

Student Value for Money Statement

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

The University Centre at London South East College is dedicated to implementing best practices and ensuring a value-for-money approach in all its teaching and operational activities. The University Centre recognises it has a responsibility to achieve value for money from all its activities, however they may be funded.

At the London South East Colleges University Centre, we manage our finances carefully to best look after our students and staff and maximise our long-term sustainability. We believe it to be important to be open and transparent about how much income we receive and how we spend it, including the tuition fees paid by students.

Getting the most out of your tuition fees goes beyond having excellent academic staff. While that is crucial, the University Centre offers a comprehensive experience. This includes a pleasant learning environment, work placements, field trips, support for enhancing employability skills and career prospects, recreational facilities, and assistance with both academic and personal matters. It also fosters a sense of community. Your tuition fees cover not just teaching, but all aspects that enrich your overall experience at LSEC, along with the various services and facilities available to you.

An overview of how our courses are structured

The University Centre at LSEC offers a flexible, career-focused portfolio of higher education programmes that are excellent value for money, ideal for those wishing to progress their careers or change direction. The majority of our programmes are two years and can be studied alongside job commitments to enable students to gain qualifications and the skills and knowledge needed to further their career.

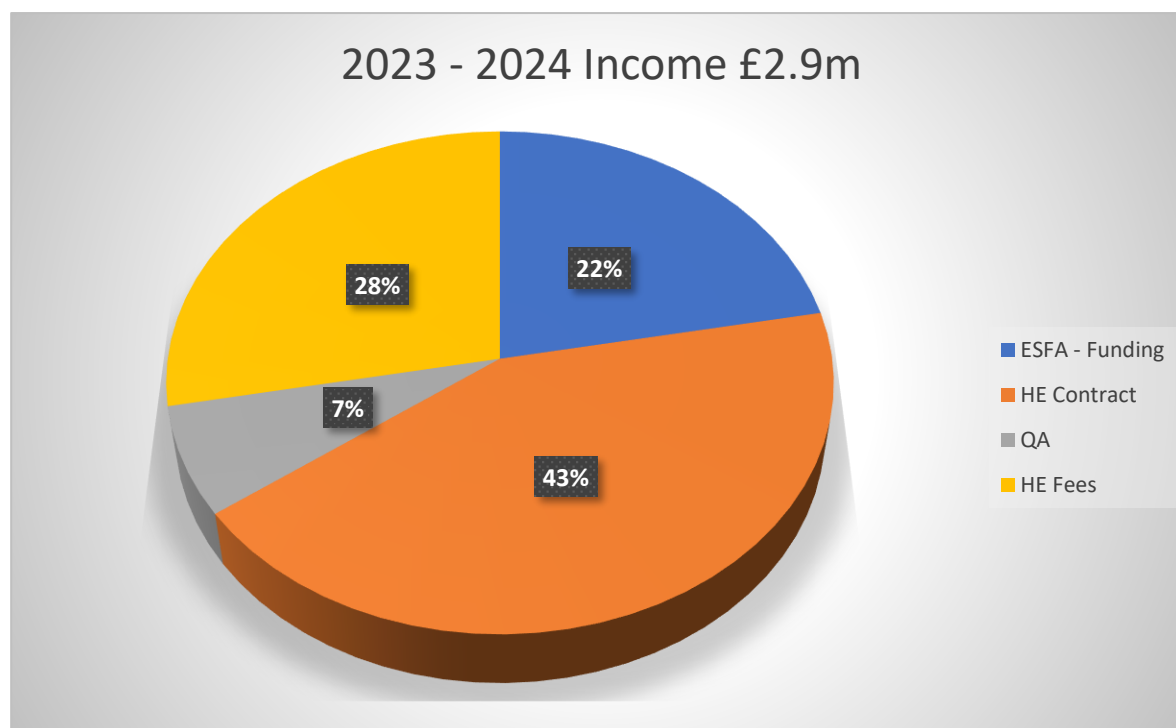
The University Centre partners with two Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), University of Greenwich and Canterbury Christ Church University and our degrees are validated by these two HEIs and Pearson.

Students have the opportunity to apply for LSEC courses on either a direct or indirect basis, depending on the course they wish to study. Students applying directly to LSEC will be assessed using the LSEC Admissions Policy, alongside any stipulations agreed with partner Universities. Students applying indirectly would need to make an application to the partner University and follow the admission process of the individual University.

Direct entry programmes are quality assured by the awarding HEI whereas indirect entry programmes are franchised. Our Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) details the contractual and financial arrangements between the University Centre and the partner HEIs – the financial arrangements require the University Centre to pay a proportion of our income to our partners.

