



Scottish Funding Council  
Promoting further and higher education

Stevenson  
Edinburgh

# Students Eligible for Funding 2018-19

## SFC Statistical Publication

## Students Eligible for Funding 2018-19

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at Scottish Higher Education institutions in 2018-19

FAO: Principals of Scotland's universities

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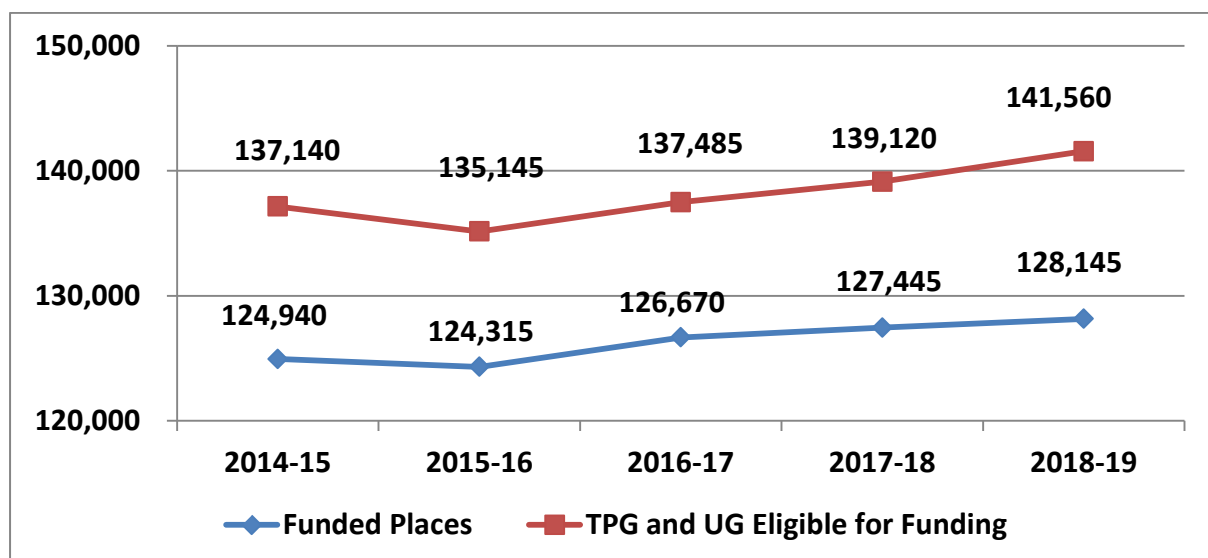
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## Executive Summary

- The total Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) number of students eligible for funding (definition provided in paragraph 2) in 2018-19 was 149,230, an increase of 2,410 (1.6%) from the previous year.
- Between 2014-15 and 2018-19 there was an increase of 4,965 (3.4%) FTE students eligible for funding.
- Of the total FTE students eligible for funding in 2018-19, 85.9% were undergraduates, 9.0% taught postgraduates and 5.1% research postgraduates.
- Between 2017-18 and 2018-19 the FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 1.5%; taught postgraduates increased by 4.2%; and research postgraduates decreased by -0.4%.
- Between 2014-15 and 2018-19 the FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 1.9%; taught postgraduates increased by 17.8%; and research postgraduates increased by 7.6%.
- For each of the past five years the FTE number of students eligible for funding has exceeded the number of funded places by at least 8.5%, see the graph below. Please see paragraph 25 for further details.

Funded Places and Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students Eligible for Funding in AY 2014-15 to AY 2018-19



# Students Eligible for Funding 2018-19: Key Statistics



## 149,230

FTE\* eligible for funding  
3.4% increase since 2014-15, **p.7**

## 13,430

FTE number of taught postgrads  
17.8% increase since 2014-15, **p.8**



## 10.5%

the percentage of eligible  
FTEs, over funded places  
in 2018-19, **p.10**

\*Full-Time Equivalent - see definition on Appendix E, p.22

## **Introduction**

1. This report contains information on the numbers of students eligible for funding at the 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in the academic year 2018-19 - see Appendix B. The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general, students eligible for funding are those for which institutions receive home fees, are not on full-cost recovery courses and on courses open to any suitably qualified applicant. Until 2012-13, a large majority of students from the rest of the UK (RUK) and the rest of the EU were eligible for funding. However, the 2012-13 academic session saw the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses, and students paying such fees are not eligible for funding. The very small number of RUK students who started their courses prior to 2012-13 continue to pay the same level of tuition fees as Scottish and other EU students and remain eligible for funding.
3. Students not eligible for funding include those from outwith the EU, those on full-cost recovery courses and RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees. The figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on the Scottish HEIs' mainstream courses. Appendix D contains a more detailed explanation of eligibility for funding.

