



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

**Additional university upskilling
funding for micro-credentials
in 2020-21**

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 3 March 2021

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Reference: SFC/AN/06/2021

Summary: Announcement of additional university Upskilling funding for micro-credentials in AY 2020-21 through the National Transition Training Fund.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's universities

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Additional university upskilling funding for micro-credentials in 2020-21

Summary

1. I am writing to announce additional university upskilling funding for micro-credentials in Academic Year (AY) 2020-21 under the National Transition Training Fund.

Background

2. *Protecting Scotland, Renewing Scotland: The Government's Programme for Scotland 2020-2021* sets clear priorities for dealing with the economic, health, and social crisis created by coronavirus. Central to economic recovery is a new national mission to help create new jobs, good jobs and green jobs and to work with employers and individuals to build the skills and infrastructure that will be required in the industries of the future.
3. The coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions have led to an unprecedented impact on our society, economy and labour market. In response to the rise in unemployment caused by COVID-19, the national mission includes funding to support skills training which will include elements delivered across Scottish universities.

Policy drivers

4. The context and policy drivers for SFC's Upskilling Fund are set out in our published [guidance](#). The key policy drivers for the Scottish Government's National Transition Training Fund are:
 - Supporting employer workforce development in line with the aims of the Scottish Government's [Labour Market Strategy](#), [Disability Employment Action Plan](#), [Race Equality Action Plan](#), [Gender Pay Gap Action Plan](#) (particularly in the areas of upskilling/reskilling Scotland's existing workforce) and the [Fair Work Action Plan](#) and consistent with the ambitions to raise productivity.
 - Supporting employees to upskill and reskill in a rapidly changing labour market.

National Transition Training Fund

5. The £25 million National Transition Training Fund (NTTF) aims to tackle the rise in unemployment in adults aged 25+ by offering short sharp training opportunities for people to learn in-demand skills. It will provide adults with tailored support to identify relevant training and employment opportunities,

followed by funded training to match each individual's needs. This will be made up of a range of smaller initiatives working in the areas of the economy where there is the greatest need for additional skilled staff.

Eligibility criteria

6. Learners must be 25+ years old and currently unemployed, at risk of redundancy or their job under threat as a result of COVID-19.

Additional upskilling funding

7. The purpose and expected use of the Upskilling Fund is set out in SFC's published [guidance](#), along with course/provision and student/learner eligibility parameters which are unchanged and apply to this additional funding.
8. All additional upskilling funding must be for micro-credential activity and cannot be used for any curriculum/course development.

Additional funding allocations for AY 2020-21

9. Additional upskilling funding for micro-credentials has been allocated in proportion to universities' existing AY 2020-21 upskilling allocations. Indicative allocations were shared with the sector and, following feedback, a small amount of additional funding has been reallocated.
10. This is shown in **Annex A** which provides a final breakdown of the distribution of additional upskilling funding for micro-credentials in AY 2020-21.
11. Additional funding will be paid in one lump sum in March 2021 and we expect provision to be delivered within AY 2020-21.
12. Monitoring the use of funds and SFC reporting requirements are unchanged from SFC's published [guidance](#) for AY 2020-21. As a condition of grant, universities are required to report on their use of additional funding for micro-credentials as part of their final upskilling funding report for AY 2020-21 due at the end of August 2021.
13. In addition, in acknowledgement of SFC's funding contribution, our logo must be displayed on any publicity material relating to this activity (signage, posters, website, etc.). Please contact SFC's Communications team to discuss (email: communications@sfc.ac.uk).

Further information

14. If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact the SFC upskilling mailbox: upskilling@sfc.ac.uk in the first instance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dunphy'.

James Dunphy

Director, Access, Learning & Outcomes