



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Students Eligible for Funding 2020-21

SFC Statistics

Issue Date: 30 March 2021

Cover photo credit: Glasgow Caledonian University

Students Eligible for Funding 2020-21

Issue date: 30 March 2021

Reference: SFC/ST/04/2021

Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at Scottish Higher Education institutions in 2020-21

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

Further information: **Contact:** Gordon Anderson
Job title: Senior Policy Analysis Officer
Department: Policy, Insight and Analytics
Tel: 0131 313 6551
Email: ganderson@sfc.ac.uk

This is an official statistics publication.

All official statistics should comply with the UK Statistics Authority's Code of Practice to Official Statistics, which promotes the production and dissemination of official statistics that inform decision-making. Find out more about the Code of Practice for Official Statistics at www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/code-of-practice/

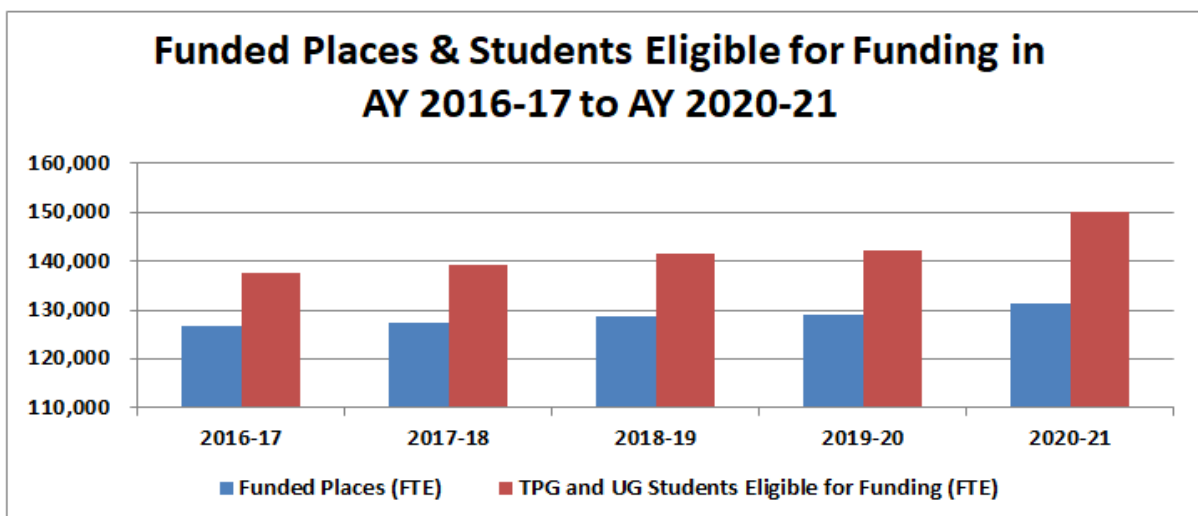
Contents

Executive Summary	5
Introduction	7
Early Statistics Return	7
Students eligible for funding in 2020-21	7
Changes in students eligible for funding between 2019-20 and 2020-21	8
Places for Revised Scottish Qualification Authority Examination Results for 2020...8	
Changes in students eligible for funding between 2016-17 and 2020-21	9
Subject areas.....	10
Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2016-17 and 2020-21	11
Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students	13
Rounding of data	13
Appendix A: Notes for tables.....	17
Appendix B: Higher Education Institutions funded by SFC in 2020-21	19
Appendix C: Consolidation and under-enrolment	20
Under-enrolment.....	21
Appendix D: Background information	22
Eligibility for funding.....	22
Early Statistics Return	23
Level of study	23
Subject areas	23
Mode of study.....	23
Appendix E: Categories used in the Early Statistics Return	24
Level of course	24
Research postgraduate.....	24
Taught postgraduate	24
Undergraduate	24
Mode of study.....	24
Full-time.....	24
Part-time.....	24
Appendix F: Subject areas	25
More than one subject of course aim	25
Appendix G: Other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education	26

Scottish Funding Council	26
Scottish Government.....	26
Higher Education Statistics Agency	26

