

Early Years Masters Funding AY 2023-24



Early Years Masters Funding AY 2023-24

Issue Date:	21 September 2023
Reference:	SFC/AN/19/2023
Summary:	Announcement of funding for Early Years Masters in Academic Year (AY) 2023-24
FAO:	Principals / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities
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Funding for Early Years Masters in Academic Year 2023-24

Summary

1. I am writing to announce funding for Early Years Masters in Academic Year (AY) 2023-24.

Purpose of funding

2. The Early Years Masters is designed to provide valuable learning for the early years sector, particularly in view of early years and childcare expansion and the COVID-19 pandemic. Places were initially funded in 2009-10.
3. The Scottish Government has committed to fund 98 students per year for Early Years Masters through the University of Aberdeen and University of Strathclyde.
4. Funding is initially for AY 2023-24 however, as this is a 3-year degree, it is anticipated that this commitment will continue until the end of AY 2025-26 (at the same level of funding) subject to confirmation.

Funding for AY 2023-24

5. Enrolment rates have been calculated across the 3-year period, taking annual fluctuations into account (including measuring withdrawal rates and any associated penalty incurred).
6. Funding comprises i) teaching grant costs and ii) additional funding to cover additional running costs which will take University of Aberdeen and University of Strathclyde to the amount of funding that they previously received direct from SG.
7. A total of £200,000 will be allocated in AY 2023-24 (and in AY 2024-25 and AY 2025-26 subject to confirmation). The table below sets out the funding for each university (for both teaching grant costs and additional running costs).

Institution	AY 2023-24
University of Aberdeen - Teaching Funding	£41,633
University of Aberdeen - Additional	£51,468
University of Strathclyde - Teaching Funding	£58,923
University of Strathclyde - Additional	£47,976
TOTAL	£200,000

Conditions of grant

8. This funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is being allocated, as outlined above. Conditions of funding, as noted in [Annex C of the University Main Grant Letter](#), apply.

Payment of funds

9. Payments will be made in monthly instalments, in line with the payment profile set out in [Annex D of SFC's Final Funding Announcement for AY 2023-24](#).
10. Payment of additional funding will depend on the condition that it is used for the development and delivery of Early Years Masters provision.

Future years funding and monitoring

11. The University of Aberdeen and University of Strathclyde are to provide the Scottish Government with a high-level annual report, including enrolment and completion data as well as progress on spend towards placement expense claims by **Friday 13 September 2024**. Reports should be submitted to Sarah Guy, ELC Workforce-Professional Learning Team, email: Sarah.Guy@gov.scot.
12. SFC will treat and monitor (through Early Statistics returns) this as a controlled subject. As with other controlled subjects, we will apply a tolerance threshold of three per cent for under-recruitment and ten per cent for over-recruitment. SFC will consider recovery of funding for both under and over-recruitment at the end of AY 2025-26 based on the number of students eligible for funding on the course between AY 2023-24 and AY 2025-26 compared to the number of funded places allocated across that three-year period. Therefore, universities can make up any reduced intake in subsequent years, over this period, in recognition of annual fluctuations, and will be given the opportunity to present any mitigating circumstances.
13. Funding in future years is to be agreed each year through discussion between SFC and the Scottish Government's ELC Workforce – Professional Learning Team, based on SFC's teaching price and subject to budgets being confirmed. Further announcements will be made in view of confirmation of future funding.

Acceptance of grant

14. We cannot process any payments until you have accepted this offer of grant in writing. Please email your acceptance to Suranjith Fernando, Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: grantacceptance@sfc.ac.uk by **Friday 29 September 2023**.

Further information

15. If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact Duncan Condie, Senior Funding Policy Officer, email: dcondie@sfc.ac.uk.



Richard Maconachie FCCA
Director of Finance