

For 2027 Cohort (LLE) Students

Applicable to new or returning undergraduate students studying courses which start from 1 January 2027 onwards, and eligible for the England fee

Contents

Alternative format, support and information.....	3
Contact us:	3
1. Introduction	3
2. Scope.....	4
What this policy covers	4
What this policy does not cover	4
3. Setting and changing our fees	5
4. Understanding your fees and funding	6
Which fees apply to me?.....	6
Funding information	8
5. Paying your fees	9
6. Cancelling, deferring or withdrawing.....	10
Cancelling	10
Deferrals and withdrawals.....	10
Fees paid by you, a third party, or a sponsor	12
Changing modules	12
Fee liability.....	12

7.	Discretionary Fee Credits and Refunds	14
	Discretionary Fee Credits	14
	Discretionary Fee Refunds	16
8.	Additional costs.....	17
	Related policies and legislation	17
	Feedback	18
	Charity statement.....	18
	Document information	18

Alternative format, support and information

If you need this document in an alternative format please [Contact Us](#) (visit www.open.ac.uk/contact), call us on +44 (0)300 303 5303, or get in touch with our student support teams via [StudentHome](#) if you are a current Open University student.

Contact us:

If you need support and guidance regarding this document, please [Contact Us](#) or call us on +44 (0)300 303 5303.

Previous versions: For changes made to this document please refer to the [change log](#) and for previous versions see the Fee Rules (Undergraduate Study) on the [Fee Rules landing page](#).

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document outlines the rules about fees, fee liabilities and fee refunds for new or returning undergraduate students studying courses which start from 1 January 2027 onwards and are eligible for the England fee. Eligibility requirements refer to the specific criteria that determines which fee you qualify for. For further information please refer to the [Fee Status Policy](#).
- 1.2 Fees may vary based on study level, modules, and when you start studying. This document also covers payment rules and policies if your circumstances change. You should read this alongside the [Conditions of Registration](#), which you agree to upon registration. The Conditions detail your fee obligations and consequences of non-payment. For personal guidance, contact our [student support teams](#).
- 1.3 Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE) refers to the new student support funding available to new and returning students in England who are starting qualifications or standalone modules which begin after 1 January 2027.
- 1.4 Throughout this document The Open University will be referred to as “**We**”, “**Us**” or “**Our**” and students will be referred to as “**You**” or “**Your**”.

2. Scope

What this policy covers

2.1 These Fee Rules apply to students eligible for the England fee who are registered for:

- an undergraduate standalone module, or
- an undergraduate qualification, or
- an Integrated Masters,

which begins after 1 January 2027.

Future modules will follow the Fee Rules in effect at that time. Updates to this policy may be made to correct errors, enhance clarity, or comply with legal changes.

What this policy does not cover

2.2 These rules do not apply to the following:

- Students who are not eligible for the England fee. See the [Fee Rules Policy](#) page for other related policies and the [Fee Status Policy](#) for details on the fee you will pay.
- Students who are continuing to study towards an undergraduate qualification, or Integrated Masters, which began prior to 1 January 2027.
- Postgraduate modules or qualifications (except for Integrated Masters). For the relevant Fee Rules for your nation, please see the [Fee Rules Policy](#) page.
- Modules which began prior to 1 January 2027.
 - Please see the [Fee Rules](#) in place during that academic year.
 - For Fee Rules prior to the 2025/26 academic year, note that all nations were contained in a single document.

- Postgraduate Research Degrees. Please see the [Fee Rules Policy page](#) for the relevant policies.
- Apprenticeship programmes. Please contact the [Apprentice Enrolment and Support Team \(AEST\)](#).
- Non-credit bearing Short Courses. Please see [Conditions of Registration \(Short courses\)](#).
- For modules or qualifications offered through a partnership with another educational institution (your 'Local Education Centre'), please contact them directly for information on fees, payments, and related policies.
- Open University Microcredentials. Please see the [Conditions of Registration \(Microcredentials\)](#).
- Vocational Qualifications. Please see Conditions of Registration (Vocational Qualifications).