## **Early Statistics Return**

4. The figures in this bulletin are taken from SFC's Early Statistics Return. The Early Statistics are aggregate numbers of students eligible for funding, expressed as full-time equivalents (FTEs). As the figures are collected in-year they include a forecast element. Further information on the Early Statistics Return can be found in Appendices D, E and F.

## **Students eligible for funding in 2018-19**

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2018-19 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 149,230 - see Table 1. Of this total:
  - 128,130 FTE (85.9%) were undergraduates.
  - 13,430 FTE (9.0%) were taught postgraduates.
  - 7,670 FTE (5.1%) were research postgraduates.
  - 17,920 FTE (12.0%) were part-time students.

### **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2017-18 and 2018-19**

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding between 2017-18 and 2018-19.
7. Changes between 2017-18 and 2018-19 include:
  - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding increased by 2,410 FTE (1.6%).
  - Full-time students increased by 1,305 FTE (1.0%).
  - Part-time students increased by 1,105 FTE (6.6%).
  - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding slightly decreased by 30 FTE (-0.4%).
  - Taught postgraduates increased by 540 FTE (4.2%).
  - Undergraduates increased by 1,900 FTE (1.5%)
8. The total numbers of undergraduate students eligible for funding is affected by consolidation policies - see Appendix C and paragraph 32 for further details.
9. A change in tuition fee arrangements was introduced in 2017-18 whereby taught postgraduate students (TPG) could borrow up to £5,500 for tuition fees and a further £4,500 for living expenses. The range of courses for which students can now obtain support for TPG study has been increased. This is likely to have contributed to the 4.2% increase in taught postgraduate numbers in 2018-19. Over 40% of the increase in taught postgraduates was due to increased enrolments on Initial Teacher Education courses (225 FTE), while a further 255 FTE (47.3%) of the rise was due to increased enrolments in the non-controlled subject areas, see paragraph 16 for the definitions of the controlled and non-controlled subject areas.

### **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2014-15 and 2018-19**

10. Table 1 also shows trends in the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2014-15 to 2018-19.
11. Between 2014-15 and 2018-19 there was an increase in the total number of students eligible for funding of 4,965 FTE (3.4%).
12. The FTE number of Scottish and other EU full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding has increased by 5,570 (5.1%) from 109,490 to 115,060 between 2014-15 and 2018-19, while the FTE number of Scottish and other EU full-time taught postgraduate students eligible for funding has increased by 1,800 (22.8%) from 7,905 to 9,705 (see Table 1 for figures – full-time less continuing RUK).
13. Other changes between 2014-15 and 2018-19 include:

- Full-time students eligible for funding increased by 2,960 FTE (2.3%).
  - Part-time students increased by 2,005 FTE (12.6%).
  - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 545 FTE (7.6%).
  - Taught postgraduates increased by 2,025 FTE (17.8%).
  - Undergraduate students increased by 2,395 FTE (1.9%)
14. About 40% of the increase in taught postgraduates between 2014-15 and 2018-19 was due to an increase in enrolments on Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses (790 FTE). This reflected an increase of 855 (40.8%) in the intake targets set by the Scottish Government for taught postgraduate ITE courses. Enrolments on taught postgraduate courses in the non-controlled subject areas increased by 1,090 (11.7%). See paragraph 16 for the definition of non-controlled subject areas. The changes in taught postgraduate support arrangements referred to in paragraph 9 above are likely to have contributed to this increase.

### **Subject areas**

15. Table 2 shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding split by the subject areas used for the Early Statistics Return. See Appendix F for more details of the subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return.
16. For taught postgraduates and undergraduates the subject areas are split into controlled and non-controlled. The controlled subject areas are defined to be those subjects for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets. The controlled subject areas are:
- Medicine (undergraduate).
  - Dentistry (undergraduate).
  - Initial Teacher Education (Bachelors of Education and Postgraduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses).
  - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (taught postgraduate and undergraduate).
17. The controlled subjects accounted for 18,860 FTE (13.3%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2018-19. Of the taught postgraduates 22.2% were studying a controlled subject (2,985 FTE), principally PGDE courses. The controlled subject areas made up 15,875 FTE (12.4%) of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2018-19.
18. The non-controlled undergraduate subject areas are split into STEM and other subjects. The STEM subjects consist of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. See Appendix F for further details. The uptake of STEM subjects is



considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness. For this reason SFC allocated an additional 300 funded places for STEM provision each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16.

