



## Students Eligible for Funding 2021-22



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

**SFC Statistics**

Issue Date: 22 June 2022  
Reference: SFC/ST/04/2022

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at Scottish Higher Education institutions in 2021-22

FAO: Principals and directors of Scottish universities, and the general public

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## Executive Summary

- The total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students eligible for funding (definition provided in paragraph 2) in 2021-22 was 153,235. Of this number, 134,885 FTE (88.0%) were undergraduates; 11,155 FTE (7.3%) were taught postgraduates; and 7,200 FTE (4.7%) were research postgraduates. Part-time students accounted for 19,425 FTE (12.7%).
- SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. The enrolments in 2021-22 exceeded funded places by 5.1%. Where an institution exceeds the number of funded places allocated, it receives only the tuition fee income and does not receive any teaching grant.
- The total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding has increased by 8,655 FTE (+6.9%) between 2017-18 and 2021-22.
- However, between 2020-21 and 2021-22 the total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by -4,450 FTE (-2.8%), which will be partly due to new EU students no longer being eligible for funding following the UK's departure from the EU but has increased by 6,415 FTE (+4.4%) from 2017-18. During this period the number of funded places increased by 11,515 FTE (+9.0%).
- The number of students eligible for funding in the controlled subjects (definition provided in paragraph 18) has increased by 4,915 FTE (+27.2%) between 2017-18 and 2021-22. This includes increases for Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration of 2,890 FTE (+31.7%), Medicine of 855 FTE (+30.6%) and Initial Teacher Education of 595 FTE (+10.5%).
- Of the undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas (definition provided in paragraph 18) in 2021-22 46,405 FTE (40.4%) were studying Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

## 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 2021-22 - 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. Students eligible for funding cover Scottish-domiciled and, following the UK's departure from the EU, EU students who commenced their studies prior to 2021-22; those commencing from 2021-22 onwards are no longer eligible for funding. See Appendix D for further information on eligibility for funding.
3. Students eligible for funding do not equate to the number of funded places provided by SFC. Institutions typically have more students eligible for funding than they have funded places and for the additional students they will only receive the home fees and not any teaching grant, see paragraph 33.
4. Students that are not eligible for funding include those from outwith the EU, new EU students starting on courses in 2021-22, students on full-cost recovery courses and rest of UK (RUK) students paying deregulated tuition fees. The detailed student returns collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) show that about two-thirds of the total FTE number of students at HEIs in Scotland in 2020-21 were eligible for funding.

## Early Statistics Return

5. The figures in this publication 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 2021-22

6. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2021-22 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 153,235 - see table 1. Of this total:
  - 134,885 FTE (88.0%) were undergraduates.
  - 11,155 FTE (7.3%) were taught postgraduates.
  - 7,200 FTE (4.7%) were research postgraduates.

- 19,425 FTE (12.7%) were part-time students.

### Changes in students eligible for funding between 2020-21 and 2021-22

7. Table 1, on page 13, shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding between 2020-21 and 2021-22.
8. Changes between 2020-21 and 2021-22 include:
  - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding decreased by -4,450 FTE (-2.8%).
  - Full-time students eligible for funding decreased by -4,690 FTE (-3.4%).
  - Part-time students increased by 245 FTE (+1.3%).
  - Undergraduate students decreased by -1,780 FTE (-1.3%).
  - Taught postgraduates decreased by -2,180 FTE (-16.3%).
  - Research postgraduates decreased by -485 FTE (-6.3%).
9. One reason for the reduction in the number of students eligible for funding will be that, following the UK's departure from the EU, new EU students starting courses in 2021-22 were no longer eligible for funding.
10. Taught postgraduate courses often last only one year and are typically shorter in length than research postgraduate or undergraduate courses. This means that changes in recruitment of certain types of student can have a quicker impact on the total numbers of taught postgraduate students than those for research postgraduates or undergraduates. The detailed student returns collected by HESA show that new EU students made up about 14% of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate students eligible for funding in 2020-21, which is similar to the percentage decrease in taught postgraduates between 2020-21 and 2021-22.
11. The HESA returns also show that new EU students made up about 8% and 3% of the respective total FTE numbers of research postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2020-21. These figures are slightly higher than the percentage decreases in the numbers of these students between 2020-21 and 2021-22.

