



Students Eligible for Funding 2022-23



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Students Eligible for Funding 2022-23

Executive Summary

- The *Students Eligible for Funding* publication reports provisional information on the numbers of students eligible for funding at the 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
- This publication presents figures from the SFC's Early Statistics Return, which collected data on the number of students eligible for funding at institutions on 1 December 2022 and forecasts of enrolments expected later in the academic year.
- The total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students eligible for funding in 2022-23 was 144,660. Of this total 128,280 FTE (88.7%) were undergraduates, 9,850 FTE (6.8%) were taught postgraduates, and 6,525 FTE (4.5%) were research postgraduates. 18,435 FTE (12.7%) were part-time students.
- SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. The number of students eligible for funding does not equate to the number of funded places provided by SFC. The number of funded places in 2022-23 was 138,830 FTE.
- Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by 8,575 FTE (-5.6%). One key reason for this is that following the UK's departure from the EU, new EU students starting courses from 2021-22 onwards were no longer eligible for funding.
- The total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by -4,570 (-3.1%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23. Non-continuation rates over this period, and hence changes in students numbers between sessions, are likely to have been affected by restrictions introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Despite the reduction in the total number of students eligible for funding between 2021-22 and 2022-23, a record number of Scottish domiciled applicants aged 18 or under were accepted for a place at a Scottish institution in 2022-23. In 2022-23 17,120 applicants for a place at Scottish institutions, 195 (1.2%) higher than for 2021-22 and 2,230 (15.0%) higher than for 2018-19.
- Between 2018-19 and 2022-23 the enrolments of students eligible for funding in the controlled subject areas of:
 - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration increased by 2,475 FTE (+26.3%).
 - Medicine increased by 1,050 FTE (+36.2%).
 - Dentistry remained at a similar level, 495 FTE in 2022-23 compared to 485 FTE in 2018-19.

- Initial Teacher Education (ITE) decreased by -250 FTE (-4.1%).

Introduction

1. This report contains provisional 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 2022-23 - see Appendix B for a list of these institutions. The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general students eligible for funding are Scottish-domiciled students or European Union (EU) students who commenced their studies prior to 2021-22, who are not on courses where the tuition fee covers the costs of provision (full-cost recovery courses). Following the UK's departure from the EU, EU students commencing their studies from 2021-22 onwards are not eligible for funding. Appendix D gives further information on eligibility for funding.
3. SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. The number of students eligible for funding does not equate to the number of funded places provided by SFC. If an institution enrolls more students eligible for funding than its allocation of funded places it will only receive the tuition fees and not any teaching grant for the additional enrolments.
4. Students that are not eligible for funding include those from outwith the EU, new EU students starting on courses from 2021-22 onwards, students on full cost-recovery courses and rest of UK (RUK) students paying deregulated tuition fees. The detailed individual student returns collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicate that around 63% of the total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students at HEIs in Scotland in 2021-22 were eligible for funding.

Early Statistics Return

5. The figures in this publication are taken from SFC's Early Statistics Return. These 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 and may be subject to revision before publication of the final Higher Education student numbers publication. Further information on the Early Statistics Return can be found in Appendices D, E and F. SFC also publishes *Higher Education Students and Qualifiers* which is based on HESA data and covers all of the actual students at the Scottish HEIs. The Higher Education Students and Qualifiers 2021-22 is planned for publication in July 2023.

Students eligible for funding in 2022-23

6. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2022-23 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 144,660 - see table 1. Of this total:

- 126,225 FTE (87.3%) were full-time students and 18,435 FTE (12.7%) were part-time students.
- 128,280 FTE (88.7%) were undergraduates.
- 9,850 FTE (6.8%) were taught postgraduates.
- 6,525 FTE (4.5%) were research postgraduates.

