



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC ANNOUNCEMENT

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Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund AY 2023-24



Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund AY 2023-24

Issue Date:	25 September 2023
Reference:	SFC/AN/18/2023
Summary:	Announcement of Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund for colleges and universities for Academic Year 2023-24.
FAO:	Principals/Directors, Finance Directors, Chairs and Board Secretaries of Scotland's colleges and universities, and the general public.
Further Information:	CONTACT: Eilidh Fulton JOB TITLE: Senior Policy Officer DIRECTORATE: Access, Learning & Outcomes Directorate EMAIL: efulton@sfc.ac.uk

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Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund in Academic Year (AY) 2023-24

Summary

1. I am writing to announce the funding allocations under the one-year Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund for colleges and universities in Academic Year (AY) 2023-24. The aim of this funding is to provide financial support for a transition from the previous arrangements¹ to one which helps institutions diversify their support offering to students and explore delivery models which meet student needs and integrate with local services. This funding has been allocated by the Scottish Government.

Purpose of funding

2. In its 2018 [Programme for Government](#), the Scottish Government committed to ‘provide more than 80 additional counsellors in Further and Higher Education over the next four years with an investment of around £20 million’. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) announced the first year of this funding in November 2019². We are grateful that the tertiary sector has been able to deliver this commitment and continue to support student mental health. This commitment has now been fulfilled and the funding associated with it concluded at the end of AY 2022-23.
3. As student mental health is an important area for the Scottish Government, a one-year Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund has been created to support institutions’ transition from the previous funding, which focused on supporting additional counsellor provision, to a sustainable approach to support student mental health. We recognise some institutions may want to use the fund to continue supporting their counselling provision while others may want to explore funding new or existing initiatives and, therefore, suggested actions this funding supports could include but are not limited to:
 - Counselling provision.
 - Online mental health services or resources.
 - Engaging with local support services.
 - Early intervention/Internal support mechanisms.
 - Mental health advisers/nurses/coordinators.

¹ [Funding for counsellors AY 2022-23 \(April–July\) \(sfc.ac.uk\)](#)

² [Funding for counsellors 2019-20](#)

- Peer to peer student support.
 - Student wellbeing officers.
 - Pilot and evaluate approaches to support mental health and wellbeing.
4. Funding should not be used to fund specific managerial roles and should be used primarily to support mental health and wellbeing services for students.
 5. As institutions plan for future support, SFC expects them to engage closely with students and student associations. We also strongly encourage institutions to work together, where possible, to ensure high quality and relevant support is available to students throughout their learning journey.

Funding for AY 2023-24

6. The Minister for Higher and Further Education wrote to Colleges Scotland, Universities Scotland, and NUS Scotland on 11 July 2023 to announce that the Scottish Government will provide £3.21 million for AY 2023-24 as a one-off funding allocation in respect of mental health and wellbeing support in colleges and universities. The college and university sector and each institution will receive a proportionate share of this one-off funding, informed by their share of the funding for the final year of the previous commitment on counsellors in AY 2022-23.

Conditions of grant

7. This funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is being allocated, as outlined above. SFC retains the right to audit relevant institutional documentation to satisfy itself that this is the case (and the institution undertakes that it will provide such assistance as SFC reasonably requires).
8. Funds should be spent by the end of AY 2023-24. However, institutions may carry forward any unspent funds from this allocation and the previous allocation of [Funding for Counsellors AY 2022-23](#) to support student mental health and wellbeing, including any transitions needed to embed a more sustainable approach.

Payment of funds

9. Allocations for AY 2023-24 are set out in the tables in Annexes A and B. Payments to universities and non-incorporated colleges will be made in two Financial Year instalments in November 2023 and April 2024 for the August 2023 to March 2024 and April to July 2024 allocations respectively. Incorporated colleges/regions should draw down funds as required, as per their monthly cash flows, and may draw down their August to March allocations over the period to March 2024, and April to July allocations over the period April to July 2024. Payments are subject to acceptance of this offer of funding.

Acceptance of grant

10. We cannot process any payments until you have accepted this offer of grant in writing. Please email your acceptance to Nicholas Dixon, Budgeting and Reporting Officer, email: grantacceptance@sfc.ac.uk by **Friday 13 October 2023**.

Further information

11. If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact Eilidh Fulton, Senior Policy Officer, email: efulton@sfc.ac.uk.



Richard Maconachie FCCA
Director of Finance

Annex A: College funding allocations for AY 2023-24

College/Region	AY 2023-24 funding allocation (£)		
	Aug-Mar	Apr-July	Total AY
Ayrshire College	39,932	60,998	100,930
Borders College	29,123	44,487	73,610
Dumfries & Galloway College	31,374	47,926	79,300
Dundee & Angus College	45,487	69,483	114,970
Edinburgh College	48,489	74,071	122,560
Fife College	49,087	74,983	124,070
Forth Valley College	35,580	54,350	89,930
Glasgow Region	121,445	185,515	306,960
Highlands & Islands Region*	109,137	166,713	275,850
Lanarkshire Region	49,688	75,902	125,590
Newbattle Abbey College	3,905	5,965	9,870
North East Scotland College	43,682	66,728	110,410
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig	4,352	6,648	11,000
SRUC*	37,530	57,330	94,860
West College Scotland	48,038	73,382	121,420
West Lothian College	30,923	47,237	78,160
Total			£1,839,490

* Includes funding for UHI and SRUC's HE students

Annex B: University funding allocations for AY 2023-24

Higher Education Institution	AY 2023-24 funding allocation (£)		
	Aug-Mar	Apr-July	Total AY
Aberdeen, University of	29,123	44,487	73,610
Abertay University	19,517	29,813	49,330
Dundee, University of	34,828	53,202	88,030
Edinburgh Napier University	29,123	44,487	73,610
Edinburgh, University of	51,939	79,341	131,280
Glasgow Caledonian University	38,428	58,702	97,130
Glasgow School of Art	17,412	26,598	44,010
Glasgow, University of	59,449	90,811	150,260
Heriot-Watt University	29,123	44,487	73,610
Highlands & Islands, University of**	-	-	-
Open University in Scotland	31,224	47,696	78,920
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	19,818	30,272	50,090
Robert Gordon University	27,022	41,278	68,300
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	15,913	24,307	40,220
SRUC**	-	-	-
St Andrews, University of	27,022	41,278	68,300
Stirling, University of	29,424	44,946	74,370
Strathclyde, University of	46,836	71,544	118,380
West of Scotland, University of the	36,027	55,033	91,060
Total			£1,370,510

** Funding for UHI and SRUC included within college allocation.