### Changes in students eligible for funding between 2017-18 and 2021-22

12. Table 1 also shows trends in the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2017-18 to 2021-22.

13. Despite new EU students in 2021-22 not being eligible for funding, the total FTE number of students eligible for funding (including both full-time and part-time) has increased by 6,415 FTE (+4.4%) between 2017-18 and 2021-22.
14. The number of Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding on full-time undergraduate courses increased by 6,040 FTE (+5.3%) between 2017-18 and 2021-22.
15. One reason for this increase in full-time undergraduates is that the Scottish Government funded additional university places in 2020-21 and 2021-22 to avoid suitably qualified school leavers not getting a university place due to increased demand for places following the revisions to the results of the Scottish Qualification Authority (SQA) qualifications in 2020 and changes to the methods of assessment of school qualifications in 2020 and 2021, see paragraphs 28 and 31.
16. Other changes between 2017-18 and 2021-22:
  - Total full-time students eligible for funding increased by 3,810 FTE (+2.9%).
  - Part-time students increased by 2,610 FTE (+15.5%).
  - Undergraduate students increased by 8,655 FTE (+6.9%).
  - Taught postgraduates decreased by -1,735 FTE (-13.5%).
  - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding decreased by -500 FTE (-6.5%).

## Subject areas

17. Table 2, on page 14, 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.
18. 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, some Combined Degrees in Education, Postgraduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses and some Masters courses).

- Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (taught postgraduate and undergraduate).
  - Paramedic Education (undergraduate): 2020-21 was the first session in which Paramedic Education was a controlled subject.
19. The controlled subjects accounted for 23,010 (15.8%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2021-22. Of the taught postgraduates, 26.0% were studying a controlled subject (2,895 FTE), principally PGDE courses. The controlled subject areas made up 20,115 FTE (14.9%) of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2021-22.
  20. The number of students eligible for funding in the controlled subjects has increased by over a quarter between 2017-18 and 2021-22, an increase of 4,915 FTE (+27.2%). The individual controlled subject areas experienced the following increases:
    - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration, an increase of 2,890 FTE (+31.7%).
    - Medicine, 855 FTE (+30.6%).
    - Initial Teacher Education, 595 FTE (+10.5%).
  21. Paramedic Education (615 FTE in 2021-22) only becoming a controlled subject in 2020-21 also contributes to the increase in the numbers of students taking the controlled subjects. The increase in Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration is also partly due to nursing students at the Open University in Scotland being classified as being eligible for funding for the first time in 2021-22 as SFC has taken over the responsibility for administering the funding of this provision. This contributed 290 FTE to the controlled Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration total for 2021-22.
  22. The non-controlled undergraduate subject areas are split into STEM and other subjects. The STEM subjects consist of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness. In 2021-22, 40.4% of non-controlled undergraduate students eligible for funding were studying STEM subjects.
  23. The FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in the STEM subject areas decreased by -1,760 FTE (-3.7%) between 2020-21 and 2021-22 while the number in the non-STEM subject areas decreased by -1,550 FTE (-2.2%).
  24. Comparisons of the numbers of STEM and non-STEM undergraduate students in 2020-21 and 2021-22 and earlier sessions will be partly affected by a different subject classification being used to define the STEM subjects, see Appendix F for further details. Over the five-year period from 2017-18 to 2020-21, the



percentage of non-controlled undergraduate students in the STEM subject areas varied from 39.8% in 2019-20 to 40.8% in both 2017-18 and 2020-21.