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2021-22 and 2022-23

7. Table 1, on page 14, shows comparisons of the numbers of students eligible for funding in 2021-22 and 2022-23.
8. Changes between 2021-22 and 2022-23 include:
 - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding decreased by -8,575 FTE (-5.6%).
 - Full-time students eligible for funding decreased by -7,590 FTE (-5.7%) while part-time students decreased by -990 FTE (-5.1%).
 - Undergraduate students decreased by -6,605 FTE (-4.9%).
 - Taught postgraduates decreased by -1,305 FTE (-11.7%).
 - Research postgraduates decreased by -675 FTE (-9.4%)
9. A key reason for the reduction in the number of students eligible for funding is that, following the UK's departure from the EU, new EU students starting courses from 2021-22 onwards were no longer eligible for funding. The EU students who started their studies prior to 2021-22 remain eligible for funding until they complete their studies. The number of students eligible for funding from the EU will therefore decline over the coming years as those who complete their studies will not be replaced by new EU students starting their courses.
10. The detailed individual student returns collected by HESA indicate that there were around 4,300 FTE EU students eligible for funding in the final year of their courses in 2021-22, which would explain around half of the overall decrease in students eligible for funding between 2021-22 and 2022-23.
11. By level of study the FTE number of EU students eligible for funding estimated from the HESA returns to be in the final year of their course in 2021-22 were:
 - Research postgraduates: 370 FTE, around 6% of all research postgraduate students eligible for funding in 2021-22.

- Taught postgraduates: 830 FTE, around 6% of all taught postgraduate students eligible for funding in 2021-22.
 - Undergraduates: 3,100 FTE, around 2% of all undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2021-22.
12. Despite the reduction in the total number of students eligible for funding between 2021-22 and 2022-23 figures published by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) show that a record number of Scottish domiciled applicants aged 18 or under were accepted for a place at a Scottish institution in 2022-23, see table A below. The number accepted for a place in 2022-23, 17,120, was 195 applicants (1.2%) higher than for 2021-22 and 2,230 (15.0%) higher than for 2018-19.

Table A: Scottish Domiciled Applicants Aged 18 or Under Accepted for a Place at a Scottish Institution, 2018-19 to 2022-23

2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
14,890	14,265	15,190	16,925	17,120

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service [End of Cycle Data Resources 2022](#)

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2018-19 and 2022-23

13. Table 1 also shows trends in the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2018-19 to 2022-23.
14. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by -4,570 (-3.1%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23.
15. As explained at paragraph 10, new EU students starting courses from 2021-22 onwards were no longer eligible for funding.
16. The detailed individual student returns collected by HESA indicate that there were around 18,100 FTE EU students eligible for funding in 2018-19. This had reduced to around 12,000 FTE in 2021-22, of whom over 4,000 FTE were in their final year. This means that there would be expected to be fewer than 8,000 FTE EU students eligible for funding in 2022-23 – a reduction of over 10,000 FTE since 2018-19, more than twice the overall reduction of students eligible for funding between 2018-19 and 2022-23.
17. Although the total number of students eligible for funding has decreased between 2018-19 and 2022-23 the number of undergraduate students eligible for funding has increased very slightly over this period, by 150 FTE (0.1%) from 128,130 FTE to 128,280 FTE. As the number of EU undergraduate students eligible for funding has decreased this means that there has been an increase in the number of Scottish-domiciled

undergraduate students eligible for funding. The HESA returns indicate that the FTE number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate students eligible for funding increased from under 111,000 in 2018-19 to over 121,500 in 2021-22.

18. One reason for this increase is that the Scottish Government funded an additional 1,295 places for 2020-21 and a further 2,500 places for 2021-22 to avoid suitably qualified school leavers not being able to get a university place due to increased demand for places following 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.
19. One factor that affects the number of students is non-continuation rates. Table B shows figures derived from the HESA Student data for the non-continuation to year after entry of Scottish-domiciled students eligible for funding starting full-time undergraduate courses from 2017-18 to 2020-21.

Table B: Scottish Domiciled Students Eligible for Funding Entering Full-time Undergraduate Courses, 2017-18 to 2020-21 (*)

Percentage no longer at a Higher Education institution in the year after entry

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
9.4%	9.4%	7.4%	9.8%

Source: Figures derived from HESA Student returns.

(*) Figures relate to students who did not leave within 50 days of starting their courses.