Executive Summary

- The total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students eligible for funding (definition provided in paragraph 2) in 2020-21 was 157,685, an increase of 8,030 (5.4%) from 2019-20.
- Between 2016-17 and 2020-21 there was an increase of 12,645 FTE (8.7%) in the number of students eligible for funding.
- Of the total FTE students eligible for funding in 2020-21, 136,665 (86.7%) were undergraduates, 13,335 (8.5%) were taught postgraduates and 7,685 (4.9%) were research postgraduates.
- Between 2019-20 and 2020-21 the FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 7,385 (5.7%); taught postgraduates increased by 510 (4.0%); and research postgraduates increased by 135 (1.8%).
- Between 2016-17 and 2020-21 the FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 11,570 (9.2%); taught postgraduates increased by 950 (7.7%); and research postgraduates increased by 125 (1.7%).
- For each of the past five years the FTE number of students eligible for funding has exceeded the number of funded places, with the excess percentage increasing each year, from 8.5% in 2016-17 to 14.2% in 2020-21, see the graph below. Please see paragraph 34 for further details.



Students Eligible for Funding 2020–21

157,685 total FTE* students eligible for funding



+8.7% since 2016-17

136,665 total FTE* number of undergraduates



+9.2% since 2016-17



15.8%
increase in the FTE*
number of part-time
students since 2016-17



14.2%
percentage of eligible
FTEs* over funded
places in 2020-21

*Full-time equivalent (FTE), definition provided in Appendix E on page 22.

Introduction

1. This report contains information on the numbers of students eligible for funding at the 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) in the academic year 2020-21 - see Appendix B. The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general, students eligible for funding are those for which institutions receive home fees, are not on full-cost recovery courses and on courses open to any suitably qualified applicant. Until 2012-13, a large majority of students from the rest of the UK (RUK) and the rest of the EU were eligible for funding. However, the 2012-13 academic session saw the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses, and students paying such fees are not eligible for funding. There are no longer any continuing RUK students who started their courses prior to 2012-13 who remain eligible for funding.
3. Students not eligible for funding include those from outwith the EU, those on full-cost recovery courses and RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees. The figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on the Scottish HEIs' mainstream courses. Appendix D contains a more detailed explanation of eligibility for funding.

Early Statistics Return

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

Students eligible for funding in 2020-21

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2020-21 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 157,685 - see Table 1. Of this total:
 - 136,665 FTE (86.7%) were undergraduates.
 - 13,335 FTE (8.5%) were taught postgraduates.
 - 7,685 FTE (4.9%) were research postgraduates.
 - 19,180 FTE (12.2%) were part-time students.

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2019-20 and 2020-21

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding between 2019-20 and 2020-21.
7. Changes between 2019-20 and 2020-21 include:
 - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding increased by 8,030 FTE (5.4%).
 - Full-time students increased by 7,125 FTE (5.4%).
 - Part-time students increased by 905 FTE (5.0%).
 - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 135 FTE (1.8%).
 - Taught postgraduates increased by 510 FTE (4.0%).
 - Undergraduates increased by 7,385 FTE (5.7%).

Places for Revised Scottish Qualification Authority Examination Results for 2020

8. The 7,385 FTE (5.7%) increase in undergraduate students eligible for funding between 2019-20 and 2020-21 will be partly due to decisions taken by the Scottish Government following the Scottish Qualification Authority revising its examination results for 2020.
9. Following the closure of schools in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SQA examinations for 2020 were cancelled and the Scottish Government asked the SQA to develop an alternative approach to certification to ensure students would receive their awards. The SQA developed an alternative certification model based on teacher/lecturer estimates and a moderation of some of those estimates.
10. The moderation process used by the SQA led to around 134,000 individual results being adjusted from the estimates of grades that were submitted by teachers/lecturers, with just under 76,000 candidates having one or more of their grades lowered.
11. On 11 August 2020 the Deputy First Minister asked the SQA to re-issue the awards so that they were based solely on teacher or lecturer judgement. In addition if the moderation process had led to an increased grade then the candidate would keep that result. This led to the Higher pass rate for 2020 increasing by over 10% from the initial awards, with it now being over 14% higher than the Higher pass rate for 2019. In addition the Advanced Higher pass rate increased by over 8% from the initial awards, with it now being nearly 14% higher than the Advanced Higher pass rate for 2019.
12. The Scottish Government has a consolidation policy to limit the number of full-time Scottish/European Union (EU) undergraduates in the non-controlled

subject areas and the numbers of the Scottish/Rest of UK/EU students in the individual controlled subjects, see annex C for further details. At the start of the admissions cycle for 2019-20, offers for university places would have been made in the context of this consolidation policy. However, there would have been a notable number of students who applied for a university place and been rejected on the basis of their initial SQA results based on the moderation process but some of these students would have had their results upgraded and would then have met the relevant course entry requirements. However, if institutions were now to admit these students some of them might have faced a financial penalty for breaching consolidation.