### **Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2017-18 and 2021-22**

25. SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students. Details of funded places for 2021-22 can be found in [Annex B on the SFC website](#).
26. Table 3, on page 15, shows comparisons of the number of funded places for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students with the actual enrolments of students eligible for funding for 2017-18 to 2021-22.
27. Changes between 2020-21 and 2021-22 include:
  - Funded places increased by 7,640 FTE (+5.8%) from 131,320 to 138,960.
  - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding decreased by -3,960 FTE (-2.6%) from 150,000 to 146,040.
28. The decrease in taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding will be partly due to new EU students not being eligible for funding in 2021-22.
29. The increase in funded places between 2020-21 and 2021-22 includes an additional 2,500 places funded by the Scottish Government to ensure suitably qualified Scottish school leavers did not miss out on a university place following increased demand for places due to the revisions to the SQA grades awarded in 2020 and changes to the method of assessment of SQA awards in 2020 and 2021. They also include an additional 1,425 places for students to train as nurses and midwives.
30. SFC also started to fund students on Graduate Apprenticeships (GAs) for the first time in 2021-22. Prior to 2021-22 Skills Development Scotland (SDS) funded students on GAs. SFC is taking over the responsibility of the funding of GAs and will fund all new GAs from 2021-22 onwards, while SDS will continue to fund GAs that started before 2021-22 to completion. SFC allocated 1,380 places for GAs for 2021-22.

31. Changes between 2017-18 and 2021-22 include:
- Funded places increased by 11,515 FTE (+9.0%) from 127,445 to 138,960.
  - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 6,920 FTE (+5.0%) from 139,120 to 146,040.
32. The increase in funded places between 2017-18 and 2021-22 includes an additional 1,295 places allocated for 2020-21 and a further 2,500 places allocated for 2021-22 to ensure suitably qualified Scottish school leavers did not miss out on a university place following increased demand for places due to the revisions to the SQA grades awarded in 2020 and changes to the method of assessment of SQA awards in 2020 and 2021. The increase in students eligible for funding between 2017-18 and 2021-22 will be partly due to additional enrolments of school leavers in 2020-21 and 2021-22.
33. In each year the HEI sector as a whole filled their funded places and recruited additional students eligible for funding by the following amounts and percentages:
- 2017-18 by 11,675 FTE (+9.2%).
  - 2018-19 by 12,880 FTE (+10.0%).
  - 2019-20 by 13,135 FTE (+10.2%).
  - 2020-21 by 18,680 FTE (+14.2%).
  - 2021-22 by 7,080 FTE (+5.1%).
34. By recruiting in excess of their number of funded places institutions only receive the tuition fee income and not any teaching grant for the additional students. Historically institutions were required to recruit more students than funded places in order to meet a sector planning target set by the Scottish Government. Institutions have looked to increase opportunities for students from the more deprived areas in line with Scottish Government priorities. SFC sets 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.

### **Consolidation of controlled and non-controlled subject areas**

35. 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 2021-22. The controlled and non-controlled consolidation numbers for each institution for 2021-22 are shown in [table 5](#) on the SFC website.

36. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for non-controlled subject areas, an institution's total enrolments of full-time Scottish and EU undergraduates in these subject areas should not exceed its consolidation number by more than 10%.
37. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled consolidation numbers for 2021-22 is 104,230. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and EU students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas was 100,050, which is 4.0% below the consolidation 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.
38. The individual controlled subjects have different criteria for consolidation:
  - For nursing and midwifery pre-registration, paramedic education and initial teacher education the total FTE number of Scottish and EU students eligible for funding and students eligible to pay the deregulated tuition fees for rest of UK (RUK) students should not exceed the consolidation number by more than 10% or 10 FTE, whichever is the larger.
  - For dentistry the total FTE number of Scottish and EU students eligible for funding and students eligible to pay the deregulated tuition fees for RUK students should not exceed the consolidation number by more than 5%.
  - For medicine the total intake of Scottish and EU students eligible for funding and students eligible to pay the deregulated tuition fees for RUK students should not exceed the consolidation number by more than 10%.
39. At sector level, the percentage difference between the total student numbers used to monitor adherence to the consolidation policy and the sum of the institutions' consolidation numbers for each controlled subject were:
  - Medicine (+4.5%).
  - Dentistry (-2.8%).
  - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (+1.2%).
  - Paramedic Education (+1.0%).
  - Primary Initial Teacher Education (+6.6%).
  - Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-11.8%).