20. For entrants starting in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2020-21 the non-continuation rate was at least 9.4%. However, for entrants starting in 2019-20 the non-continuation was only 7.4%. 2019-20 was the first session to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions introduced to reduce the spread of COVID-19 meant that end of year examinations could not be carried out as normal. Different assessment methods were used to judge whether students could progress to the next year of study and this appears to have led to more students continuing to the next academic session than might have been expected. 2020-21 is therefore likely to have had more enrolments than might have been expected pre-pandemic.
21. The non-continuation rate for entrants in 2020-21 jumped to 9.8% which was higher than the two pre-pandemic years of 2017-18 and 2018-19. This increase could have been partly due to the different student experience caused by restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. With a notable increase in non-continuation rate for entrants it is possible that more of the entrants from 2019-20 who continued to 2020-21 might have discontinued their studies later in their courses than might have typically been expected. Therefore the enrolments in 2021-22 are likely to have been lower than might have

been expected based on progression rates pre-pandemic.

22. Other changes between 2018-19 and 2022-23 included:
- Full-time students eligible for funding decreased by -5,085 FTE (-3.9%) but part-time students increased by 515 FTE (+2.9%).
 - Taught postgraduates decreased by -3,580 FTE (-26.7%).
 - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding decreased by -1,145 FTE (-14.9%).

Subject Areas

23. Table 2, on page 15, shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding split by subject area. See Appendix F for more details of the subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return.
24. 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. These are:
- Medicine (undergraduate).
 - Dentistry (undergraduate).
 - Initial Teacher Education (Bachelors of Education, some Combined Degrees in Education courses, Postgraduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses and some Masters courses).
 - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (taught postgraduate and undergraduate).
 - Paramedic Education (undergraduate).
 - Prosthetics and Orthotics (undergraduate).
25. The controlled subjects accounted for 23,055 (16.7%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2022-23. This can be further broken down to 26.7% of taught postgraduates, principally studying PGDE courses, and 15.9% of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2022-23.
26. The number of students eligible for funding in the controlled subjects has increased by 4,195 FTE (+22.2%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23. One of the reasons for this increase is that Paramedic Education (895 FTE in 2022-23) only became a controlled subject in 2020-21, with only the provision of students starting from 2020-21 onwards being classified as controlled. This accounts for 4.7% of the overall increase. Prosthetics and Orthotics (15 FTE in 2022-23) was only classified as one of the controlled subjects for the first time in 2022-23.

27. The enrolments of students eligible for funding on Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration courses increased by 2,475 FTE (+26.3%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23, contributing 13.1% to the increase of 22.2% for all controlled subjects. This principally reflects the Scottish Government having increased the number of places to study nursing each year from 2018-19 to 2022-23 to meet future workforce needs. The overall intake target for new nursing students increased from 3,705 for 2018-19 to 4,835 for 2022-23. The increase is also partly due to the nursing pre-registration students at the Open University in Scotland being classified as being eligible for funding for the first time in 2021-22 when SFC took over the responsibility for administering the funding of this provision. The Open University contributed 290 FTE to the total FTE for Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration for 2022-23.
28. The enrolments of students eligible for funding in Medicine increased by 1,050 FTE (+36.2%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23, contributing 5.6% to the increase of 22.2% for all controlled subjects. This increase is explained by an increase in intake targets for medicine to meet future workforce needs and an increase in ringfenced places for widening access to study medicine, see the announcement of the [Intake Targets for Medicine for 2022-23](#). The total enrolments of students eligible for funding in Dentistry in 2022-23 was at a similar level to that for 2018-19, 495 FTE compared to 485 FTE.
29. The enrolments of students eligible for funding on Initial Teacher Education (ITE) courses decreased by -250 FTE (-4.1%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23. This was due to a reduction of -565 FTE (-20.7%) in taught postgraduate ITE students, principally students on PGDE courses. The number of students eligible for funding on undergraduate ITE courses increased by 315 FTE (+9.4%).
30. The non-controlled undergraduate subject areas are split into STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and other subjects. The uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness. The percentage of the non-controlled undergraduate students eligible for funding studying STEM subjects decreased very slightly from 2021-22 to 2022-23, from 40.4% to 40.3%.
31. The FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in the STEM subject areas decreased by -2,975 FTE (-6.4%) between 2021-22 and 2022-23 while the number in the non-STEM subject areas decreased by -3,930 FTE (-5.7%). Comparisons of the numbers of STEM and non-STEM undergraduate students in the academic sessions 2020-21 to 2022-23 with those in earlier sessions might be 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 2018-19 to 2022-23, the percentage of non-controlled undergraduate students in the STEM subject areas varied between 39.8% in 2019-20 and 40.8% in 2020-21.

Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2018-19 and 2022-23

32. SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. Details of the funded places for 2022-23 can be found in Annex B on the [SFC website](#).
33. Table 3, on page 16, shows comparisons of the number of funded places for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students with the actual enrolments of students eligible for funding for 2018-19 to 2022-23.
34. Changes between 2021-22 and 2022-23 include:
 - Funded places decreased slightly by -130 FTE (-0.1%) from 138,960 to 138,830 FTE.
 - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding decreased by -7,910 FTE (-5.4%) from 146,040 to 138,130 FTE.
35. The reduction in funded places was partly due to additional COVID-19 related/Barnett consequential funding received by the Scottish Government in Financial Year 2021-22, which was used to provide additional funding for Graduate Apprenticeships in 2021-22, not being available in FY 2022-23. It was also partly due to fewer places being funded by the European Social Fund, which SFC administers, as this funding is coming to an end.
36. The decrease in students eligible for funding will again be partly due to EU students who started their courses from 2021-22 onwards not being eligible for funding.
37. Changes between 2018-19 and 2022-23 include:
 - Funded places increased by 10,150 FTE (+7.9%) from 128,680 to 138,830 FTE.
 - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding decreased by -3,430 FTE (-2.4%) from 141,560 to 138,130 FTE.
38. The increase in funded places between 2018-19 and 2022-23 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 to changes to the method of assessment of SQA awards in 2020 and 2021.

Consolidation of controlled and non-controlled subject areas

39. The Scottish Government has consolidation policies to limit the numbers of students in the controlled (listed at paragraph 25) and non-controlled subject areas. The controlled and non-controlled consolidation numbers for each institution for 2022-23 are shown in table 5 on the [SFC website](#).

40. To adhere to the consolidation policy for the 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%. Individual subjects have different criteria for consolidation.
41. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled consolidation numbers for 2022-23 is 102,780. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and EU students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas was 93,925, which is 8.6% below the consolidation number. Thus the sector as a whole has not over-recruited on full-time undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas and has adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for such students.
42. 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 (-0.1%).
 - Dentistry (-0.2%).
 - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (-6.3%).
 - Paramedic Education (+3.3%).
 - Prosthetics and Orthotics (-16.0%).
 - Primary Initial Teacher Education (-1.2%).
 - Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-31.3%)
43. Thus the sector as a whole has not over-recruited in the any of the controlled subject areas and has adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for the controlled subject areas.
44. 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 2022-23 is available in [Annex C](#) on SFC's website.

Rounding of data

45. 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. In general percentages are derived from the rounded figures. The percentage differences between the sector totals for enrolments and consolidation numbers quoted in the previous section are based on the unrounded numbers.

Table 1: Students Eligible for Funding, 2018-19 to 2022-23: Level and Mode of Study ⁽¹⁾

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Percentage Change from 2021-22 to 2022-23	Percentage Change from 2018-19 to 2022-23
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Research Postgraduate							
Full-time	6,505	6,365	6,515	6,050	5,440	-10.1%	-16.4%
Part-time	1,165	1,185	1,170	1,150	1,085	-5.7%	-6.9%
Total	7,670	7,550	7,685	7,200	6,525	-9.4%	-14.9%
Taught Postgraduate							
Full-time	9,710	9,345	9,815	7,970	6,865	-13.9%	-29.3%
Part-time	3,720	3,480	3,525	3,185	2,980	-6.4%	-19.9%
Total	13,430	12,825	13,335	11,155	9,850	-11.7%	-26.7%
Undergraduate							
Full-time	115,095	115,670	122,175	119,795	113,915	-4.9%	-1.0%
Part-time	13,030	13,610	14,490	15,090	14,365	-4.8%	10.2%
Total	128,130	129,280	136,665	134,885	128,280	-4.9%	0.1%
Total							
Full-time	131,310	131,380	138,505	133,815	126,225	-5.7%	-3.9%
Part-time	17,920	18,275	19,810	19,425	18,435	-5.1%	2.9%
Total	149,230	149,655	157,685	153,235	144,660	-5.6%	-3.1%

