costs such as rent and bills. They will be repaid and are subject to interest, with the amount to be repaid each month based on current income.
 - 7.3.3 **Disabled Student's Allowances (DSAs) (SLC):** grants to assist with payment for additional costs that might be as a result of a

disability, including long term health conditions, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia. DSAs are in addition to any other student finance, do not have to be repaid and are not household income reliant. DSAs can cover payment for specialist equipment, non-medical helpers, travel costs and any other disability related costs of studying.

7.3.4 Dependents' Grants (SLC): grants to assist those who are studying full time and have children or an adult that are financial dependent. These are paid on top of other student finance and do not usually have to be paid back unless the course is left early. The amount usually depends on the household income and can include Parent's Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant or Adult Dependents' Grant.

7.3.5 Advanced Learner Loans (SFE): available for students for level 3, 4, 5 of 6 qualifications. The course must qualify for advanced learner loan funding. The loan will need to be repaid after the course is completed or the student withdraws and is based on a threshold income for repayments.

- 7.4 Where a student is being financially supported by a sponsor, the sponsor will be expected to comply with the payment of fees as set out in section 5.0.
- 7.5 Sponsored students must provide a valid purchase order and a letter from their sponsoring organisation before their enrolment can be completed. The letter of sponsorship must be on headed paper and must clearly state the college name, student name, course being funded, total tuition fee and PO Number. Fees will be invoiced and are payable in full on enrolment.
- 7.6 DCG offer bursaries for students throughout the academic year. The details of the bursaries will be published on an annual basis with details of how to apply. The bursary is not intended to pay for the tuition fees and cannot be relied upon prior to enrolment to the course. The bursary is designed to support students in addition to their tuition fees, with the monies awarded contributing towards travel, trips, purchase of books and equipment or general costs.
- 7.7 Any support is financially assessed based upon individual circumstances.

8.0 Higher Level and Degree Apprenticeships

- 8.1 Fees for Higher Level Apprenticeships are outlined in the main DCG Tuition Fees Policy

9.0 Related Policies

- 9.1 In addition to this Supplement, the following documents are related and can be found on DCGs website:
- 9.1.1 Student Protection Plan
 - 9.1.2 Enrolment Terms and Conditions
 - 9.1.3 HE Prospectus
 - 9.1.4 Higher Education Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)

10.0 Glossary of terms

APP	Access and participation Plan
AY	Academic Year
BA (Hons)	Bachelor of Arts (with honours)

BEng	Bachelor of Engineering
DCG	Derby College Group
FdA	Foundation Degree (Arts)
BSc (Hons)	Bachelor of Science (with honours)
FdSc	Foundation Degree (Science)
FT	Full Time
HE	Higher Education
HEI	Higher Education Institution
HERA	Higher Education and Research Act (2017)
HNC	Higher National Certificate
HND	Higher National Diploma
OfS	Office for Students
PT	Part Time
SLC	Student Loans Company
SFE	Student Finance England
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths
TEF	Teaching Excellence Framework