3. Setting and changing our fees

- 3.1 We allow students to study at varying intensities and over extended periods. As a result, fee structures, rules, and policies may change during your studies. For detailed information on fee setting, please refer to the [Fee Status Policy](#).
- 3.2 Fees for the relevant academic year are published on each module description in the [online prospectus](#) in the spring of the previous year (e.g., fees for the 2026/27 academic year will be published in Spring 2026).
- 3.3 Fee changes reflect the costs of delivering courses and services. This includes staffing and operational costs, changes in government funding or the national funding body for Higher Education in England ([Student Finance England](#)), inflation indices like the Consumer Price Index (CPI), Retail Price Index (RPI), changes in taxation and wage inflation.
- 3.4 For new and returning students starting courses after 1 January 2027, tuition fees are regulated on a per credit basis rather than per academic year. The University is not permitted to charge more than this limit, which is updated annually by the Department for Education.

The fee limit which applies to courses starting between 1 January 2027 to 31 July 2027 is £81.58 per credit. This is the equivalent of £9,790 for a full-time year of study, or 120 credits.

- 3.5 Other fee changes may include the introduction, modification, or withdrawal of offers, discounts, and schemes to support study completion or further enrolment.
- 3.6 We will provide reasonable notice of any significant fee changes and when these changes will come into effect.

4. Understanding your fees and funding

Which fees apply to me?

- 4.1 **Registration:** You will be informed about your module fees, available payment methods, and enrolment deadlines before registration. Fees are in pounds sterling.
- 4.2 **Course Year:** When you start studying with us you are allocated a Course Year. Your Course Year is based on the module presentation code of your first module. Each module code corresponds to a month of the year, however your module may start shortly before, or shortly after, the 1st day of the applicable month. Each module presentation code, its applicable start month, and Course Year is outlined below.

Module Presentation Code	Effective Month Start	Example	Course Year
A	January	A100 27A	January
B	February	A100 27B	February
C	March	A100 27C	March
D	April	A100 27D	April
E	May	A100 27E	May
F	June	A100 27F	June

Module Presentation Code	Effective Month Start	Example	Course Year
G	July	A100 27G	July

- 4.3 If you are studying towards a qualification, your Course Year will last for 12 months. For example, if the first module of your qualification begins in February, your Course Year will run from 1 February to 31 January. If you are studying on a standalone basis, each standalone module will have its own separate Course Year which will be determined by each module's presentation code.
- 4.4 **Home address:** If you are studying towards a qualification, your fee is based on your home address on the first day of the Course Year in which your first module begins. If you are studying a standalone module your fee will be based on your home address on the first day of the month your module begins. Your home address is where you are ordinarily and lawfully resident and must not be temporary or work-related. For further details see the [Fee Status Policy](#).
- 4.5 **Residency criteria:** If your residency changes during your studies, your fee liability may be affected. Residency criteria are used to determine if you are eligible for the England fee. For more details, please refer to the [Fee Status Policy](#).
- 4.6 **Qualification status:** Your fee status will stay the same for the duration of your qualification if you remain resident in the UK and maintain your status as a continuing student. However, if you relocate outside of the UK or become a returning student, your fee status will be reassessed. This will not affect the fees you are charged for the module(s) you are currently studying but will take effect for any future modules. For more details on the continuing and returning student criteria, and how any changes in your circumstances might affect your fees and the funding available to you, please see the [Fee Status Policy](#).
- 4.7 **Standalone modules:** If you are not studying towards a qualification, your fee will be reassessed each time you register for a module.

Funding information

- 4.8 You may be eligible for funding from [Student Finance England \(SFE\)](#). This support may include funding via the Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE), and maintenance loans if you are studying BSc (Honours) Nursing (Course code: R39) or are unable to attend an in-person course because of a disability.
- 4.9 Funding under the LLE is limited to a maximum of 180 credits per Course Year.
- 4.10 Your intention to study on a standalone module basis or towards a qualification will be set at the start of your first module and will remain fixed for:
- the duration of your Course Year (if your module is linked to a qualification), or
 - the duration of that module (if studied as a standalone module).
- 4.11 Any funding you are awarded from the LLE will be based on the intention that was set at the start of your first module. Changing whether a module is linked to a qualification after that module has started will not change your funding entitlement.

Maintenance funding

- 4.12 To receive maintenance funding you have been awarded, we must confirm to [SFE](#) that we are satisfied you are engaging with your studies.
- 4.13 This process is known as Registration Confirmation and involves us using information about your participation on your module(s) to confirm you are studying. We then report this to SFE to enable them to release your funding. This process usually begins after the 14th day of your module, which is the point you first become liable for your fees.
- 4.14 Further details on monitoring your participation and engagement and how this information is used are outlined in the [Attendance and Participation Policy](#) and [Student Privacy Notice](#).