19. Of the 112,260 FTE undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subjects in 2018-19 the number enrolled on STEM subjects was 45,615 FTE (40.6%). The proportion of non-controlled undergraduate students eligible for funding in the STEM subjects in 2018-19 is 40.6%, down very slightly from the 40.8% in 2017-18 but an increase from the 39.1% in 2014-15. Please note that there was a decrease in STEM provision in 2016-17 due to one HE Institution reclassifying 545 students as non-STEM when the students on this course were classified in previous years as STEM. Please see note 4 in Appendix A for further details.
20. The number of undergraduates on STEM subjects increased by 415 FTE (0.9%) between 2017-18 and 2018-19 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas increased by 1,015 FTE (1.5%).

#### **Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2014-15 and 2018-19**

21. SFC and the Scottish Government provide an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students. Details of funded places can be found in [Annex B on the SFC website](#).
22. Table 3 shows comparisons of the number of funded places for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students with students eligible for funding for 2014-15 to 2018-19.
23. Changes between 2017-18 and 2018-19 include:
  - Funded places increased by 0.5% from 127,445 to 128,145.
  - Students eligible for funding increased by 1.8% from 139,120 to 141,560.
24. Changes between 2014-15 and 2018-19 include:
  - Funded places increased by 2.6% from 124,940 to 128,145.
  - Students eligible for funding increased by 3.2% from 137,140 to 141,560.
25. In each year the HEI sector as a whole filled their funded places and recruited additional students eligible for funding by the undernoted amounts and percentages:
  - 2014-15 by 12,200 (9.8%).
  - 2015-16 by 10,830 (8.7%).
  - 2016-17 by 10,815 (8.5%).

- 2017-18 by 11,675 (9.2%).
  - 2018-19 by 13,415 (10.5%).
26. By recruiting in excess of their number of funded places HEI's only receive the tuition fee income for the additional students. Historically institutions were required to recruit more students than funded places in order to contribute to a sector planning target set by the Scottish Government. Institutions made a commitment to at least maintain places for Scottish students and have looked to increase opportunities for students from the more deprived areas in line with Scottish Government priorities. SFC set consolidation numbers to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. Institutions face financial penalties if they exceed their consolidation numbers by more than the specified tolerance thresholds. Please see Appendix C for details of the consolidation policies.

### **Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students**

27. In general, RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards are liable to be charged deregulated tuition fees. RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees are not eligible for funding.
28. As an indication of the effect this is likely to have had on the numbers of RUK students previously eligible for funding, it is worth noting that the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) records indicate that there were around 18,800 FTE RUK students eligible for funding on full-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses at the Scottish HEIs in 2011-12. However, not every student from the rest of the UK who started a course from 2012-13 onwards would have had to pay the deregulated tuition fees, as some would have been eligible to pay the same fees as Scottish and other EU students. For instance, some RUK students will have dual RUK / EU status.
29. RUK students who started their programmes prior to 2012-13 are not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees and can still be classified as being eligible for funding. The RUK students who were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees because they started their courses prior to 2012-13 but who would have been liable if they had started their courses from 2012-13 onwards are called continuing RUK students. The numbers of continuing RUK students is now close to zero and we expect this to be the last year with them.
30. 2018-19 was the seventh session in which new RUK students were liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and not be eligible for funding. There were 40 FTE full-time continuing RUK students in 2018-19, compared to 4,850 FTE in 2014-15 - see Table 1. Of the continuing RUK students in 2018-19, five FTE were taught postgraduates and 35 FTE were undergraduates.