13. Due to the unique circumstances of the situation, the Deputy First Minister gave a commitment that the Scottish Government would 'this year make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded'. The Scottish Government met this commitment by funding additional places for Scottish entrants from school and colleges and also by removing the consolidation policy for 2020-21 so that there would be no financial penalty for institutions for over-recruitment of full-time Scottish/EU undergraduate students.
14. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) used data from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to calculate the increase between 2019-20 and 2020-21 in the numbers of Scottish domiciled students aged 18 and under enrolling at the Scottish HEIs. Institutions were also invited to identify any exceptional circumstances where they acted to protect the interests of students but where these circumstances were not necessarily reflected in changes in their numbers of young Scottish-domiciled entrants.
15. This resulted in a total of 1,297 additional funded student places being allocated to the sector. Further information on the allocations of these additional places is available in SFC announcement SFC/AN/08/2021, which is available on the [SFC website](#).

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2016-17 and 2020-21

16. Table 1 also shows trends in the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
17. Changes between 2016-17 and 2020-21 include:
 - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding increased by 12,645 FTE (8.7%).
 - Full-time students eligible for funding increased by 10,030 FTE (7.8%).
 - Part-time students increased by 2,615 FTE (15.8%).
 - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 125 FTE (1.7%).

- Taught postgraduates increased by 950 FTE (7.7%).
- Undergraduate students increased by 11,570 FTE (9.2%).

18. The increase in undergraduates will be partly due to the impact of the revised SQA examination results for 2020, see paragraphs 8 to 15.

Subject areas

19. Table 2 shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding split by the subject areas used for the Early Statistics Return. For the first time for 2020-21 the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECOS) subject code was used to define the subject areas for the Early Statistics Return. Previously the Joint Academic Classification of Subjects (JACS) was used. Appendix F has more detail on the subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return.
20. Institutions started to use HECOS to record subjects in their Student returns to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) for 2019-20. In moving to using HECOS HESA allowed institutions to record up to five subjects for a course when the maximum number allowed when JACS was used was three. However, institutions were advised that the use of more than three course subjects should be the exception. Also when JACS was used institutions could only use certain standard combinations of subject percentages to record the contribution 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 percentages.
21. These changes will have had some effect on the FTE numbers of undergraduates in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subject areas and in the other subject areas, see paragraphs 24 to 28.
22. 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 which the Scottish Government sets intake targets for. 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.
23. The controlled subjects accounted for 21,795 FTE (14.5%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2020-21. Of the taught postgraduates 24.0% were studying a controlled subject (3,205 FTE), principally PGDE courses. The controlled subject areas made up 18,590 FTE (13.6%) of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2020-21.
 24. The non-controlled undergraduate subject areas are split into STEM and other subjects. The STEM subjects consist of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Annex B of the Notes of Guidance for the Early Statistics Return indicates the HECOS codes for STEM subjects. This is available on the [SFC website](#).
 25. The uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness. For this reason SFC allocated an additional 300 funded places for STEM provision each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16.
 26. Of the 118,075 FTE undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subjects in 2020-21 the number enrolled on STEM subjects was 47,125 FTE. The proportion of non-controlled undergraduate students eligible for funding in the STEM subjects in 2020-21 is 39.9%, slightly up from the 39.8% in 2019-20 but a decrease from the 40.7% in 2016-17. However, the STEM proportion will be partly affected by the move from using JACS to HECOS to classify STEM subjects, with institutions also being able to report more course subjects and having much greater flexibility in the course subject percentages they can use for courses with more than one subject, see paragraphs 19 and 20.
 27. The fall in the STEM proportion, compared with 2016-17, is partly due to one institution reclassifying some of their provision from being STEM to being in the other subject areas in 2019-20. This was estimated to effect around 125 FTE. Please see note 4 in Appendix A for further details.
 28. The number of undergraduates on STEM subjects increased by 2,190 FTE (4.9%) between 2019-20 and 2020-21 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas increased by 3,055 FTE (4.5%). Again this will be partly due to the move from using the JACS subject coding scheme to using the HECOS one to classify STEM subjects, see paragraphs 19 and 20.

Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2016-17 and 2020-21

29. SFC and the Scottish Government provide an allocation of funded places

annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students. Details of funded places can be found in [Annex B on the SFC website](#).

30. Table 3 shows comparisons of the number of funded places for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students with students eligible for funding for 2016-17 to 2020-21.
31. As mentioned in paragraph 15 the SFC funded an additional 1,297 student places for 2020-21 as part of the Scottish Government's commitment to 'make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded' because of the revisions made to the SQA examination results for 2020.
32. Changes between 2019-20 and 2020-21 include:
 - Funded places increased by 2,350 (1.8%) from 128,970 to 131,320.
 - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 7,895 (5.6%) from 142,105 to 150,000.
33. Changes between 2016-17 and 2020-21 include:
 - Funded places increased by 4,650 (3.7%) from 126,670 to 131,320.
 - Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding increased by 12,515 (9.1%) from 137,485 to 150,000.
34. In each year the HEI sector as a whole filled their funded places and recruited additional students eligible for funding by the following FTE and percentages:
 - 2016-17 by 10,815 (8.5%).
 - 2017-18 by 11,675 (9.2%).
 - 2018-19 by 12,880 (10.0%).
 - 2019-20 by 13,135 (10.2%).
 - 2020-21 by 18,680 (14.2%).
35. By recruiting in excess of their number of funded places HEIs only receive the tuition fee income for the additional students. Historically institutions were required to recruit more students than funded places in order to contribute to a sector planning target set by the Scottish Government. Institutions made a commitment to at least maintain places for Scottish students and have looked to increase opportunities for students from the more deprived areas in line with Scottish Government priorities.
36. SFC set consolidation numbers to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. Institutions face financial penalties if they exceed their consolidation numbers by more than the specified tolerance thresholds. However, the consolidation policy was removed for 2020-

21 to enable the Scottish Government's commitment to 'make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded' because of the revisions made to the SQA examination results and because of the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to be met. See paragraphs 8 to 15 for further information. Appendix C provides further details on consolidation policies.

Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students

37. In general, RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards are liable to be charged deregulated tuition fees. RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees are not eligible for funding.
38. As an indication of the effect this is likely to have had on the numbers of RUK students previously eligible for funding, it is worth noting that the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) records indicate that there were around 18,800 FTE RUK students eligible for funding on full-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses at the Scottish HEIs in 2011-12. However, not every student from the rest of the UK who started a course from 2012-13 onwards would have had to pay the deregulated tuition fees, as some would have been eligible to pay the same fees as Scottish and other EU students. For instance, some RUK students will have dual RUK / EU status.
39. RUK students who started their programmes prior to 2012-13 were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees and could still be classified as being eligible for funding. The RUK students who were not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees because they started their courses prior to 2012-13 but who would have been liable if they had started their courses from 2012-13 onwards were called continuing RUK students. Continuing RUK students finished in 2018-19.
40. The FTE number of full-time Scottish and other EU undergraduates has increased from 112,770 in 2016-17 to 122,175 in 2020-21, an increase of 9,405 (8.3%). The figure for 2016-17 is the FTE number of full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding less the number of continuing rest of UK students.

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, 2016-17 to 2020-21: Level and mode of study (1)

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Percentage change from 2019-20 to 2020-21	Percentage change from 2016-17 to 2020-21
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Research postgraduate							
Full-time	6,315	6,470	6,505	6,365	6,515	2.4%	3.2%
Part-time	1,245	1,230	1,165	1,185	1,170	-1.3%	-6.0%
Total	7,560	7,700	7,670	7,550	7,685	1.8%	1.7%
Taught postgraduate							
Full-time	8,865	9,420	9,710	9,345	9,815	5.0%	10.7%
<i>Of which: Continuing FULK (2)</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>		<i>-100.0%</i>
Part-time	3,525	3,470	3,720	3,480	3,525	1.3%	0.0%
Total	12,385	12,890	13,430	12,825	13,335	4.0%	7.7%
Undergraduate							
Full-time	113,300	114,115	115,095	115,670	122,175	5.6%	7.8%
<i>Of which: Continuing FULK (2)</i>	<i>530</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>		<i>-100.0%</i>
Part-time	11,800	12,110	13,030	13,610	14,490	6.5%	22.8%
Total	125,095	126,230	128,130	129,280	136,665	5.7%	9.2%
All Levels of Study							
Full-time	128,475	130,005	131,310	131,380	138,505	5.4%	7.8%
<i>Of which: Continuing FULK (2)</i>	<i>585</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>		<i>-100.0%</i>
Part-time	16,565	16,815	17,920	18,275	19,180	5.0%	15.8%
Total	145,040	146,820	149,230	149,655	157,685	5.4%	8.7%