5. Paying your fees

- 5.1 Your obligation to pay fees and the consequences of non-payment are detailed in the [Conditions of Registration](#).
- 5.2 Our acceptance of third-party funding (e.g., loans, grants) depends on you meeting the funding body's eligibility requirements. Confirmation of eligibility is usually required before registration. If you are allowed to register before funding eligibility is confirmed, we may cancel your registration if we do not subsequently receive confirmation. You will be notified in advance if this is the case.
- 5.3 For sponsorships, a signed sponsorship agreement must be submitted as a promise to pay. We accept this agreement as confirmation of payment. If the sponsorship agreement is not honoured, we may cancel your registration and recover any fees due.
- 5.4 **OUSBA:** You may be able to pay your fees using a loan from The Open University Student Budget Account Ltd (OUSBA). If you choose to pay this way, OUSBA pays your fees to The Open University on your behalf, and you repay OUSBA either in a single sum or in monthly instalments. For more details, visit the [OUSBA website](#).
- 5.5 If payment or an agreed payment method is withdrawn or insufficient, we may cancel your registration and recover any fees as detailed in the [Student Debt Policy](#).
- 5.6 If you owe us tuition fees, you may be prevented from registering for future study unless you can pay in advance or secure an accepted payment method.
- 5.7 If you need to repeat a module, you must register again and pay the full fee. You will pay the fee in place at the time you repeat the module.

6. Cancelling, deferring or withdrawing

Cancelling

- 6.1 **Right to cancel:** You have the right to cancel your registration for a module or qualification within 14 calendar days of the date of the email or letter confirming our acceptance of your registration.
- 6.2 **Cancellation before the module starts:** If you wish to cancel your registration after the 14-day period without incurring a fee liability, you must cancel before the module start date.
- 6.3 **Refund:** If either **paragraph 6.1 or 6.2** apply, you will receive a full refund of fees paid or a waiver of any remaining fees.
- 6.4 Please follow the cancellation procedures set out in the [Changing Your Study Plans Policy](#).
- 6.5 If you cancel your registration in line with **paragraphs 6.1 and 6.2**, we will not request payment of any Tuition Fee Loan via the LLE from [SFE](#). Any OUSBA loan agreement will be cancelled.

Deferrals and withdrawals

- 6.6 **Monitoring engagement:** We monitor your engagement in line with the [Attendance and Participation Policy](#). If you stop studying without following the proper deferral process, your registration may be cancelled, and any maintenance funding suspended to ensure proper management of public funds.
- 6.7 **Effective date for deferrals and withdrawals:** The date you defer or withdraw is crucial as it determines your eligibility for fee refunds or waivers and affects your academic record. Withdrawal will take effect from the date you contact us to withdraw, or from the date you last actively participated in your studies, whichever is earliest. The [Fee Liability](#) section outlines the dates used to calculate your fee liability and any fee refunds or waivers.
- 6.8 **Overpayment of maintenance funding:** Depending on the timing of your deferral or withdrawal or if you stop studying without following the deferral process, you may owe money to [SFE](#) for your maintenance funding.

- 6.9 **Notification:** You must inform us of your intention to defer or withdraw using the procedure in the [Changing Your Study Plans Policy](#). Failure to notify us makes you ineligible for fee refunds and may affect your entitlement to maintenance funding.
- 6.10 **Fee payment:** You must pay the agreed fees even if you subsequently defer or withdraw from your studies, unless you are entitled to a refund.
- 6.11 **Lifelong Learning Entitlement (LLE):** If you pay with a Tuition Fee Loan from your LLE and then defer or withdraw, you will not be liable for fees due after the deferral or withdrawal date, and your loan liability will be adjusted accordingly.
- 6.12 **Refunds:** If you defer or withdraw after the module starts and more than 14 days after registration:
- Refunds or fee waivers are only available under certain conditions, which depend on your funding method and when you defer or withdraw from your module. See [Fee Liability](#) for more details.
- 6.13 **Final deferral date:** The final deferral date is the last date that you can defer your module. This is the last working day before you sit the exam or submit the end-of-module assessment (EMA) or, for modules that do not have an EMA, the last working day before the submission deadline for the final piece of assessed work. Refer to [StudentHome](#) or your module website for specific deadlines.
- 6.14 **OUSBA loan deferral:** If you have paid your fees using an OUSBA loan, you must formally notify us of your intention to defer. Simply stopping your studies or payments without notification will leave you liable for the full fees and any payments due under your credit agreement. Any OUSBA loan agreement will be adjusted so that it matches your module fee liability. OUSBA will contact you directly if there are any changes to your loan balance or payment schedule due to deferral.
- 6.15 **Withdrawal by us:** In rare cases where we need to withdraw a module, qualification, or programme of study, reasonable steps will be taken to ensure you can continue your studies as outlined in the [Student Protection Plan](#) and [Conditions of Registration](#).

