

## London School of Academics Value for Money Statement 2021

London School of Academics have the mission to “to create excellence within teacher training and staff development, through quality and precision, targeting individuals who want to improve both their lives and the lives of others”. Your fees enable us to provide you with high quality education and a motivating environment.

### **Our commitment:**

As a higher education provider, we are committed to ensuring our students receive value for money. Value for Money is a principle set out by the Office for Students (OfS), we are committed to upholding this principle to provide students and the taxpayer with an understanding of where their money is going and what they should expect in return for their money.

As a registered provider of the OfS this statement has been written and published to ensure compliance with the registration conditions. This statement sets out the measures we take to ensure value for money for students and taxpayers; it provides transparency about our spending. This statement has been written considering examples from local authorities.

### **Value we offer:**

London School of Academics was highly-commended in City and Guilds Lion Award programme, we were named as runner-up for this prestigious award. This award is regarded by City and Guilds (awarding body) as an exceptional achievement, it establishes our centre as one of the most excellent City and Guilds work with globally. This was awarded in 2018 by City and Guilds. This award showcases our commitment to ensuring we deliver excellence.

We are QAA reviewed, our higher education review reports by QAA provides you with an opportunity to view our meeting of the UK Quality Code expectations (<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/quality-assurance-reports/provider?UKPRN=10032594>).

Our current monitoring review report states areas of good practice and highlights of our strengths which includes as follows: “strong individualised student support to its diverse student body, enabling its students to develop their academic, personal and professional potential. The continued implementation of Equality, Diversity and Welfare policies, supported by a wealth of published materials on the VLE, demonstrates a strong commitment to learner support and development, which is valued by the students”<sup>1</sup>. This report demonstrates our commitment to ensuring our admissions processes are robust, and protects the credibility of your qualification with us, providing high quality education and a high level of support as well as our focus on student engagement.

Our website events page highlights our support from public figures which include Rt Hon Stephen Timms (MP), therefore demonstrating our efforts in providing opportunities for students to network and engage in the wider community. It also highlights the achievements of our team members through featuring the awards they have received. Our students enjoy the student engagement events, pictures of these events are placed on our events page. (<https://londonschoolofacademics.com/events.php>).

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### **How we set our fees:**