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

Table 2: Students eligible for funding, 2016-17 to 2020-21: Level of study by subject area (1)

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Percentage change from 2019-20 to 2020-21	Percentage change from 2016-17 to 2020-21
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Research postgraduate	7,560	7,700	7,670	7,550	7,685	1.8%	1.7%
Taught postgraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Initial Teacher Education	2,405	2,505	2,730	2,665	2,810	5.4%	16.8%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	135	195	255	385	395	2.6%	192.6%
Non-controlled subject areas	9,845	10,195	10,450	9,770	10,130	3.7%	2.9%
Total	12,385	12,890	13,430	12,825	13,335	4.0%	7.7%
Undergraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Medicine	2,885	2,790	2,900	3,080	3,375	9.6%	17.0%
Dentistry	555	515	485	485	505	4.1%	-9.0%
Initial Teacher Education	3,195	3,165	3,335	3,390	3,585	5.8%	12.2%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (3)	8,825	8,925	9,155	9,495	10,795	13.7%	22.3%
Paramedic Education					330		
Non-controlled subject areas							
STEM subject areas (4)	44,635	45,200	45,615	44,935	47,125	4.9%	5.6%
Other subject areas (4)	65,005	65,630	66,645	67,895	70,950	4.5%	9.1%
<i>Of which: Full-time Scots/Other ELI (for Consolidation) (6)</i>	<i>97,535</i>	<i>98,450</i>	<i>99,235</i>	<i>99,275</i>			
Total	125,095	126,230	128,130	129,280	136,665	5.7%	9.2%
Total	145,040	146,820	149,230	149,655	157,685	5.4%	8.7%

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

Table 3: Comparison of Funded Places with Taught Postgraduate and Undergraduate Students Eligible for Funding, 2016-17 to 2020-21 (1)

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

Funded places / Students eligible for funding	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Percentage change from 2019-20 to 2020-21	Percentage change from 2016-17 to 2020-21
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Funded places (5)	126,670	127,445	128,680	128,970	131,320	1.8%	3.7%
Taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding	137,485	139,120	141,560	142,105	150,000	5.6%	9.1%
Percentage difference between students eligible for funding and funded places	8.5%	9.2%	10.0%	10.2%	14.2%		

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

Appendix A: Notes for tables

Note No.	Table(s) Note Relates to	Note
1	1,2,3	<p>The numbers of students eligible for funding exclude, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>As the figures are collected in-year they include a forecast element. For 2020-21 the forecast element accounts for 2.7% 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>In 2019-20 the numbers of continuing RUK students reached zero.</p>
3	2	<p>Prior to 2014-15 Honours nursing pre-registration provision was not controlled.</p> <p>SFC phased in the controlling of this provision over the four-year period 2014-15 to 2017-18, with students who started on Honours nursing courses from 2014-15 onwards being counted under the controlled nursing and midwifery pre-registration student numbers. The FTE number of Honours nursing pre-registration students eligible for funding classified as controlled was 245 in 2014-15, 455 in 2015-16, 660 in 2016-17 and 845 in 2017-18.</p>

4	2	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 11 of the Notes of Guidance for the Early Statistics Return 2020-21.</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 consider the most appropriate for courses with more than one course subject when previously they had to use certain specified percentages. All of these changes mean that some of the changes in the numbers of students eligible for funding for STEM and other subjects between 2019-20 and 2020-21 will be 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 covered around 125 FTE students. Assuming the numbers had remained at a similar level in 2020-21 then without these reclassifications the percentage change in STEM subjects between 2016-17 and 2020-21 would have been around 5.9% (5.6% unadjusted) while the percentage change in the other non-controlled subjects would have been around 9.0% (9.1% unadjusted).</p>
5	3	<p>In general the funded places shown cover the funded places from the final Outcome Agreements and any subsequent adjustments. For example the funded places for 2020-21 include an additional 1,297 places allocated in-year to institutions for additional entrants taken on because of the revisions to the Scottish Qualification Authority examinations results, see paragraph 15.</p>
6	2	<p>The consolidation policy was removed for 2020-21, see Appendix C.</p>