If continuation is not possible, the [Refund and Compensation Policy](#) outlines the criteria for refunds or compensation.

Fees paid by you, a third party, or a sponsor

- 6.16 If you or a third party or sponsor paid your fees (in whole or in part), you/they may be eligible for a refund as outlined in the [Fee Liability](#) section.

Changing modules

- 6.17 If you wish to change module, you must follow the process set out in the [Changing Your Study Plans Policy](#). You must pay the difference if the new module costs more. If it costs less, you will receive a refund of the difference.

Fee liability

- 6.18 You do not incur any fee liability if you cancel your registration either before your module start date or within 14 days of your module starting.
- 6.19 Your fee liability increases in stages on set calendar dates that depend on each module's presentation code/start month. The fees you are charged at each of these points are proportionate to the credits that have been made available to you to study at that point, and the costs incurred by us to provide them.

Fee Liability Points

6.20 Your fee liability is evenly distributed across your module in four instalments of 25%, which total 100%. Your first liability point is the 14th day of your module (25%). Thereafter, the calendar dates below apply to each module studied during the rest of your Course Year. A further instalment of 25% is due at the second fee liability point. A third instalment of 25% is due at the third fee liability point. Your final instalment of 25% is due on the fourth and final fee liability point, or on your module's final deferral date, whichever is sooner.

Module Presentation Code	Effective Module Start Month	Fee Liability Point 1 (25%)	Fee Liability Point 2 (25%)	Fee Liability Point 3 (25%)	Fee Liability Point 4 (25%)
27A	January	Day 14	01-Mar	01-May	01-Jul
27B	February	Day 14	01-Apr	01-Jun	01-Aug
27C	March	Day 14	01-May	01-Jul	01-Sep
27D	April	Day 14	01-Jun	01-Aug	01-Oct
27E	May	Day 14	01-Jul	01-Sep	01-Nov
27F	June	Day 14	01-Aug	01-Oct	01-Dec
27G	July	Day 14	01-Sep	01-Nov	01-Jan

Reporting credits studied to Student Finance England

6.21 If you are funding your studies through the Lifelong Learning Entitlement, we are required to report the number of credits you have studied to Student Finance England. If you complete your module(s), we will report the full value of credits. If you do not complete a module, for example if you defer or stop studying without telling us, we will report credits based on your fee liability. For example, if you defer from a 60-credit module having become liable for 50% of your fees, we will report that you have studied 30 credits to Student Finance England.

7. Discretionary Fee Credits and Refunds

Discretionary Fee Credits

7.1 **Discretionary Fee Credit:** A Discretionary Fee Credit is a discount awarded following you deferring or failing a module due to exceptional circumstances. The discount is applied to the fee of a future module presentation. It can only be used towards future study, and no cash alternative is available.

7.2 **Eligibility for a Discretionary Fee Credit:** You may be eligible for a Discretionary Fee Credit if you defer or fail a module due to unforeseen circumstances and can provide evidence of this where applicable. Examples of the supporting evidence we may require from you can be found on the Help Centre: [Applying for Discretionary Fee Credit or Refund](#). Unforeseen circumstances that can be considered are:

- death of a close family member, partner or dependent
- prolonged incapacity of yourself or a close family member due to serious illness, accident or medical condition
- disability
- prolonged incapacity of yourself due to pregnancy, maternity/paternity, or surrogacy
- prolonged incapacity of yourself due to adoption
- prolonged incapacity of yourself due to gender reassignment

- a change in employment circumstances which means you cannot continue to study due to the extreme nature of the work
- maladministration by us
- a change in caring responsibilities
- other serious exceptional circumstances beyond your control

7.3 **Amount:** A Discretionary Fee Credit may be awarded for up to 100% of the fee liability incurred for the module you have deferred from or failed. If the Discretionary Fee Credit does not cover the full cost of your module when you return to study, you must pay any additional module fees due.

