



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Students Eligible for Funding 2020-21 Executive Summary

SFC Statistics

Issue Date: 30 March 2021

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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

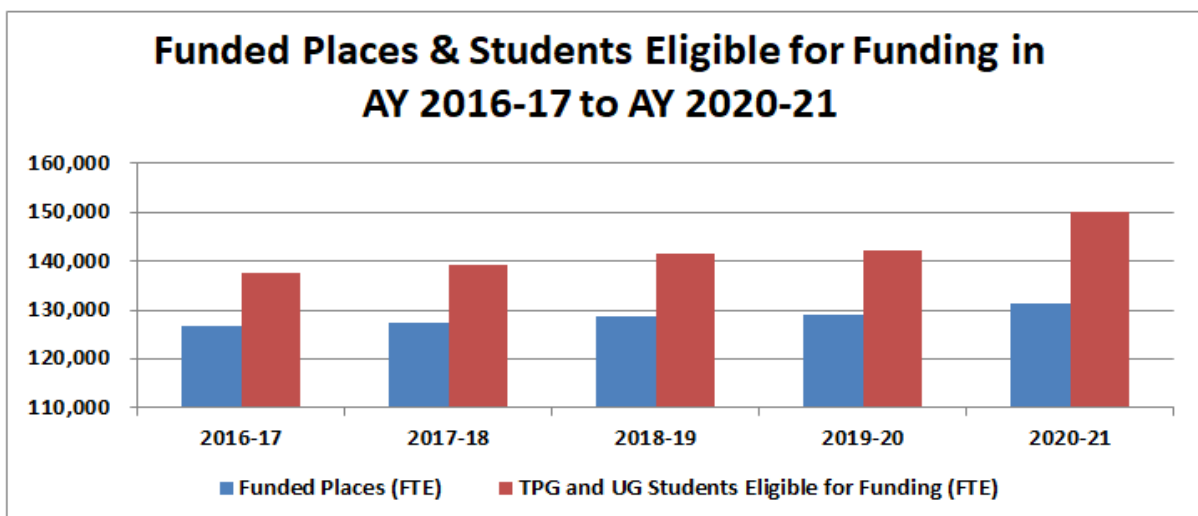
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Executive Summary

- 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.