

Finance Committee

Date of Meeting	17 September 2025
Paper No.	FC1-C
Agenda Item	3.3
Subject of Paper	College Course Fees 2026/27
FOISA Status	Disclosable
Primary Contact	Andrew Dickson, Chief Financial Officer
Date of Production	5 September 2025
Action	For Decision

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 The Finance Committee is asked to approve the proposed minimum course fee rate detailed in the paper.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation was undertaken with Depute Principal, Vice Principal Student Experience, Vice Principal Corporate Development and Innovation, Associate Director Student Registration & Funding and Financial Controller.

3. Key Insights

- 3.1 The table below sets out the proposed basis for calculating the College's course fees for the SFC fundable activity 2026/27 academic year. The Vice Principal Corporate Development & Innovation will determine the course fees for all full cost commercial activity, part time international activity and international partnership activity.
- 3.2 The Committee should note:
- That the Scottish Parliament has abolished fees for students studying on **eligible** full-time further education courses (i.e. below HNC/D level).
 - The vast majority of full-time HE students (HNC/D) will have their fees paid on their behalf by the Students' Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS).
 - The Board cannot set the fees for full-time HE, as these are set nationally and have been frozen at £1,285 since 2009.
 - The Board has more flexibility in terms of setting the level of part-time fees.
- 3.3 SFC issue annually a national fee waiver policy whereby a wide range of disadvantaged people need not pay part-time course fees. The College fee waiver policy complies with the SFC national policy.
- 3.4 The College proposes to increase most part-time fees by approximately 4% on the 2025/26 level to recognise the general economic climate, inflation and College costs. This increase is similar to the current rate of inflation. In the year to July 2025 (announced in August 2025), the annual RPI was 4.8% and CPI was 3.8%. In 2025/26 there was a 3% increase and in 2024/25 there was an approximate 6% increase in part time fees.
- 3.5 The College is likely to face flat cash SFC grant funding for 2026/27 and at the same time collective bargaining pay increases and inflationary operating cost increases, therefore a 4% increase in the course fee rates will assist the College budgeted income. This increase has been incorporated in the 2026/27 fees shown in the table below. Within the SFC main grant for 2026/27 full time fees will, disappointingly, most likely to remain at the 2025/26 rates with a small increase to the notional part time fee rates.

The proposed part-time fees shown in the following table are set as a minimum level. Some fees will be set higher depending on, for example, whether additional tuition is provided, or class sizes are smaller than average. The Chief Financial Officer will agree variations to the minimum course fee level.

4. Impact and Implications

- 4.1 The increase to the course fee rates should have a positive impact on the 2026/27 College income and a minimal negative impact on student recruitment.

	City of Glasgow 2023/24	City of Glasgow 2024/25	City of Glasgow 2025/26	City of Glasgow 2026/27
HE Full-time (Home Fees/Scottish Domiciled)	£1,285	£1,285	£1,285	£1,285
FE Full-time (Home Fees/Scottish Domiciled)	£1,008	£1,008	£1,008	£1,008
FE & HE Full-time (RUK students)	£3,100	£3,300	£3,400	£3,550
FE & HE Full Time (RUK students) Per Credit	£206	£220	£227	£237
FE & HE Full-time overseas students (inc EU)	£7,500	£7,950	£8,190	£8,500
ESOL Full-time overseas students	£6,300	£6,700	£6,900	£7,200
Part-time Fees – Minimum Charges:				
FE Unit (or 40 hours)	£99.00	£105.00	£108.00	£112.00
FE SQA fee	£9.40	£10.00	£13.00	£14.00
TOTAL FE unit fee	£108.40	£115.00	£121.00	£126.00
TOTAL FE part-time fee per hour	£2.71	£2.87	£2.96	£3.08
HE Unit (or 40 hours)	£125.00	£132.50	£136.50	£142.00
HE SQA fee	£15.80	£16.75	£17.25	£18.00
TOTAL HE unit fee	£140.80	£149.25	£153.75	£160.00
TOTAL HE part-time fee per hour	£3.52	£3.73	£3.84	£4.00
Employer charge per hour	£3.90	£4.13	£4.25	£4.42