Table 2: Students Eligible for Funding, 2018-19 to 2022-23: Level of Study by Subject Area ⁽¹⁾

Level of Study / Subject Area (1)	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Percentage Change from 2021-22 to 2022-23	Percentage Change from 2018-19 to 2022-23
	FTE (2)	FTE (3)	FTE (4)	FTE (5)	FTE (6)	(7)	(8)
Research Postgraduate	7,670	7,550	7,685	7,200	6,525	-9.4%	-14.9%
Taught Postgraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Initial Teacher Education	2,730	2,665	2,810	2,485	2,165	-12.9%	-20.7%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	255	385	395	410	465	13.4%	82.4%
Non-controlled subject areas	10,450	9,770	10,130	8,260	7,220	-12.6%	-30.9%
Total	13,430	12,825	13,335	11,155	9,850	-11.7%	-26.7%
Undergraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Medicine	2,900	3,080	3,375	3,645	3,950	8.4%	36.2%
Dentistry	485	485	505	475	495	4.2%	2.1%
Initial Teacher Education	3,335	3,390	3,585	3,780	3,650	-3.4%	9.4%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration ⁽²⁾	9,155	9,495	10,795	11,600	11,420	-1.6%	24.7%
Paramedic Education ⁽³⁾			330	615	895	45.5%	
Prosthetics and Orthotics ⁽³⁾					15		
Non-controlled subject areas							
STEM subject areas ⁽⁴⁾	45,615	44,935	48,165	46,405	43,430	-6.4%	-4.8%
Other subject areas ⁽⁴⁾	66,645	67,895	69,910	68,360	64,430	-5.7%	-3.3%
<i>Of which: Full-time Scots/Other EU (for Consolidation) ⁽⁵⁾</i>	99,235	99,275		100,050	93,925	-6.1%	-5.4%
Total	128,130	129,280	136,665	134,885	128,280	-4.9%	0.1%
Total	149,230	149,655	157,685	153,235	144,660	-5.6%	-3.1%

Table 3: Comparison of Funded Places with Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students Eligible for Funding, 2018-19 to 2022-23
SFC and Scottish Government Funded Places for Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students

Funded Places / Students Eligible for Funding	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Percentage Change from 2021-22 to 2022-23	Percentage Change from 2018-19 to 2022-23
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Funded places ⁽⁶⁾	128,680	128,970	131,320	138,960	138,830	-0.1%	7.9%
Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding ⁽¹⁾	141,560	142,105	150,000	146,040	138,130	-5.4%	-2.4%
Percentage difference between students eligible for funding and funded places	10.0%	10.2%	14.2%	5.1%	-0.5%		

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"> • Students from outwith the EU. • Rest of UK students paying deregulated tuition fees. • Students on courses financed from other public sources e.g. places funded by local health boards for their staff. • 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. • Many students on Continuing Education courses which are not funded by SFC. <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 the same fee status as Scottish students and hence were not 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 2022-23 the forecast element accounts for 3.0% of the total FTE number of students eligible for funding.</p>
2	2	<p>In 2021-22 SFC took over the responsibility for administering the funding of nursing pre-registration 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 totals for 2021-22 and 2022-23.</p>
3	2	<p>Paramedic Education became a controlled subject in 2020-21, with the provision of students who started from 2020-21 onwards being controlled.</p>

Prosthetics and Orthotics became a controlled subject in 2022-23, with only the provision of students who started in 2022-23 being controlled.

4	2	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 9 of the Notes of Guidance for the Early Statistics Return for 2022-23.</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. Institutions can also select what course subject percentages they consider the most appropriate for courses with more than one course subject when previously they had to use certain specified combinations of percentages. All these changes mean that the changes in the numbers of students eligible for funding in the STEM subject areas and in the other subject areas between the academic sessions from 2020-21 onwards and earlier sessions will be partly due to changes in reporting rather than shifts in provision.</p> <p>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 2022-23 then without these reclassifications the percentage change in STEM subjects between 2018-19 and 2022-23 would have been around -4.5% (-4.8% unadjusted) while the percentage change in the other non-controlled subjects would have been around -3.5% (-3.3% unadjusted).</p>
5	2	<p>The consolidation policy did not apply for 2020-21, see Appendix C.</p>
6	3	<p>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.</p>

