

University College Birmingham
SUB-CONTRACTING FEES & CHARGES POLICY 2023-24
(For Education and Skills Funding Agency and West Midlands Combined Authority funded provision)

Overview

This policy aims to provide consistency of approach and transparency to University College Birmingham's supply-chain fees and charges in relation to its sub-contracting provision.

Publication of Information Relating to Sub-Contracting

In compliance with the Education and Skills Funding Agency and other agency funding rules that apply, University College Birmingham will publish its sub-contracting fees and charges policy and actual end-of-year sub-contracting fees and charges on its website before the start of each academic year.

Rationale for Sub-Contracting

University College Birmingham recognises the need to offer a diverse range of provision in a flexible and cost-effective manner and aims to achieve this through its direct provision. However, through limited, but effective partnership working the University can:

- Engage with the wider community and increase wider participation
- Provide immediate provision to meet a specific identified need
- Offer niche provision
- Provide access to, or engagement with, a new range of customers
- Offer flexibility by delivering provision at times and venues convenient to learners
- Provide access to, or engagement with, a new range of customers
- Support another provider to develop capacity and quality
- Ensure greater cost efficiency

Were the University proposing to undertake any new subcontracting arrangements, it would take independent legal advice about the impact of Public Contracts Regulations 2015 on its recruitment of supply chain partners.

Quality Improvement

University College Birmingham is committed to continual improvement in teaching and learning, both in its own direct provision and in its sub-contracting provision. Proposals for collaborative partnerships are assessed and approved in line with the Collaborative Programme Approval Process. The quality of collaborative provision in terms of the maintenance of academic standards and the quality of the student experience is monitored and managed in line with the Guidelines for Collaborative Programme Approval Process.

Each sub-contracting partnership has a dedicated link member of staff from University College Birmingham (the Liaison Manager) who works with the Executive Director FE Quality or the Director of Inclusive Education and Higher Education Quality to monitor the quality of the arrangement as per the Collaborative Programme Approval Process.

Quality monitoring includes the review of statistical performance data, the appropriateness of resources including staff resources, the student tracking systems, assessment regulations and verification/moderation of assessments, meetings with staff and students and classroom observation of teaching and learning.

2023-24 Fees

It is anticipated that the University would typically charge a maximum management fee of 20% of the contract value. This fee would be applied to low-risk partners delivering all elements of the provision. The University would only consider a higher management fee if the arrangement covered additional charges. These may include:

- Awarding organisation fees and charges (including hosting of EQA/EV visits and certification)
- Internal quality assurance/verification
- Hiring of facilities/equipment within/from the University
- Increased teaching observations and quality monitoring

These will be detailed in writing in the Partnership Contract. The University does not retain fees or apply charges in the event of clawback due to under-delivery on its part.

All sub-contractors will receive the following:

- Payments and administration
- Quality assurance
- CIS functions relating to the submission of funding claims to the Education and Skills Funding Agency
- Regular management meetings
- A named link member of staff
- Site visits
- Curriculum planning advice and documentation
- Teaching and learning observations
- Training on paperwork and processes, student enrolment, eligibility of learners and equality and diversity
- Quality improvement guidance

Payment Arrangements

Payments are made upon receipt of evidence of delivery through enrolment forms and contact evidence. Payments are made in arrears by BACS and subject to University College Birmingham receiving the funding from the ESFA/WMCA. If any supporting evidence is queried by University College Birmingham, payment may be withheld until these queries are resolved, and payment will then be made at the earliest possible opportunity.

NHS Trusts

There are special arrangements for Apprenticeship Standards with selected NHS Trusts operating as a subcontractor using the national model of funding agreed by NHS England for L5 and above Nursing pathways. £2500 of the negotiated fee per apprentice will be paid monthly in arrears based on apprentices in learning.

Policy Review

University College Birmingham will review this policy annually and update as required. The review will take place at a mid-year point and any policy revisions will be completed and published prior to the commencement of the next academic year.

Communication

Any changes to the policy will be communicated to the existing sub-contractors at contract management meetings. Furthermore, the University will distribute a copy of the Policy to all potential new sub-contractors and discuss it with them as part of the University's pre-contracting process.

Publication of Policy

An up-to-date copy of this policy will be posted on the University's website. Paper copies will be made available on request.

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