## Consolidation of controlled and non-controlled subject areas

31. The Scottish Government has consolidation policies to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. Appendix C gives details of the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for controlled and non-controlled subject areas for 2018-19.
32. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for non-controlled subject areas, an institution's total enrolments of full-time Scottish and other EU undergraduates in these subject areas should not exceed its indicative number by more than 10%.
33. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled indicative numbers for 2018-19 was 97,335. [Further details of consolidation numbers for 2018-19](#) can be found in Table 5 on the SFC website.
34. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and other EU students in the non-controlled subject areas, derived from the Early Statistics Return as at December 2018, was 99,235, which is 2.0% above the indicative number. Thus the sector as a whole has adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for full-time undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas.
35. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for controlled subject areas, an institution's enrolments in a controlled subject area should not exceed its indicative number by more than 10% or 10 FTE places, whichever was the larger, with the exception of dentistry which was changed to 5% for 2018-19. At sector level, the percentage difference between the FTE number of enrolments, which include RUK students not eligible for funding, and the sum of the institutions' indicative numbers for each controlled subject area were:
  - Medicine (-0.1%).
  - Dentistry (-0.6%).
  - Primary Initial Teacher Education (+6.1%).
  - Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-12.6%).
  - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (+0.5%).
36. The sector as a whole has therefore adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for all of the controlled subject areas.

## Rounding of data

37. Figures in the tables and text have been rounded independently to the nearest 5, which is why there may be some slight differences between totals and the apparent sums of their component parts. Percentages are derived from the rounded figures.

Table 1: Students eligible for funding, 2014-15 to 2018-19: Level and mode of study

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2014-15 FTE	2015-16 FTE	2016-17 FTE	2017-18 FTE	2018-19 FTE	Percentage change from 2017-18 to 2018-19	Percentage change from 2014-15 to 2018-19
<b>Research postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	6,105	6,055	6,315	6,470	6,505	0.5%	6.6%
Part-time	1,020	1,130	1,245	1,230	1,165	-5.3%	14.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>7,185</b>	<b>7,560</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,670</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	8,130	7,815	8,865	9,420	9,710	3.1%	19.4%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	225	95	60	40	5	-87.5%	-97.8%
Part-time	3,275	3,215	3,525	3,470	3,720	7.2%	13.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>12,385</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>							
Full-time	114,115	112,575	113,300	114,115	115,095	0.9%	0.9%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	4,625	1,375	530	360	35	-90.3%	-99.2%
Part-time	11,620	11,540	11,800	12,110	13,030	7.6%	12.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,735</b>	<b>124,115</b>	<b>125,095</b>	<b>126,230</b>	<b>128,130</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>All Levels of Study</b>							
Full-time	128,350	126,440	128,475	130,005	131,310	1.0%	2.3%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	4,850	1,470	585	400	40	-90.0%	-99.2%
Part-time	15,915	15,885	16,565	16,815	17,920	6.6%	12.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,265</b>	<b>142,330</b>	<b>145,040</b>	<b>146,820</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and as a result figures may not sum to totals. Percentages are calculated from rounded values.

Table 2: Students eligible for funding, 2014-15 to 2018-19: Level of study by subject area

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	Percentage change from 2017-18 to 2018-19	Percentage change from 2014-15 to 2018-19
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
<b>Research postgraduate</b>	7,125	7,185	7,560	7,700	7,670	-0.4%	7.6%
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>							
Initial Teacher Education	1,935	2,150	2,405	2,505	2,730	9.0%	41.1%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	110	100	135	195	255	30.8%	131.8%
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>	<b>9,360</b>	<b>8,785</b>	<b>9,845</b>	<b>10,195</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>11.6%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>12,385</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>17.8%</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>							
Medicine	3,450	3,065	2,885	2,790	2,900	3.9%	-15.9%
Dentistry	675	620	555	515	485	-5.8%	-28.1%
Initial Teacher Education	3,200	3,180	3,195	3,165	3,335	5.4%	4.2%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (3)	7,885	8,380	8,825	8,925	9,155	2.6%	16.1%
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>							
STEM subject areas (4)	43,255	44,665	44,635	45,200	45,615	0.9%	5.5%
Other subject areas	67,275	64,205	65,005	65,630	66,645	1.5%	-0.9%
<i>Of which: Full-time Scots/Other EU (for Consolidation)</i>	<i>95,250</i>	<i>96,485</i>	<i>97,535</i>	<i>98,450</i>	<i>99,235</i>	<i>0.8%</i>	<i>4.2%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,735</b>	<b>124,115</b>	<b>125,095</b>	<b>126,230</b>	<b>128,130</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,265</b>	<b>142,330</b>	<b>145,040</b>	<b>146,820</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>3.4%</b>

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5 and as a result figures may not sum to totals. Percentages are calculated from rounded values.