40. 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**

41. 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, 2017-18 to 2021-22: Level and mode of study

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2017-18 FTE	2018-19 FTE	2019-20 FTE	2020-21 FTE	2021-22 FTE	Percentage change from 2020-21 to 2021-22	Percentage change from 2017-18 to 2021-22
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>Research postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	6,470	6,505	6,365	6,515	6,050	-7.1%	-6.5%
Part-time	1,230	1,165	1,185	1,170	1,150	-1.7%	-6.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>7,670</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>7,685</b>	<b>7,200</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>	<b>-6.5%</b>
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	9,420	9,710	9,345	9,815	7,970	-18.8%	-15.4%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK <sup>(2)</sup></i>	40	5	0	0	0		-100.0%
Part-time	3,470	3,720	3,480	3,525	3,185	-9.6%	-8.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>12,825</b>	<b>13,335</b>	<b>11,155</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>							
Full-time	114,115	115,095	115,670	122,175	119,795	-1.9%	5.0%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK <sup>(2)</sup></i>	360	35	0	0	0		-100.0%
Part-time	12,110	13,030	13,610	14,490	15,090	4.1%	24.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,230</b>	<b>128,130</b>	<b>129,280</b>	<b>136,665</b>	<b>134,885</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>							
Full-time	130,005	131,310	131,380	138,505	133,815	-3.4%	2.9%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK <sup>(2)</sup></i>	400	40	0	0	0		-100.0%
Part-time	16,815	17,920	18,275	19,180	19,425	1.3%	15.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,820</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>149,655</b>	<b>157,685</b>	<b>153,235</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

See note (1) for a description of students eligible for funding.

Table 2: Students Eligible for Funding, 2017-18 to 2021-22: Level of Study by Subject Area

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2017-18 FTE	2018-19 FTE	2019-20 FTE	2020-21 FTE	2021-22 FTE	Percentage change, 2020-21 to 2021-22	Percentage change, 2017-18 to 2021-22
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
<b>Research postgraduate</b>	7,700	7,670	7,550	7,685	7,200	-6.3%	-6.5%
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>							
Initial Teacher Education	2,505	2,730	2,665	2,810	2,485	-11.6%	-0.8%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	195	255	385	395	410	3.8%	110.3%
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>	10,195	10,450	9,770	10,130	8,260	-18.5%	-19.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,890</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>12,825</b>	<b>13,335</b>	<b>11,155</b>	<b>-16.3%</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>
<b>Undergraduate</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>							
Medicine	2,790	2,900	3,080	3,375	3,645	8.0%	30.6%
Dentistry	515	485	485	505	475	-5.9%	-7.8%
Initial Teacher Education	3,165	3,335	3,390	3,585	3,780	5.4%	19.4%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration <sup>(6)</sup>	8,925	9,155	9,495	10,795	11,600	7.5%	30.0%
Paramedic Education				330	615	86.4%	
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>							
STEM subject areas <sup>(3)</sup>	45,200	45,615	44,935	48,165	46,405	-3.7%	2.7%
Other subject areas <sup>(3)</sup>	65,630	66,645	67,895	69,910	68,360	-2.2%	4.2%
<i>Of which: Full-time Scots/Other EU (for Consolidation) <sup>(5)</sup></i>	<i>98,450</i>	<i>99,235</i>	<i>99,275</i>		<i>100,050</i>		<i>1.6%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>126,230</b>	<b>128,130</b>	<b>129,280</b>	<b>136,665</b>	<b>134,885</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>6.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,820</b>	<b>149,230</b>	<b>149,655</b>	<b>157,685</b>	<b>153,235</b>	<b>-2.8%</b>	<b>4.4%</b>

See note (1) for a description of students eligible for funding.

