



Intake targets for Paramedic Education: 2023-24 to 2025-26



Intake targets for Paramedic Education: 2023-24 to 2025-26

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Summary:	Announcement of university intake targets for the Paramedic Education programme for the period Academic Year (AY) 2023-24 to 2025-26.
FAO:	Principals / Chairs of Scotland's universities.
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Table of Contents

Intake targets for Paramedic Education: 2023-24 to 2025-26.....	4
Purpose.....	4
Background.....	4
Intake target for AY 2023-24.....	4
Rest of UK and international students	5
Monitoring.....	5
Under-recruitment Policy	5
Over-recruitment Policy.....	5
Further information	6

Intake targets for Paramedic Education: 2023-24 to 2025-26

Purpose

1. I am writing to announce the intake targets for BSc Paramedic Education programmes in universities for the period Academic Year (AY) 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Background

2. This is the fourth year of SFC issuing guidance on university intake targets for the BSc Paramedic Education programme. SFC will confirm the funded student places and the associated funding with this programme in our final funding announcement for AY 2023-24 due to be published at the end of May 2023.
3. The five Scottish universities that have previously been awarded contracts to provide Paramedic Education - Glasgow Caledonian University, Queen Margaret University Edinburgh, Robert Gordon University, University of Stirling and University of the West of Scotland - will continue to deliver this programme.
4. In setting this intake target, SFC received guidance from the Scottish Government's Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Directorate. For the first time the CNO Directorate has set a three-year intake target, covering the periods AY 2023-24, AY 2024-25 and AY 2025-26. Although this is the first of a three-year plan, Ministers reserve the right to review and adjust intake targets should this be required.
5. The CNO Directorate's guidance for the three years covered in this plan is provided as Annex A.

Intake target for AY 2023-24

6. The overall intake target for Paramedic Education in AY 2023-24, as recommended by the CNO Directorate, is **335 students** with 'Home Fee' status. This represents no change from the intake target for AY 2022-23. The AY 2023-24 intake targets for each of the five universities are set out in Table 1 below.
7. Funded student places will be provided in our final funding announcement for AY 2023-24 in May and SFC will liaise with universities on the allocation of places prior to their announcement.
8. Funded places allocated by SFC for students on year one of the programme should be similar to the intake target for each university, with funded places for years two and three to be based on projections of continuing students. Paramedic Education places will continue to be funded at SFC's Teaching Subject Price Group 4.

9. It is our expectation that universities should make every effort to recruit to the intake targets as set out in this letter.

Rest of UK and international students

10. The intake targets contained within this announcement are for students with 'Home Fee' status. Universities can recruit rest of UK (rUK), Republic of Ireland (RoI) and international students, but should discuss any recruitment with the Scottish Ambulance Service and placement providers before doing so. RUK, RoI and international students cannot be counted against the intake targets.

Monitoring

11. Universities should return information on students on their Paramedic Education programmes to SFC through their annual Early Statistic Returns. Details of the information required will be published in the annual Early Statistic Returns Notes of Guidance on the SFC website.
12. It is anticipated that NHS Educations for Scotland (NES) will continue to conduct the performance management of the Paramedic Education programme. We would expect universities to continue to work with NES and provide information as required. Scottish Government colleagues will write to universities in due course to set out further details of the reporting requirements for NES's performance management.

Under-recruitment Policy

13. SFC will continue to operate an under-recruitment policy for the Paramedic Education programme in AY 2023-24 and we may recover funding if universities under-recruit against their funded student places, subject to a tolerance of 3%. This is subject to consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by universities.
14. If a university recruits below the tolerance threshold, SFC will write to them setting out the potential funding to be recovered and to request details of any mitigating circumstance, before a final decision is made on whether any funding is to be recovered. If it is agreed that recovery should take place, we will recover Main Teaching Grant equivalent to that associated with the recruitment below the tolerance threshold.

Over-recruitment Policy

15. SFC will continue to operate an over-recruitment ('consolidation') policy for Paramedic Education in AY 2023-24. Universities may be liable for a financial penalty if they exceed their 'consolidation number' by more than 10%. This is subject to consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by universities.

16. If a university recruits above the tolerance threshold, SFC will write to them setting out the potential financial penalty to be applied and to request details of any mitigating circumstance before a final decision is made. If it is agreed that any financial penalty should be applied, the penalty will reflect the additional tuition fee income associated with those students recruited above the tolerance threshold.

Further information

17. Please contact Duncan Condie, Senior Funding Policy Officer, Finance Directorate, tel: 0131 313 6671, email dcondie@sfc.ac.uk.

Table 1: Breakdown of university intake targets for Paramedic Education in AYS 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26.

University	Intake target for AY 2023-24	Intake target for AY 2024-25	Intake target for AY 2025-26
Glasgow Caledonian University	67	67	67
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	67	67	67
Robert Gordon University	67	67	67
University of Stirling	67	67	67
University of the West of Scotland	67	67	67
Total	335	335	335