7.4 **Time limit:** Discretionary Fee Credits can be used towards any module starting within 13 months of your deferred or failed module's start date. If you want to study the deferred or failed module again and the next available start date is beyond this period, the Discretionary Fee Credit can still be used. Unused Discretionary Fee Credits expire after this period with no refund given. Discretionary Fee Credits cannot be used for Microcredentials or Apprenticeship Programmes.

7.5 In exceptional circumstances, permission can be given for a Discretionary Fee Credit to be used up to 25 months after the start date of the module you deferred from. Contact our [student support teams](#) for more details.

7.6 **Usage:** A Discretionary Fee Credit can only be used once. If you use a Discretionary Fee Credit in full or part payment and then defer or withdraw, you will not normally be eligible for another Discretionary Fee Credit for that module.

7.7 **Third-party payments:** If a third party paid your fees, the Discretionary Fee Credit will be credited to you.

7.8 **Applying for a Discretionary Fee Credit:** If you believe you are eligible for a Discretionary Fee Credit, visit the Help Centre: [Applying for Discretionary Fee Credit or Refund](#) or contact our [student support teams](#) to apply. You will receive a written outcome from us within 10 working days.

7.9 **Application deadline:** You must submit your application for a Discretionary Fee Credit within 13 months of the start date of the module you have deferred from or failed.

Discretionary Fee Refunds

7.10 **Discretionary Fee Refund:** A Discretionary Fee Refund is the refund of fees already incurred for a module. It is only given when exceptional circumstances mean you are unable to return to study at all.

7.11 **Eligibility for a Discretionary Fee Refund:** A Discretionary Fee Refund can only be considered under these conditions:

- Death of a registered or enrolled student.
- Unforeseen prolonged and serious illness of you or a close family member, preventing you from returning to study within 25 months of the module start date for the module you deferred from.
- Serious maladministration by us which has led to you wanting to stop studying and this has been jointly agreed with us.

7.12 **Amount:** A Discretionary Fee Refund may be awarded for up to 100% of the fee liability incurred for the module you have deferred from or failed.

7.13 Any Discretionary Fee Refund approved will be returned to the original method of payment. Where a third party has paid your fees, for example sponsorship, the fees will be returned to them.

7.14 **Applying for a Discretionary Fee Refund:** If you believe you are eligible for a Discretionary Fee Refund, visit the Help Centre: [Applying for Discretionary Fee Credit or Refund](#) or contact our [student support teams](#) to apply. You will receive a written outcome from us within 10 working days.

7.15 **Application deadline:** You must submit your application for a Discretionary Fee Refund within 13 months of the start date of the module you have deferred from or failed.

7.16 **Exceptional awards:** The Vice-Chancellor's Delegate may approve exceptional awards for Discretionary Fee Credit or Refund cases outside the normal criteria.

8. Additional costs

8.1 You may incur extra costs when studying, such as for a computer, internet access, travel to tutorials, and set books. This list is not exhaustive. Financial help may be available for low-income students. Contact our [student support teams](#), or see the [Study costs funding](#) page for more information.

8.2 If you register for a module with a residential school, you are responsible for any additional expenses you may incur to attend. This includes the cost of travel to the residential school, accommodation and meals provided during attendance at the residential school. You will be informed of any extra costs before you register, including when and how these must be paid.

8.3 Students studying modules with a residential school may be required to contact an external provider directly to book their place and make payment. Further information is available on the module description on the [online prospectus](#).

8.4 You do not need to pay a fee for your resit examinations, postponed resit examinations, or for resubmitting your End-of-Module Assessments.

Related policies and legislation

- [Assessment Banking Rules](#)
- [Attendance and Participation Policy](#)
- [Changing Your Study Plans Policy](#)
- [Conditions of Registration](#)
- [Equality and Diversity Statement](#)
- [Fee Status Policy](#)
- [Refund and Compensation Policy](#)

- [Student Charter](#)
- [Student Complaints and Appeals Procedure](#)
- [Student Debt Policy](#)
- [Student Protection Plan](#)
- [Safonau'r Gymraeg \(Welsh Language Standards\)](#)

Feedback

If you have any feedback on this policy, please email student-policy-compliance@open.ac.uk.

Charity statement

The Open University is incorporated by Royal Charter (RC 000391), an exempt charity in England and Wales and a charity registered in Scotland (SC 038302). The Open University is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority in relation to its secondary activity of credit broking.

Document information

Version number 1.0

Approved by: Delegate of Director, Academic Services

Effective from: 1 August 2026

Date for review: March 2027