

Higher Education Student 23-24 Value for Money Statement

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Higher Education Student Value for Money Statement

1. How we use students' tuition fees and provide value for money

Wiltshire College and University Centre (WCUC) is committed to good practice and how this provides value for money to all Higher Education (HE) programme management and operation.

WCUC understands our responsibility to ensure all teaching activities, however funded, achieve value for money and we manage our finances carefully to reflect this. This enables us to best look after our students and staff and maximise our long-term sustainability. We also believe it is crucial to be transparent about how much income we receive and how we spend it, including the tuition fees paid by students.

Providing you with value for money from your tuition fees is our priority and involves much more than making sure you have excellent staff to teach you. We also need to quality assure all areas of your college higher education experience. This includes making sure you have high quality learning environments, meaningful work placements, enrichment activities, support and to feel part of a HE community. So, you can see your tuition fee is spent on much more than your classroom teaching.

2. Our programmes and courses:

WCUC provides a flexible, skills and career-based suite of HE programmes that ensure value for money for progressing or new students. We also have a strong community of mature students who are embarking on new careers or upskilling to higher paid professional work. The majority of our programmes span two years and can be studied alongside current work and family commitments. These are flexible in delivery to support access for all who wish to study HE qualifications.

The Wiltshire College University Centre partners with two Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Oxford Brookes University and Bournemouth University who validate our qualifications and our Higher National qualifications are provided by Pearson.

Applications for part time programmes are submitted directly through the WCUC website and are assessed using the WCUC Admissions Policy. Full time programme applications are usually submitted via UCAS and are assessed using the WCUC Admissions Policy, alongside any stipulations agreed with partner Universities for franchised courses (courses offered in partnership with a HEI). Currently both partner Universities allow International applicants to apply direct for example, not via UCAS, and these applications follow the Admissions process of the individual University. Franchised programmes are quality assured by the awarding HEI. We hold Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) documents which detail the contractual and financial arrangements between the University Centre and the partner HEIs and the financial arrangements require the University Centre to pay a proportion of our income to our partners.

3. Where does our money come from?

During the academic year 2021/2022, the University Centre received a total income of £1.79m. HE tuition fees account for 34% of our HE income, HEI accounts for 61% of our HE income and 5% was received via OFS grant.

4. What do we spend the money on?

While teaching students is our primary concern, there are a lot of expenses associated with running the University Centre that ensure we provide a good experience for our students and can make the difference we want to in our local community.

In 2021/22, the College spent just over £19.8m (59% of our total spend) on teaching costs, support, and student facilities. This is the money that is invested to provide the best quality teaching and learning experience that we can for all our students. When a new HE course is designed, the college review the whole student experience and how our new HE students can benefit from our existing and any proposed additional facilities.

£33k was paid to our university partners who are the validating organisations for our degrees to Quality Assure (QA) our programmes.

Further spend was allocated to the College Learning Resource Centres and IT equipment and facilities as well as our student services support provision. This includes specialist support and resources including advice and guidance for fees, finance and registration and all other areas of support such as student health and wellbeing.

The University Centre also gives bursaries and has a Higher Education Student Support (Hardship) Fund which provides for financial hardships.

Of the remainder, approximately £3m (9%) went to estates which includes security and maintenance of our premises and £1.3m (4%) was as a contribution to central costs. This includes maintenance and general improvements. Part of this cost also includes central administration; these are things we must do to keep the University Centre running successfully, such as having a Finance Department, keeping accurate student records, marketing etc.

100% of the income generated from HE at WCUC goes into the running of the provision. This is either directly for example, teaching costs, resources or indirectly via infrastructure and facilities.

More detailed information on how we manage our money can be found in our latest financial statements which can be found on the College website.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

Wiltshire College & University Centre strives to ensure equality of opportunity for all students, local people and the workforce. As an employer and a provider of education, the College aims to ensure that none are placed at a disadvantage as a result of its policies and procedures. It is intended that this policy and procedure is fair to all. Where any part could potentially lead to unequal outcomes, the policy then justifies why this is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.

5. Data Retention Statement

Wiltshire College & University Centre is committed to ensure the data it collects, and holds is in line with the ICO's guidance and meets data protection law. Where appropriate a Data Protection Impact Assessment will be undertaken as and when policies are updated to ensure risks to the individual and college are considered and managed.

For further information please refer to Wiltshire College & University Centre's Data Protection Policy.

6. Policy Review and Ownership

This policy and procedure is owned by the Head of Higher Education Quality and Performance. It will be reviewed by this team periodically in light of developments in legislation, audit; and to ensure it continues to be relevant and supports operational effectiveness. The document is managed by the Head of Higher Education Quality and Performance.