Table 3: Comparison of funded places with students eligible for funding, 2014-15 to 2018-19

SFC and Scottish Government Funded Places for Taught postgraduate and Undergraduate students

Funded places / Students eligible for funding	2014-15 FTE	2015-16 FTE	2016-17 FTE	2017-18 FTE	2018-19 FTE	Percentage change from 2017-18 to 2018-19	Percentage change from 2014-15 to 2018-19
Funded places (5)	124,940	124,315	126,670	127,445	128,145	0.5%	2.6%
Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding	137,140	135,145	137,485	139,120	141,560	1.8%	3.2%
Percentage difference between students eligible for funding and funded places	9.8%	8.7%	8.5%	9.2%	10.5%		

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5. Percentages are calculated from rounded values.

## Appendix A: Notes for tables

Note No.	Table(s) Note Relates to	Note
1	1,2,3	<p>The numbers of students eligible for funding exclude, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students from outwith the EU.</li> <li>• Rest of UK students paying deregulated tuition fees.</li> <li>• Students on courses financed from other public sources e.g. places funded by local health boards for their staff.</li> <li>• Students on courses which are closed to general applicants or are provided on a full cost recovery basis e.g. courses funded by businesses for their staff.</li> <li>• Many students on Continuing Education courses which are not funded by SFC.</li> </ul> <p>As the figures are collected in-year they include a forecast element. For 2018-19 the forecast element accounts for 2.2% of the total figures.</p>
2	1,2,3	<p>Rest of UK (RUK) students starting taught postgraduate and undergraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards were liable to pay deregulated tuition fees. Students paying such fees are not eligible for funding.</p> <p>The RUK students who were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees because they started their courses prior to 2012-13 but who would have been liable if they had started their courses from 2012-13 onwards are defined as being continuing RUK students. Such students remain eligible for funding. In 2018-19 the numbers of continuing RUK students are almost at zero.</p>
3	2	<p>Prior to 2014-15 Honours nursing pre-registration provision was not controlled.</p> <p>SFC phased in the controlling of this provision over the four-year period 2014-15 to 2017-18, with students who started on Honours nursing courses from 2014-15 onwards being counted under the controlled nursing and midwifery pre-registration student numbers. The FTE number of Honours nursing pre-registration students eligible for funding classified as controlled was 245 in 2014-15, 455 in 2015-16, 660 in 2016-17 and 845 in 2017-18.</p>

4	2	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 8 of the <a href="#">Early Statistics Notes of Guidance for 2018-19</a>.</p> <p>There was a decrease in STEM provision in 2016-17 due to one HE Institution reclassifying students as non-STEM when the students on this course were classified in previous years as STEM. This covered 545 students in 2016-17 and is ongoing for future years. As an indication of the effect this would have had, if the numbers had remained at a similar level, then the number of undergraduates on STEM subjects would have increased by 6.7% (5.5% unadjusted) between 2014-15 and 2018-19 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas would have decreased by -1.7% (-0.9% unadjusted).</p>
5	3	<p>In general the funded places shown are taken from the final published main grant letters or Outcome Agreements, and do not take account of any subsequent adjustments. An exception to this are 134 additional places allocated in 2017-18 for nursing which have been included.</p>



## **Appendix B: Higher Education Institutions funded by SFC in 2018-19**

Aberdeen, University of  
Abertay Dundee, University of  
Dundee, University of  
Edinburgh Napier University  
Edinburgh, University of  
Glasgow Caledonian University  
Glasgow School of Art  
Glasgow, University of  
Heriot-Watt University  
Highlands and Islands, University of the  
The Open University in Scotland  
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh  
Robert Gordon University  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
SRUC  
St Andrews, University of  
Stirling, University of  
Strathclyde, University of  
West of Scotland, University of the

