

Policy and Procedure on Fee Assessment

Introduction

1. The Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 and the Higher Education (Fee Limit Condition) (England) Regulations 2017 govern the definition of ‘home’ students for the purpose of fees.
2. The College definition, for fees purposes, of a “home” or “overseas” student is therefore dependent on the above regulations and subsequent amendments.
3. Each applicant will be assessed the correct fee status prior to enrolment. This Policy outlines how that assessment will take place, as well as outlining the provision for any appeal against a decision on fee status.
4. All relevant documentation related to a fee assessment must be submitted via The Birkbeck Applicant Portal before enrolment. After enrolment it is not possible to change the decision of a fee assessment, except in specific circumstances (see point 12).

Criteria

5. The College uses guidance provided by the UK Council for International Student Affairs when making an assessment. This guidance can change frequently, with the most up to date information found in the Higher Education section of the UKCISA website:

<https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-fee-status>

6. It should be noted that fee status relates to both nationality and residence. In particular, British citizens who have not lived in or maintained a relevant connection with the United Kingdom over the three years prior to beginning their programme, will normally be classified as “overseas” for fee purposes.
7. The first day of the first academic year of the course is calculated as follows:

For courses starting:	First day of academic year
On or after 1 August and on or before 31 December	1 September
On or after 1 January and on or before 1 April	1 January
On or after 1 April and on or before 1 July	1 April
On or after 1 July and on or before 1 August	1 July

Fee assessment procedure

8. Each applicant's fee status will be assessed using the information supplied on their application form.
9. If the information provided in the application form is not sufficient to make a full assessment, the applicant will be asked to complete an online Fee Assessment Questionnaire (FAQ) and may be required to provide relevant documentary evidence. Failure to provide satisfactory supporting documentation within the requested time will result in the applicant being classified as 'overseas' for fees purposes
10. Producing relevant documentary evidence is the responsibility of the applicant and may constitute one or more of the following:
 - 10.1 Proof of current and previous UK immigration status
 - 10.2 Proof of citizenship
 - 10.3 Proof of current and previous residency in the relevant area
 - 10.4 Proof of relationship to any UK or EEA/Swiss relevant family member(s) and their nationality and residency
11. Where an applicant wishes to dispute the outcome of an FAQ and request a Reassessment, they will need to request this by emailing the relevant team¹. Applicants will be required to confirm which category on the UKCISA website applies to them (point 5) and provide relevant documentary evidence to support their claim.
12. Fee status is set for the duration of the applicant's programme of study. In exceptional circumstances, it may be possible to reassess fee status for a continuing student. A student may be re-classified as 'home' for fees purposes where their circumstances have changed partway through their programme. A full list of these categories can be found on the UKCISA website (point 5).

Appeals

13. Any Appeal against a decision on fee status will be considered by the Academic Registrar or nominee. Appeals will only be considered following an FAQ Reassessment (point 11). Appeals may be made because the original assessment does not conform to the relevant UK regulations, or due to changes in circumstance of the applicant or student.
14. Any Appeal against a decision must be made within 10 working days of receiving the outcome of the College's Reassessment, or before the first day of the academic year, whichever is later.
15. Successful Appeals will not be applied retrospectively and there will be no adjustment or refund on fees paid in previous years.
16. Appeals should be submitted to the relevant team¹ together with documentation as appropriate. The Academic Registrar, or their nominee, will assess the case and may uphold the Appeal; request further information be provided by the applicant within a given timescale; or reject the Appeal.
17. The decision of the Academic Registrar will be final.

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¹ UK/EEA/Swiss nationals and those with Indefinite Leave to Remain – admissions@bbk.ac.uk
International applicants - isa@bbk.ac.uk