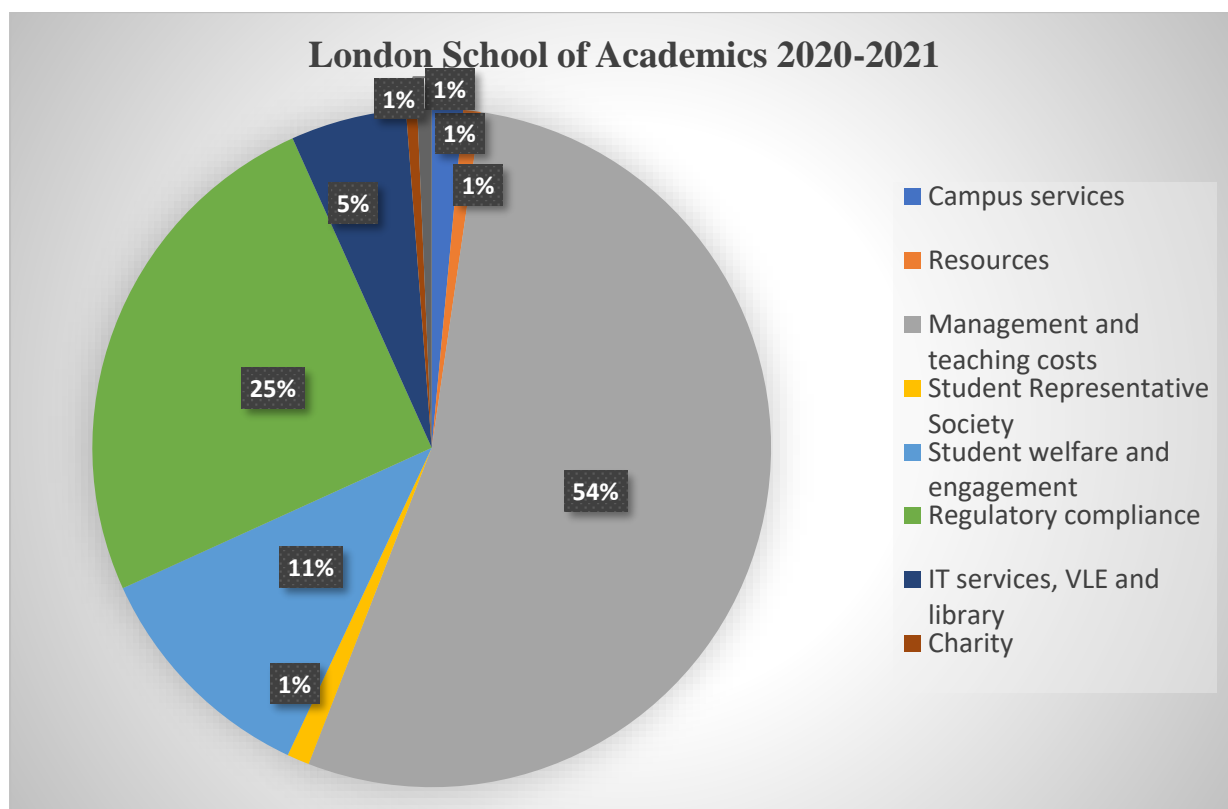
The fees for our main programme which is mainly funded by students taking tuition fee loans have been set in accordance to our registration category for Office for Students. Our registration category is Approved, therefore we do not charge more than £6000. The Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training is a programme that provides students with opportunities to enter the teaching profession, more teachers will actively help address the shortage of teachers in the UK. Our students come from a variety of educational backgrounds, some do not have degrees but do have the required vocational qualifications to study our programme, therefore ensuring that we charge no more than £6000 is important so that we do not disadvantage students who cannot afford university fees. Our fees are the same as most providers delivering the same programme. From the fees charged for the Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training programme, tax is paid, for example £1000 from a £6000 tuition fee is paid as tax to the government as we do not operate as a charity.

### **What we spend student fees on:**

Student fees are spent on a range of things relating to your student experience, some of which include the following:

- Premises which provides a peaceful environment for study, access to open space study areas (street area and outdoor terrace), networking opportunities with a range of businesses, parking at a very low rate of £1 and full disabled access.
- Premises which offers extended access hours for independent student study
- Study rooms equipped with computers
- Virtual Learning Environment which enables easy accessibility to learning resources and enables online submission of assignments reducing costs spent on printing. It enables remote access to important student information and learning resources.
- Zoom which has enabled remote study and the recording of lectures.
- Projector screens which enables you to deliver using technology, this is key for those working in educational institutions who deliver using such resources.
- PPE and cleaning products, this ensures the safety of all and that the study environment is clean.
- Student engagement activities which promote networking and inclusiveness amongst all student cohorts and opportunities to meet public figures (MPs and Councillors)
- Lecturers and mentors equipped to deliver at a high standard.
- Stocking of subject based library books, this enables us to provide students with printed books for one week loan as well as day loan. All books are subject based to ensure relevance.
- Regulatory compliance, your money pays for higher education reviews from the Quality Assurance Agency, registration to the Office for Students (including review), Higher Education Statistics Agency, subscriptions to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator and Copyright Licensing Agency. Regulatory compliance ensures that we offer high quality education and safeguards your student fee investment.
- Annual Graduation which celebrates student achievements.

The following provides a visual breakdown of how fees have been spent.



Student fees are our main source of income therefore the above data summarises in percentage our spending according to the financial accounting year (31<sup>st</sup> of March 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> of March 2021). Our accounts are audited, therefore using the data from our audited accounts enable us to provide a reliable overview of our spending.

