

Fees and financial information

Chetham's is a truly international community. Around 10% of our students and staff have joined us from overseas, and over forty languages are spoken across the School. This diversity, both within school and in the wider community across Manchester's vibrant city centre, encourages a natural awareness and acceptance of different views, beliefs and cultures.

This guide sets out most of the information families will need when considering applying for a place at Chetham's. If you have further questions, please contact the Director of Finance, Mr Paul Oberg, via his PA, Ms Kay Birkett, on +44 (0)161 838 7211.

Full table of fees from 1 Sept 2025. All fees listed include VAT of 20%.

		Per annum	Per term
Overseas students	Day fee	£40,176	£13,392
	Boarding fee	£52,531	£17,510
Additional costs	Acceptance fee	£210	
	Deposit	£480	
	Assessment/audition	£150	
	Extra instrument tuition (third study)	£1,284	£428
	Overnight stay for day students	£54 (per night)	
	One to one language tuition	£1,030	£343
	Lower school day student late pick up	£10	

Fees charged may vary by less than £1 due to VAT and rounding

When a place is accepted, a £210 acceptance fee is payable. This is non-refundable and covers administration costs. When a student starts at Chetham's, a deposit will be added to the first invoice. This will be returned to parents when the student leaves, subject to all charges being paid. This deposit will be charged to all parents, regardless of income.

My child has a UK passport, but we live abroad. What happens in this circumstance?

The School would look at the circumstances around your child's residential status and a Music and Dance Scheme (MDS) grant from the Department for Education may or may not be offered. For more information, please contact the Director of Finance, Mr Paul Oberg, via his PA, Ms Kay Birkett, on +44 (0)161 838 7211.

Will I pay the home fee or the overseas fee?

To be classed as a home student you normally need to be all of the following on the first day of the first academic year of the course:

- Settled in the UK (i.e. no immigration restriction on the length of stay)
 - Ordinarily resident in the UK (i.e. your main home is in the UK and you are choosing to live in the UK)
 - Resident in the UK for three full years before the first day of the academic year (i.e. from 1 September 2022 to 31 August 2025)
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My child has an EU passport. Can we apply for a Music and Dance Scheme grant?

If your child has lived in the UK for the prescribed period of time, then you can apply for an MDS grant.

My child lives outside the EU and has a non-EU passport. Can we apply for a Music and Dance Scheme grant?

No. Your child would be classed as a fee-paying overseas student. 2025/26 fees for overseas students are £52,531 per annum (boarding) or £40,176 per annum (tuition only). Under the current MDS scheme, once a student fulfils the residence criterion then he or she may be offered an MDS grant, depending on availability.

What might we have to pay for, on top of School fees?

Extra charges, which are invoiced termly in arrears, may include items such as extra instrumental tuition, music scores, socials, non-uniform day donations, instrument repairs, weekend trips out, taxi fares, concerts/theatre trips, lost property, lost workbooks and damage repairs. The amount payable by individual children will obviously vary enormously, so an average amount unfortunately cannot be stated.

Can I pay fees in instalments?

Fees for overseas students are invoiced termly. Invoices will be issued in September for the Autumn term fees, in January for the Spring term fees, and in April for the Summer term fees. Extras will be invoiced in arrears on a termly basis. Extras cannot be added to bills in your final term.

Funding schemes

Students from overseas are not eligible for MDS grants. To be eligible for a place on the Music and Dance Scheme, students must have been resident in the UK for at least two years preceding the first of January of the year in which the place at Chetham's is being taken up.

Bursaries for overseas students

Each year we have a very small number of bursaries that we award to exceptional students from overseas. The amount of funding is determined by the School and is for one year only. Overseas bursaries are based on parental income, which will need to be declared.

To request an Overseas Bursary Application form, please contact the Director of Finance, Mr Paul Oberg, via his PA, Ms Kay Birkett, on +44 (0)161 838 7211.

Can I pay the fees by credit card, debit card or cash?

The School accepts payment by cheque or bank transfer only. Cash payments, debit and credit card payments cannot be accepted.

How much pocket money should a student have?

The school cannot recommend any particular amount of pocket money as all students' needs and family circumstances are different.

What is the £50 Account Scheme?

This is a scheme whereby parents of boarding students lodge an amount of £50 per term with the school and the student can then, with permission from the boarding house, withdraw amounts up to £50 during that term. Juniors and students in Years 7 to 11 can be included in this scheme.

If my child has to leave Chetham's suddenly, what happens about fees?

Parents are required to give a full term's notice in writing to the Joint Principal, Nicola Smith, if a student is going to leave the School at any time other than at the end of Year 13. If this notice is not given then a full term's fees in lieu will be charged.

Is the deposit included in the fees?

No, the deposit is a separate item and is charged as an extra to all parents. It is a refundable amount that is added to the first bill and returned when a student leaves the school, subject to all charges being cleared.

I've just received my bill and I can't pay. What can I do?

We would ask that parents have emergency plans for times such as these. It is crucial for the school that parents pay their bills on time and in full. If parents are concerned that they may have difficulties during the year in meeting their obligations to the School, then please contact us immediately on +44 (0)161 834 9644.

Is Chetham's part of the Assisted Instrument Purchase Scheme?

No, as an independent school, Chetham's is not part of this scheme.

I'd like to pay the fees but I have lost the School's bank details. What should I do?

Please contact the Finance Officer, Mr Mark Akande, via the main reception desk on +44 (0)161 834 9644.

Why do I have to pay for name tapes and laundry bags?

It is essential that parents of all students send their child to Chetham's with all clothing (including PE kit) and towels clearly named. In order to keep the lost property cupboard as clear as possible, the Laundry keeps spare name tapes for all boarders, the cost of which is £8 for 36 tapes.

To avoid damage to small and delicate items of clothing, the laundry also provides boarding students with two large net laundry bags at a cost of £14. Charges for name tapes and net laundry bags will be charged to all new boarders on their first bill and thereafter as required.

I have a query about my bill. Who should I contact?

Please contact the Finance Officer, Mr Mark Akande, via the main reception desk on +44 (0)161 834 9644.

Do I need to insure my child's possessions?

Chetham's strongly recommends that parents insure their child's possessions, including instruments. The School is not liable for damaged, lost or stolen possessions.