Appendix B: Higher Education Institutions Funded by SFC in 2022-23

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

Consolidation

46. 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.
 - Prosthetics and Orthotics.
- Paramedic education became a controlled subject in 2020-21 while Prosthetics and Orthotics only became a controlled subject in 2022-23.
47. The consolidation policies did not apply in 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.
48. 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.
49. 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 2022-23 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, Prosthetics and Orthotics, and Initial Teacher Education.
 - 5% for the controlled subject of Dentistry.
 - 10% for the controlled subject of Medicine, but this relates to the intake to the course.
50. 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.

51. 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 2022-23 is available in Annex C on SFC's website.

Under-enrolment

52. SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. Details of the funded places for 2022-23 can be found in Annex B on the SFC [website](#). Institutions receive a separate allocation of funded places for each of controlled subject areas which they teach and one overall allocation for the non-controlled subject areas. The controlled subject areas are defined to be those subjects for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets.
53. SFC may recover funding if institutions under-enrol and fall short of their target number of funded places. Recognising that planning student numbers is subject to some uncertainty SFC allows institutions certain leeway, called the tolerance threshold, within which an institution can fall below its funded places without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so. The tolerance threshold for under-enrolment against funded student places for the non-controlled subject areas for 2022-23 was 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 for 2022-23 was 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

54. 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 'Scottish' tuition fees (*).
 - Taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant.
- (*) 'Scottish' tuition fees are the tuition fees applicable to Scottish students. The Students Awards Agency Scotland pays the tuition fees for most Scottish domiciled undergraduate students and provides loans for Scottish domiciled taught postgraduate students to pay their fees.
55. 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 are not 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.
56. The detailed individual student records collected by HESA show that students eligible for funding made up around 63% of the total FTE in the sector in 2021-22.
57. Among the students whose places are not eligible for funding are those:
- From outwith the EU.
 - EU students starting their courses from 2021-22 onwards.
 - Rest of UK 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 full 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.
58. 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

59. The figures in this bulletin come from SFC's Early Statistics Return, which required 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.

60. For the purposes of the return, students were classified using the following categories.

Level of study

- Research postgraduate.
- Taught postgraduate.
- Undergraduate.

61. Appendix E includes a definition of each level of study.

Subject areas

62. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return relates to the subject areas used by SFC for monitoring use of allocations of funded places and for monitoring adherence to the consolidation policies, see Appendix F.

Mode of study

- Full-time.
- Part-time.

63. Appendix E includes a definition of mode of study.

64. Further information, including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, is available in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2022-23](#).

Appendix E: Categories Used in the Early Statistics Return

Level of course

Research postgraduate

65. 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

66. 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

67. 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

68. 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

69. 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.
70. Further information is contained in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2022-23](#).

Appendix F: Subject Areas

71. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return is that required by SFC to monitor use of allocations of funded places and to monitor 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.
72. Since 2020-21 the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECOS) subject codes have been used to define the STEM subjects. The subject information is recorded in the 'Qualification Subject' field in the HESA returns. These are the subjects of the overall qualification, i.e. 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.
73. Annex C of the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return for 2022-23 lists the HECOS codes for STEM subjects.

More than one subject of qualification

74. Prior to the introduction of HECOS to record subjects in the HESA returns institutions could only return a maximum of three qualification subjects. When HECOS was introduced the maximum number of qualification subjects was increased to five though institutions were advised that the use of more than three should be the exception.
75. Also before HECOS was introduced institutions had to use a small number of specified combinations of subject percentages to record the contributions of the subjects to qualifications in more than one subject. This restriction was removed when HECOS was introduced and institutions can now use their own judgement to decide what combination of subject percentages to use if their broad assessment of the subject contributions markedly differs from these standard combinations of percentages.
76. If an undergraduate is studying for a qualification in more than one subject then the student's FTE is split between STEM and other subjects using the subject percentages associated with subjects in these categories.
77. Further information on the subject areas can be found in section 9 of the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return for 2022-23.

Appendix G: Other Statistical Publications Dealing with Aspects of Scottish Higher Education

Scottish Funding Council

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

Scottish Government

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

Higher Education Statistics Agency

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