## Appendix C: Consolidation and under-enrolment

1. The Scottish Government has consolidation policies to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. The controlled subject areas cover medicine, dentistry, initial teacher education and nursing and midwifery pre-registration provision for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets.
2. To ensure that institutions conform to the consolidation policies, SFC sets each institution separate indicative numbers for the non-controlled subject areas and for each of the controlled subject areas, which the institutions are not expected to exceed. Recognising that planning student numbers is subject to some uncertainty SFC allows institutions certain leeway, called the tolerance threshold, within which an institution can exceed an indicative number without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so. For 2018-19 the tolerance threshold was 10% for the non-controlled subject areas and 10% or 10 FTE, whichever is the higher, for the controlled subject areas of medicine, initial teacher education and nursing and midwifery pre-registration. For the controlled subject area of dentistry the tolerance threshold was changed to 5% for 2018-19.
3. The non-controlled indicative number relates only to Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding. Continuing RUK students, see Paragraph 29, are not covered by the indicative number. This is because the purpose of the consolidation policy is to prevent excessive demand on the budget of the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and, in general, RUK students can not apply to SAAS for their fees to be paid and for financial support for their studies.
4. The Scottish Government introduced consolidation limits for the controlled subjects for the first time in 2012-13. These limits were introduced because over-recruitment in controlled subjects can lead to problems for workforce planning and for access to guaranteed training places, or jobs in the case of nursing and midwifery, after graduation. As the controlled consolidation policy relates to workforce planning, rest of UK students, both those eligible and those not eligible for funding, are included in the consolidation limits.
5. SFC assigned each institution an indicative number for 2018-19 for each of the following controlled subject areas:
  - Medicine.
  - Dentistry.
  - Primary Initial Teacher Education (includes Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)).
  - Secondary Initial Teacher Education (includes PGDE).

- Nursing and midwifery pre-registration.
6. Further information on the consolidation policy and information on the [standard conditions of grant](#) attached to the allocations of funding for the higher education institutions for 2018-19 is available on SFC's website.

### **Under-enrolment**

7. SFC may recover funding if institutions under-enrol and fall short of the target number of SFC funded places. The tolerance threshold for under-enrolment against funded student places for the non-controlled subject areas is 2%. This threshold applies to total funded places for Scots, EU and continuing RUK students within the non-controlled subjects areas. For controlled subjects the tolerance threshold is 3%. This threshold applies to funded student places for Scots, EU and continuing RUK students at a course level for controlled subjects.

## Appendix D: Background information

### Eligibility for funding

1. Students whose places are **eligible for funding** are those who satisfy the inclusion criteria of SFC's main methods of determining allocations of funding. Generally, this means those who are:
  - Domiciled in Scotland or elsewhere in the EU, or are rest of UK students not paying deregulated tuition fees.
  - For which institutions receive home fees.
  - Taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant.
2. These figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on SFC-funded institutions' mainstream courses.
3. Among the students whose places are **not eligible for funding** are those:
  - From outwith the EU.
  - RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees.
  - On courses that are financed from other public sources.
  - On courses which are closed to general applicants, e.g. a course provided solely for the employees of a particular firm.
  - On any other cost recovery courses, for which the income from the fees paid by the students, plus any funding from any sources other than SFC, covers, or is intended to cover all of the costs of provision, including an appropriate share of the institutions' overheads, such as central administration, buildings, heating, etc.
4. The figures therefore exclude many courses such as those in-service teacher training courses that are funded by the local education authorities and many students on continuing education courses.

## **Early Statistics Return**

5. The figures in this bulletin come from SFC's Early Statistics Return, which asked institutions to provide FTE student numbers, including forecasts of enrolments expected later in the academic year, excluding students who withdrew shortly after the start of the course. The forecasts of the numbers of enrolments later in the academic year, after the census date of 1 December for the Early Statistics Return, were necessarily subject to some uncertainty.
6. For the purposes of the return, students were classified using the following categories.

### **Level of study**

- Research postgraduate.
  - Taught postgraduate.
  - Undergraduate.
7. Appendix E includes a definition of each level of study.

### **Subject areas**

8. Subjects are shown in the subject areas used by SFC for monitoring for under-enrolment against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policies (see Appendix F).

### **Mode of study**

- Full-time.
  - Part-time.
9. Appendix E includes a definition of mode of study.
  10. The notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2018-19](#), including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, can be found on SFC's website.

## **Appendix E: Categories used in the Early Statistics Return**

### **Level of course**

#### ***Research postgraduate***

1. Postgraduates mainly engaged in research whether or not they receive any formal teaching. This includes students taking taught Masters Degrees designed specifically as training in research methods and intended as preparation for advanced supervised research.

#### ***Taught postgraduate***

2. Postgraduates attending courses which are mainly taught, including graduate certificates and diplomas, although they may require students to complete a dissertation. All students on Professional Graduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses are included, as are all students on award-bearing in-service teacher education courses, apart from a few who are research postgraduates, as above.