Table 3: Comparison of Funded Places with Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students Eligible for Funding, 2017-18 to 2021-22

**SFC and Scottish Government Funded Places for Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate students**

<b>Funded places / Students eligible for funding</b>	<b>2017-18 FTE</b>	<b>2018-19 FTE</b>	<b>2019-20 FTE</b>	<b>2020-21 FTE</b>	<b>2021-22 FTE</b>	<b>Percentage change from 2020-21 to 2021-22</b>	<b>Percentage change from 2017-18 to 2021-22</b>
<b>(1)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>(5)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(7)</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>Funded places <sup>(4)</sup></b>	127,445	128,680	128,970	131,320	138,960	5.8%	9.0%
<b>Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding <sup>(1)</sup></b>	139,120	141,560	142,105	150,000	146,040	-2.6%	5.0%
<b>Percentage difference between students eligible for funding and funded places</b>	9.2%	10.0%	10.2%	14.2%	5.1%		

## 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>The UK's departure from the EU at the end of 2020 meant that EU nationals starting a course from 2021-22 onwards were no longer entitled to 'Scottish', or home, fee status. This means that new EU students in 2021-22 will not be eligible for funding. Continuing EU students who started on their courses prior to 2021-22 will continue to be eligible for funding until they finish their studies.</p> <p>As the figures are collected in-year they include a forecast element. For 2021-22 the forecast element accounts for 2.6% of the total figures.</p>
2	1	<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 remained eligible for funding.</p> <p>By 2019-20 there were no longer any continuing RUK students.</p>
3	2	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 11 of the Notes of Guidance for the <a href="#">Early Statistics Return for 2021-22</a>.</p> <p>2020-21 was the first year that the STEM subjects were classified in terms of the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECOS) subject codes. Previously the Joint Academic Classification of Subjects (JACS) was used to define the STEM subjects. Institutions can also now record up to five subjects for a course when previously the maximum was three. They can also select what course subject percentages they</p>



consider the most appropriate for courses with more than one course subject when previously they had to use certain specified combinations of percentages. All of these changes mean that the differences in the numbers of students eligible for funding for STEM and other subjects between the academic sessions from 2020-21 onwards and earlier sessions will be partly due to changes in reporting rather than shifts in provision.

The numbers of students eligible for funding taking STEM and non-STEM subjects for 2020-21 have been revised from those published in last year's bulletin due to an institution identifying an error in the numbers reported in their Early Statistics return for 2020-21.

One institution reclassified some of its provision from STEM to the other subject areas in 2019-20. This is estimated to have affected about 125 FTE students. Assuming the numbers of students on these courses had remained at a similar level in 2021-22 then without these reclassifications the percentage change in STEM subjects between 2017-18 and 2021-22 would have been around 2.9% (2.7% unadjusted) while the percentage change in the other non-controlled subjects would have been around 4.0% (4.2% unadjusted).

4	3	In general the funded places shown cover the funded places from the final funding allocations and any subsequent adjustments. For example the funded places for 2020-21 include an additional 1,295 places allocated in-year to institutions to enable them to take on additional new students following the revisions to the results of the Scottish Qualification Authority qualifications.
5	2	The consolidation policy did not apply for 2020-21, see Appendix C.
6	2	In 2021-22 SFC took over the responsibility for administering the funding of nursing provision at the Open University in Scotland and this meant that the University's nursing students were classified as being eligible for funding for the first time in 2021-22. This contributed 290 FTE to the controlled Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration total for 2021-22.