Appendix B: Higher Education Institutions funded by SFC in 2020-21

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. Prior to 2020-21 the Scottish Government had consolidation policies to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. The controlled subject areas cover medicine, dentistry, initial teacher education and nursing and midwifery pre-registration provision for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets. Paramedic education became a controlled subject for 2020-21.
2. The consolidation policies were removed for 2020-21 to enable the Scottish Government's commitment to 'make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded' because of the revisions made to the SQA examination results and because of the COVID-19 pandemic to be met.
3. To ensure that institutions conformed to the consolidation policies, SFC set each institution separate consolidation numbers for the non-controlled subject areas and for each of the controlled subject areas, which the institutions were not expected to exceed. Recognising that planning student numbers is subject to some uncertainty SFC allowed institutions certain leeway, called the tolerance threshold, within which an institution could exceed a consolidation number without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so. For 2019-20 the tolerance threshold was 10% for the non-controlled subject areas and 10% or 10 FTE, whichever was the higher, for the controlled subject areas of medicine, initial teacher education, and nursing and midwifery pre-registration. For the controlled subject area of dentistry the tolerance threshold was 5% for 2019-20.
4. The non-controlled consolidation number relates only to Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding.
5. The Scottish Government introduced consolidation limits for the controlled subjects for the first time in 2012-13. These limits were introduced because over-recruitment in controlled subjects can lead to problems for workforce planning and for access to guaranteed training places, or jobs in the case of nursing and midwifery, after graduation. As the controlled consolidation policy relates to workforce planning, rest of UK are included in the consolidation limits.
6. SFC assigned each institution a consolidation number for 2019-20 for each of the following controlled subject areas:
 - Medicine.
 - Dentistry.
 - Primary Initial Teacher Education (includes Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)).

- Secondary Initial Teacher Education (includes PGDE).
 - Nursing and midwifery pre-registration.
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 2019-20 is available on SFC's website.

Under-enrolment

8. SFC may recover funding if institutions under-enrol and fall short of the 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 Scots and EU students within the non-controlled subject areas. For controlled subjects the tolerance threshold is 3%. This threshold for controlled subjects.

Appendix D: Background information

Eligibility for funding

1. Students whose places are eligible for funding are those who satisfy the inclusion criteria of SFC's main methods of determining allocations of funding. Generally, this means those who are:
 - Domiciled in Scotland or elsewhere in the EU, or are rest of UK students not paying deregulated tuition fees.
 - Students for which institutions receive home fees.
 - Taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant.
2. The detailed individual student records collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency show that students eligible for funding made up around 70% of the total FTE in the sector in 2019-20.
3. Among the students whose places are not eligible for funding are those:
 - From outwith the EU.
 - RUK students paying deregulated tuition fees.
 - On courses that are financed from other public sources.
 - On courses which are closed to general applicants, e.g. a course provided solely for the employees of a particular firm.
 - On any other cost recovery courses, for which the income from the fees paid by the students, plus any funding from any sources other than SFC, covers, or is intended to cover all of the costs of provision, including an appropriate share of the institutions' overheads, such as central administration, buildings, heating, etc.
4. The figures therefore exclude many courses such as those in-service teacher training courses that are funded by the local education authorities and many students on continuing education courses.

Early Statistics Return

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

Level of study

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

Subject areas

8. 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.
9. Appendix E includes a definition of mode of study.
 10. The notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return 2020-21](#), including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, can be found on SFC's website.

Appendix E: Categories used in the Early Statistics Return

Level of course

Research postgraduate

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

Taught postgraduate

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

Undergraduate

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

Mode of study

Full-time

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

Part-time

5. All other courses including short full-time courses with an overall course length of 24 weeks or less, i.e. full-time courses whose total length of course is less than or equal to 24 weeks.
6. Further information is contained in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return 2020-21](#), available on SFC's website.

Appendix F: Subject areas

1. The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Returns is that required by SFC to monitor for under-enrolments against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policies. Undergraduate enrolments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are also collected as SFC made allocations of additional funded places for provision in these subject areas from 2012-13 to 2015-16. The uptake of STEM subjects is considered important for Scotland's international competitiveness.
2. The 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 B of the Notes of Guidance for the Early Statistics Return indicates the HECOS codes for STEM subjects. This is available on the [SFC website](#).

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 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 2020-21](#) on SFC's website.

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](#).