



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

University intakes and funded places for Paramedic Education 2020-21

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 20 July 2020

University intake targets and funded places for Paramedic Education AY 2020-21

Issue date: 20 July 2020

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Summary: Announcement of university intake targets and funded student places for the new Paramedic Education programme for Academic Year 2020-21.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's Universities

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University intake targets and funded places for Paramedic Education in AY 2020-21

Purpose

1. I am writing to announce the intake targets and funded student places for the new Paramedic Education programme in universities for Academic Year (AY) 2020-21. These are set out in Table 1 below.
2. I would also draw universities' attention to the recommended intakes letters (Annex A and Annex B) sent to the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) by Kirsty Walker, Chief Nursing Officer's (CNO) Directorate.

Background

3. Following on from a tendering process carried out by NHS Education for Scotland (NES) in 2019, five Scottish universities were awarded a contract to deliver Paramedic Education programmes. Subsequent to the agreement of the contract, it was agreed between SFC, NES, and the CNO Directorate of the Scottish Government that SFC would take over the funding of the programme. NES wrote to the universities involved in March 2020 to inform them of the change to the original contracts.
4. SFC will receive annual guidance from the Scottish Government's CNO Directorate, providing recommended intakes for the Paramedic Education programme. The CNO Directorate's guidance for AY 2020-21 is provided at Annex A, with a follow up letter provided at Annex B.

Intakes and funded places

5. The overall intake target for Paramedic Education in AY 2020-21, as recommended by the CNO Directorate, is 284 Scottish domiciled (Scot dom) and rest of EU (rEU) students. Paramedic Education will be funded at SFC Teaching Subject Price Group 4, which is £7,510 per funded student place in AY 2020-21 (net price £5,690, assuming a tuition fee of £1,820). For each of the five universities the AY 2020-21 intake targets, funded places, consolidation number, and SFC funding are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1

University	Intake Target for AY 2020-21 (Students)	Funded Places for AY 2020-21 (FTE)	Consolidation Number for AY 2020-21 (FTE)	SFC Funding for AY 2020-21 ¹ (£)
Glasgow Caledonian University	56	56.0	56.0	318,640
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	56	56.0	56.0	318,640
Robert Gordon University	60	60.0	60.0	341,400
Stirling, University of	56	56.0	56.0	318,640
West of Scotland, University of the	56	56.0	56.0	318,640
Total	284	284.0	284.0	1,615,960

1. This is the SFC funding for Paramedic Education, SFC assumes that universities will receive a tuition fee of £1,820 per entrant.

Rest of UK and international students

- The intake targets and funded places, above, are for Scot Dom and rEU students only. Universities can recruit rest of UK (rUK) and international students but should discuss any such recruitment with the Scottish Ambulance Service and placement providers before doing so. RUK and international students cannot be counted against the intake targets or funded places.

Monitoring

- Universities should return information on students on their Paramedic Education programmes to SFC through their annual Early Statistics and Final Figures Returns. Details of the information required will be published in the annual Early Statistics Return Notes of Guidance on the SFC website.
- Any monitoring requirements set out in the original contract between NES and the universities will remain in place.

Under-recruitment policy

- SFC will operate an under-recruitment policy for the Paramedic Education programme similar to that used for the controlled subjects of Dentistry, Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education, and Initial Teacher Education. We may recover funding if universities under-recruit against the funded places above, subject to a tolerance of 3%.
- If a university recruits below the tolerance threshold then we will write to them to set out the potential funding to be recovered and to request details of any mitigating circumstances before a final decision is made on whether funding is to be recovered. If it is agreed that recovery should go ahead then SFC will recover Main Teaching Grant equivalent to that associated with the recruitment below the tolerance threshold.

Over-recruitment (consolidation) policy

11. SFC will operate a consolidation policy for the Paramedic Education programme similar to that used for the controlled subjects of Dentistry, Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education, and Initial Teacher Education. Universities may be liable for a financial penalty if they exceed their 'consolidation number' by more than 10%.
12. If a university recruits above the tolerance threshold then we will write to them to set out the potential financial penalty to be applied and to request details of any mitigating circumstances before a final decision is made. If it is agreed that a 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

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



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