#### Course outcome:

From the above a high percentage of our income is spent on management, teaching, campus and online platforms such as our virtual learning environment and Zoom. These areas we feel are important to properly invest in for you to successfully complete your course. Management and teaching teams provide quality assurance, compliance and excellent teaching. Our campus provides a conducive learning environment, access to computers, disability access and campus parking. Regulatory compliance takes a large percentage of income, this is a mandatory cost. The pandemic unfortunately impacted on student`s well-being significantly this year, therefore the completion rate for our September 2020 to July 2021 cohort was 63% and those on extensions who are set to complete is 28%. 9% percent of this cohort are returning for the next academic year.

#### Student experience:

Feedback from our students provide us with a perspective of how well money has been utilised, therefore we gather feedback in many ways; this includes verbal through our open-door policy, unit surveys and an end of programme survey. As part of our end of programme survey we request for students to share their views of their overall experience. The following highlights a few from our September 2020-July 2021 cohort:

*“I am just rounding up my level 5 Diploma in Education and Training. London School of Academics is absolutely wonderful. I feel blessed to have gone through the school. It has a*

*community spirit with everyone being treated as an individual. The staff are 100% supportive and always there to listen and find a solution as soon as possible. They use their resources effectively to provide for the need of different learning styles of their learners by using PowerPoint to compliment lecturing, and provide varieties in the learning process by applying images, texts and videos to meet individual learning needs and promote equality and diversity within the learning environment. I would encourage anyone looking for an outstanding excellence in education and training to enrol in London School of Academics.” Nwadiogo Anumba*

*“London school of academics is the place to be. The lecturers are very supportive and encourage me to do better. They offer suggestions for placement and future opportunities after the program which is great and also offer one on one tutorials to help you throughout the programme. I want to say thank you to all the team at LSA.” Daniel A Appah*

*“I am proud to be a part of the London School of Academics, even through covid and learning through zoom, the lecturers still managed to motivate students to achieve their best. I have a Masters degree, yet I couldn't get a job as a mentor without a DET qualification, studying at LSA gave me just that and a boost in confidence. I started at a low level, I finished at a higher level than I expected with all I needed to not only become a mentor but a teacher, a lecturer and so on. The teaching at LSA is very good and inclusive.”. Aisha Mchukiwa*

*“LSA is one of the most humanistic organisations I've ever been served by. Not only was I educated to an exceptional standard, but I also felt at home whilst studying (and not just literally :-). I've never had such an amazing experience in education in regards to the humanistic standards that the whole organisation holds and I would definitely advise anyone who wants to learn in a peaceful and encouraging environment to come here!”. Risikat Alogba*

*“During my course of study at LSA, I have gained a lot of experience to pursue my teaching career. The expertise of my lecturer and the differentiation in teaching and learning has broaden my knowledge and understanding of the teaching profession. The current Covid-19 pandemic did put a lot of constraints on students and lecturers but my lecturer has shown his professionalism in all ramifications. The resources available to students on VLE is second to none. Studying at LSA is inclusive and accommodating without prejudice. I will surely recommend LSA to friends.” Ayodele Shodipe*

Student engagement is important to us therefore we ensure we provide plenty of opportunities for you to engage with each other and our team through events including quiz nights, trips and guest visits, the outcome of these are published on our website events page (<https://londonschoolofacademics.com/events.php>). This year due to COVID 19 we held student engagement events on Zoom as well as face to face.

Graduation forms part of our percentage spent on student welfare and engagement; our annual graduation is a successful event whereby graduates are awarded with recognition for their successful completion of their course. See our events page on our website for more information (<https://londonschoolofacademics.com/events.php>).

Student feedback provides us with assurance that money spent has been well invested.

