

A TEN-POINT CHARTER

for the future of further and adult education

- 1 Public investment is crucial** Proposed cuts for 2015/16 must be halted, and an extra £1 billion of public funding invested to reverse the 35% reduction in spending on adult skills since 2009/10.
- 2 Further education is a collective good** All course fees should be removed for individuals studying accredited and non-accredited courses up to level 3.
- 3 Colleges shouldn't lose out to schools** Further education colleges cater for a higher proportion of 18-year-olds compared to schools and sixth form colleges, so they are more disadvantaged by actions such as cutting the funding rate for 18-year-olds and this should be addressed.
- 4 Long-term planning brings greater stability** Clear funding commitments over a five-year period are needed to allow coordinated planning of resources.
- 5 Local collaboration leads to inclusive outcomes** Further education should be returned to the control of local regional bodies, with input from parents, education providers, community groups and employers and a focus on collaboration rather than competition.
- 6 Further education teachers need space and support to learn** There should be a profession-wide commitment to continuing professional development, but an end to Ofsted's pernicious performance management.
- 7 Financial support is needed to widen participation** The education maintenance allowance and the adult learning grant should be restored, or similar initiatives pursued to encourage participation.
- 8 Further education teachers should be fairly rewarded** Teachers in further and adult education should receive equal pay to school teachers.
- 9 Learning is about more than employability** Greater recognition needs to be given to the wider benefits and broader purposes of further and adult education; it can provide an enriching experience for people of all ages and abilities and should be celebrated for all of its positive outcomes.
- 10 Further education's public profile needs to be raised** Further and adult education is a vital part of the education sector, and more needs to be done to inform the public about the benefits which it can offer.






More UCU analysis of funding in further and adult education is available on the UCU Policy Hub: www.ucu.org.uk/policyhub

Further education at the **heart** of every community

Over 3.5 million people take part in further and adult education every year, but because it covers such a variety of learning opportunities it can be quite complex to understand. While there has been a recent political and media focus on the expansion of apprenticeships, the last four years have also seen a massive 32% real-terms reduction in funding for adult skills. These cuts have led to thousands of redundancies and resulted in a narrower range of opportunities for study.

Colleges cater for the learning needs of a wide range of people, including many from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups. At a time when over 730,000 16–24-year-olds are unemployed and 15% of 16–64-year-olds have no qualifications at all, the continuing programme of cuts is a national scandal.

Join our campaign to defend further and adult education: www.ucu.org.uk/FEcharter

				
Dean	Kasra	Jay	Joan	Andres
<i>When I left school, there were no jobs. Luckily college gave me a course. I did some English and maths and now I'm doing great on my tiling course.</i>	<i>I came here from Afghanistan when I was 15. It was hard at first but I'm on track now at college, studying BTEC science – I really want to do a degree in pharmacy.</i>	<i>I had to leave education early when I got pregnant. Health and social care at college is my path to a career in social work and a better life for me and my kids.</i>	<i>I retired last year and was at a real loss. I popped into my local college and I'm now taking photography and still-life. I'm meeting new people and learning new skills.</i>	<i>I was an engineer in Colombia. I'm now working as a cleaner and studying plumbing and English at college in the evening. I hope to get a good job after my course.</i>

Why further and adult education matters

For every £1 of public money spent on further education, society benefits by £1.25.

61% of students are women, and 15% are from ethnic minorities.

FE is the only sector offering a wide range of vocational and technical courses at levels 1-3.

44% of university students come from further education.

It gives hope, dignity and skills in an insecure climate.

It provides a route out of poverty for millions of people on low pay.

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