## Appendix B: Higher Education Institutions funded by SFC in 2021-22

Aberdeen, University of  
Abertay University  
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 subjects are those for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets. The controlled subjects are:
  - Medicine.
  - Dentistry.
  - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration.
  - Initial Teacher Education.
  - Paramedic Education.
2. Paramedic education became a controlled subject for 2020-21.
3. The consolidation policies were removed for 2020-21 to avoid Scottish school leavers missing out on a university place because of increased demand for places due to the revisions made to the results of the SQA qualifications and because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The consolidation policies were restored for 2021-22.
4. To ensure that institutions conform to the consolidation policies, SFC sets each institution separate consolidation numbers for the non-controlled subject areas and for each of the controlled subject areas, which the institutions are not expected to exceed.
5. 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 a consolidation number without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so. For 2021-22 the tolerance thresholds were:
  - 10% for the non-controlled subject areas.
  - 10% or 10 FTE, whichever is the larger, for the controlled subject areas of nursing and midwifery pre-registration, paramedic education and initial teacher education.
  - 5% for the controlled subject of dentistry.
  - 10% for the controlled subject of medicine, but this relates to intake to the course.
6. The non-controlled consolidation number relates only to Scottish and EU students eligible for funding. The controlled consolidation numbers cover Scottish

and EU students eligible for funding and students eligible to pay the deregulated tuition fees for rest of UK students.

7. 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 2021-22 is available on SFC's website.

### **Under-enrolment**

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

## Appendix D: Background information

### Eligible 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.
  - Students for which institutions receive home fees.
  - Taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant.
2. Prior to 2021-22 EU students were eligible for funding. However, following the UK's departure from the EU at the end of 2020 EU nationals starting courses from 2021-22 onwards are no longer entitled to have the same fee status as Scottish students and will not be eligible for funding. EU students who started on their courses prior to 2021-22 will continue to be eligible for funding until they finish their studies.
3. The detailed individual student records collected by HESA show that students eligible for funding made up around 67% of the total FTE in the sector in 2020-21.
4. Among the students whose places are not eligible for funding are those:
  - From outwith the EU.
  - EU students starting their courses in 2021-22.
  - 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.
5. The figures therefore exclude many courses such as those in-service teacher training courses that are funded by local education authorities and many students on continuing education courses.

## Early Statistics Return

6. The figures in this bulletin come from SFC's Early Statistics Return, which asked institutions to provide FTE numbers of students eligible for funding, 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, are necessarily subject to some uncertainty.
7. For the purposes of the return, students were classified using the following categories.

### *Level of study*

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

### *Subject areas*

9. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return relates to 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.
10. Appendix E includes a definition of mode of study.
  11. Further information, including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, is available in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2021-22](#).

## 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 2021-22](#).

## Appendix F: Subject areas

1. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return 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 the uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness.
2. The Early Statistics Return for 2020-21 was the first to use the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECOS) subject codes to define STEM subjects. 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.
3. Annex C of the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2021-22](#) lists the HECOS codes for STEM subjects.

### More than one subject of course aim

4. Prior to the introduction of HECOS to record subjects in the HESA returns institutions could only return a maximum of three subjects for a course. When HECOS was introduced the maximum number of course subjects was increased to five though institutions were advised that the use of more than three should be the exception.
5. Also before HECOS was introduced institutions had to use a small number of specified combinations of subject percentages to record the contributions of the course subjects to courses with more than one course subject. This restriction was removed when HECOS was introduced and institutions can now decide for themselves what combination of subject percentages to use if their broad assessment of the subject contributions markedly differs from these standard combinations of percentages.
6. If an undergraduate is studying on a course with more than one course subject then the student's FTE is split between STEM and other subjects using the course subject percentages associated with subjects in these categories.
7. Further information on the subject areas can be found in section 11 of the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2021-22](#).



## 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](#).