### **Our value promise:**

We promise to continue to invest in the following:

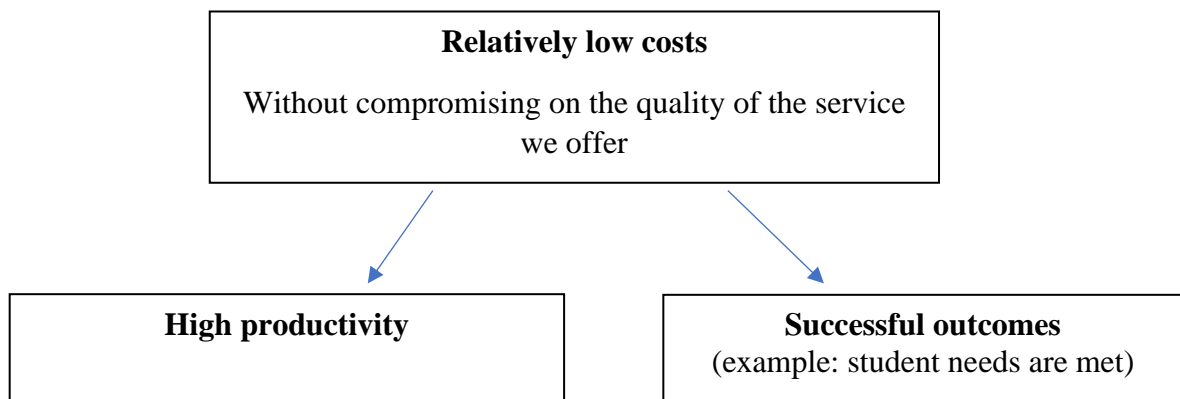
- Premises that is in the interest of providing our students with a high-quality experience
- The premises have disabled access, as well as facilities for people with disabilities
- Study rooms with access to computers
- PPE and cleaning products
- Virtual Learning Environment
- Zoom
- Subject based library books
- Lecturers and mentors who provide high quality delivery as well as support
- Student engagement to promote networking and inclusiveness
- Graduation to acknowledge the achievement of our students

### **Improving value for money:**

We continuously strive to improve the value for money in the service we offer therefore we adopt a local council's strategy<sup>2</sup> for improving value for money by regularly considering the following:

- The economy: the cost of providing our service (what we pay)
- The efficiency: the amount we get out for what we put in (productivity)
- The effectiveness: the meeting of our desired outcomes, to what degree are they met, how successful is it? Overall the impact of the service

**We achieve value for money when we achieve the following:**



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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.newham.gov.uk/Pages/Services/Value-for-money.aspx>

## **Internal controls**

### Director knowledge:

The director of the company has a full understanding of legal duties, she has attended workshops to refresh her knowledge therefore understands her role in ensuring finances are properly spent in line with the service we provide. The director produces as part of her business strategy a financial forecast, which enables the focus on future financial concerns should such arise enabling a plan to be devised to for example minimise rent increases and ensure resources are on a needs bases to make savings where possible.

### Risk assessment:

A risk assessment is carried out annually which takes account of financial risk. Company spending is reviewed, where appropriate to keep costs relatively low measures can be put in place to ensure a plan of action to meet an outcome set.

### High costs:

High cost agreements such as for rent are subject for approval of the director and at least one member of the Board of Governance (a member with suited expertise), this member has access to the agreement and signs as a witness. This mitigates the risk of fraud or negligent spending.

### Resources:

All resources required are requested and approved by the director and one member of management, this makes decision making transparent, enables better tracking of approved costs, ensures transparency of purchase and, the checking of the costs to ensure they are relatively low and at market rate.

### Access to payment methods:

The director takes responsibility for cash and bank cards, therefore there is no unauthorised access to cash or bank cards. This mitigates the risk of fraud and theft.

## **Reporting and monitoring:**

Annually the director internally reviews the company`s spending to micro assess the costs of our service. This is placed into percentages and reviewed with management/members of the Board for their opinion on value for money and advice on ways to possibly improve it.

Our accounts are externally audited by DeanCoopers accountancy firm who are a registered accountancy firm. This ensures that all spending is in line with legal rules. External audits ensure proper accounting in terms of financial management.

## **Annual review and update:**

This statement will be annually reviewed, updated and published to ensure accurate information is provided to students and the public at the end of each calendar year, therefore this statement will be reviewed and updated in December 2022.