Where does our money come from?

During the academic year 2023/2024, the University Centre received a total of income of £2.9 million. Higher Education tuition fees make up 28% of our income. HE contracts account for 43%, Quality Assured courses at 7% and the remainder comes from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) funding (22%).



Further funding comes from our level 4 and 5 apprenticeships and commercial income. A total of £213,598 was received for apprenticeships. Apprenticeship funding runs over several years, so as most programmes are more than a year there will be varying levels of carry over based on the performance in previous years.

What do we spend the money on?

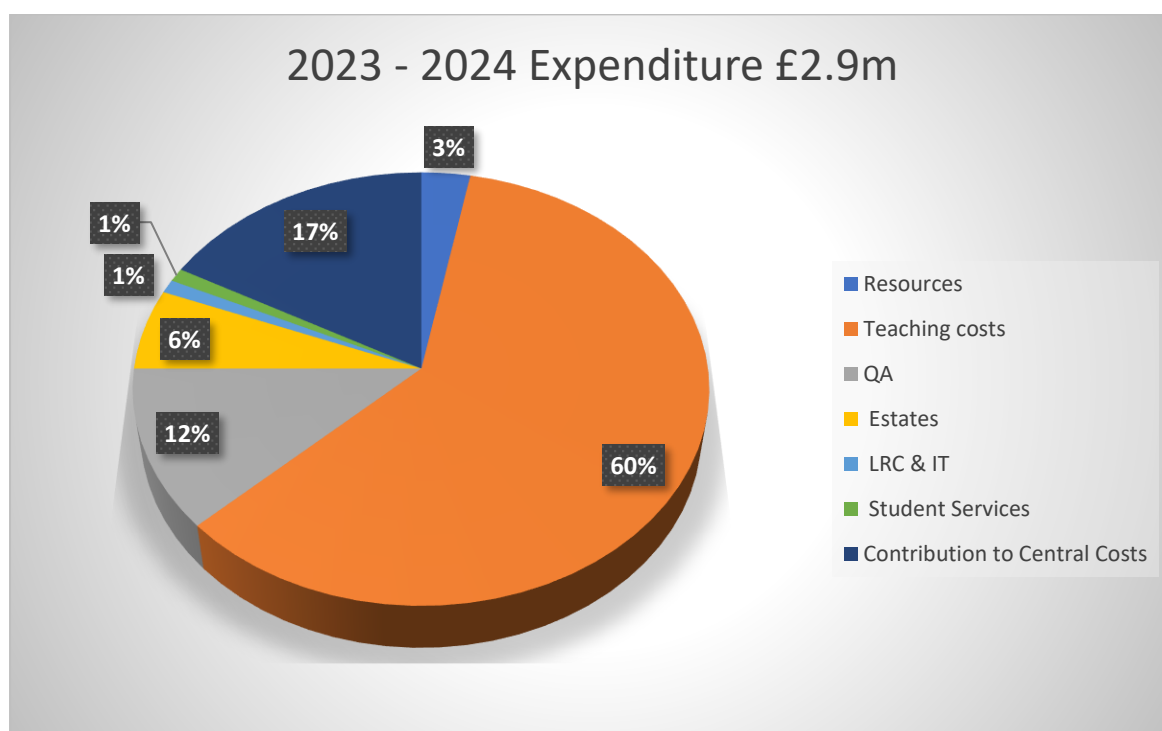
While teaching students is our primary concern, there are a lot of expenses associated with running the University Centre that ensure we provide a good experience for our students and can make the difference we want to in our local community.

In 2023/24, the University Centre spent just over £1.7million (60% of our total spend) on teaching costs, support, general education and staff and student facilities. This is the money that is invested to provide the best quality teaching and learning experience that we can for our students. A further £348,640 (12%) was paid to our university HEIs who are the validating partners for our degrees to Quality Assure (QA) our programmes.

The University Centre spent £78,568 i.e. 3% on resources, and £30,274 (1%) was allocated to the Learning Resource Centre, IT equipment and facilities. In addition, £6,306 was spent on student services which include specialist help and resources for those in need of additional support, advice and guidance for fees, finance and registration and all other areas of support like health and wellbeing. The University Centre also gives bursaries and has a Higher Education Student Support Fund which provides for financial hardships.

Of the remainder, £187,574 (6%) went to estates which includes security and maintenance of our premises and £507,338 (17%) 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 Higher Education at LSEC goes into the running of the provision. This is either directly e.g. 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 report (available from December 2024 on the website).