#### ***Undergraduate***

3. All those students, other than postgraduates, eligible for inclusion in the Early Statistics Return. This includes those taking undergraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates, HNDs, HNCs and other advanced courses.

### **Mode of study**

#### ***Full-time***

4. For the purposes of this return, a full-time course, or research study, involves the student in an average of at least 21 hours study a week, including private study, for periods of more than 24 weeks per year or, in the final year, for 24 weeks or less if the earlier years met the definition of full-time.

#### ***Part-time***

5. All other courses including short full-time courses with an overall course length of 24 weeks or less, i.e. full-time courses whose total length of course is less than or equal to 24 weeks.
6. Further information is contained in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2018-19](#), available on SFC's website.

## Appendix F: Subject areas

1. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Returns from 2014-15 onwards is that required by SFC to monitor for under-enrolments against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policies. Undergraduate enrolments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are also collected as SFC made allocations of additional funded places for provision in these subject areas from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness.
2. The STEM subjects are defined in terms of the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject codes used by HESA and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) - see the table at the end of this Appendix. The subject information is recorded in the 'Subject(s) of Course' fields in the HESA returns. These are the subjects of the overall qualification (for example, those specified in a named award) that the student is aiming for, and not the subjects that the student happens to be studying in a particular year. For example, students aiming for a degree in physics are counted wholly under 'STEM subjects', even though the current year may include studying business or languages.

### More than one subject of course aim

3. Students can have up to three subjects of course aim recorded in their HESA returns to take account of students studying for joint and combined degrees. In some cases, the different subjects will belong to the same subject category (STEM, Other Subjects), so a student can be allocated to that subject category. In cases where a student has subjects of course aim in both subject categories, the student's FTE is apportioned as follows:
  - **Balanced combination** (for example, a degree in Mathematics and French). Each of the two subjects forms at least 40% of the overall programme of study. In such cases 50% of the FTE is allocated to STEM subjects and 50% to the other subjects.
  - **Major / minor combination** (for example, a degree in engineering with business studies). One subject is dominant, forming 60% or more of the programme of study and the minor subject forms between 25% and 40%. Any component of less than 25% is ignored for the purposes of recording combinations of the subjects of the overall course aim. In such cases 67% of the FTE should be counted to the subject category containing the major subject and the remaining 33% to the subject category containing the minor subject.

- **Three subjects of course** (for example, a degree in politics, philosophy and economics).

All three subjects form between 25% and 40% of the overall programme. In such cases a third of the student's FTE should be counted against the subject categories associated with the three subjects.

4. Further information on the subject areas can be found in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2018-19](#), available on SFC's website.



Subject areas for undergraduates for 2018-19

Subject Area	JACS Subject Classification	
	Code	Subject Group / Principal Subject
<b>Controlled Subject Areas</b>		
Clinical Medicine	A3	Clinical Medicine
Clinical Dentistry	A4	Clinical Dentistry
Pre-clinical Medicine	A1	Pre-clinical Medicine
Pre-clinical Dentistry	A2	Pre-clinical Dentistry
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	B7	Nursing (part of this provision)
B.Ed. Primary / Music / PE / Technology	X1	Education (part of this provision)
<b>Non-Controlled Subject Areas</b>		
STEM Subjects	C D	Biological Sciences Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and Related Subjects
	<i>Excluding</i> D1	<i>Excluding</i> <i>Pre-clinical veterinary</i> <i>medicine</i>
	D2	<i>Clinical veterinary medicine</i> <i>and dentistry</i>
	F	Physical Sciences
	G	Mathematical Sciences
	H	Engineering
	I	Computer Sciences
	J	Technologies
Other Subjects	All other subject codes <i>Including</i> D1	<i>Pre-clinical veterinary</i> <i>medicine</i>
	D2	<i>Clinical veterinary medicine</i> <i>and dentistry</i>

## **Appendix G: Other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education**

### **Scottish Funding Council**

1. Other [publications produced by SFC relating to higher education](#) are available on SFC's website.

### **Scottish Government**

2. The Scottish Government publishes some [information on higher education in Scotland](#).

### **Higher Education Statistics Agency**

3. The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes higher education statistics for the UK as a whole. Some of its publications contain [figures for individual HEIs in Scotland](#).