

Providing Value for Money

Students get value for money when they experience the full benefits of higher education in exchange for the effort, time and money they invest.

Choosing to study with a higher education provider is a big decision, particularly given the cost of tuition fees.

Students want well-run providers who are clear about what they offer. They also expect to gain personally and professionally from their education during and after their studies.

Competition to recruit students leads providers to improve their experience, often increasing value for money for students.

The Office for Students oversees this competitive market and has a duty to promote value for money.

Here are some of the ways The City College does this:

Limits on tuition fees

The maximum tuition fee per student paid to the College is £6355 per annum for funded courses. The College is also registered with the HMRC and pays 20% VAT on all its income, which leaves £5295.83 per student.

Offering quality assurance

As part of the registration with the OfS, the College makes sure that it meets all the registration requirements. OfS, as the regulator, has the authority and jurisdiction to intervene and investigate if the quality and standards do not meet the required standard. An action plan would be deployed to ensure those requirements are met.

Promoting excellent teaching

The City College and The City College of Acupuncture take part in the National Student Survey (NSS) and has performed above the national benchmarks in significant areas. The College distributes the results to senior staff to share good practices and work on areas that can be improved for the next academic year.

The College also took part in the Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) for the first time in 2022/23 and was awarded a Bronze rating. The college aims to improve the rating in the next submission and improve student outcomes..

Providing the right information

Prospective students need good information to make the right choices about where to study. The City College provides correct and up-to-date information to prospective students so that they can make the correct choice of course and what they can do with that qualification. It makes sure that the information is current and reliable.

Students can find the information on the 'Discover Uni website' which allows them to compare information about undergraduate courses, including results from the National Student Survey (NSS). The full results can be found here: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/national-student-survey-data/provider-level-dashboard/>

Ensuring good governance

The College is aware of its obligations and ensures good governance through its Academic Board, Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors. The College has been operating for the last 45 years, which is a testament in itself to the longevity and integrity of its operations.

Protecting students' interests

The OfS checks that providers are being clear and fair with students. The College complies with the consumer protection law and is also part of the student complaints scheme run by the OIA - Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education.

Checking providers' finances

The OfS checks providers' financial statements and forecasts to make sure they are financially sustainable. The college provides financial statements and forecasts to the OfS and has its accounts independently audited.

Making sure there are contingency plans

The College has contingency plans in the worst-case scenario and has published a Student Protection Plan that sets out what it will do if it closes a course with enrolled students or shuts down completely. Additionally, there is a Risk Register and Business Continuity Plan. These plans aim to ensure that students can continue their studies in the event of unforeseen and/ or difficult circumstances.

How do we promote value for money for taxpayers?

Taxpayers contribute to higher education in England in three main ways:

Protecting the public interest

The OfS reviews governing documents for all approved providers to check they're consistent with the public interest. Providers must stand by their stated governance processes and show they're acting properly and prudently when managing public money.

Promoting transparency

All providers that access the student support system or receive grant funding must provide transparency about value for money for taxpayers.

The OfS checks that these providers publish clear information about value for money, including statements about sources of income and the way that income is used.

Acting on concerns

If OfS monitoring raises concerns about the college, it will take action and alleviate any concerns they may have. The OfS has the authority to inspect a provider and investigate whether it provides value for money to students and taxpayers.

Senior staff pay

The college currently has no staff members whose annual income is more than £100,000.

For this reason, it is not expected to publish any statistics about senior staff pay, but these items are presented to the Board of Governors for discussion, and any changes that could affect the registration with the OfS will be notified to the OfS immediately.