



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

## Fee anomalies grant for universities 2021-22

# SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 15 September 2021

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Issue date: 15 September 2021

Reference: SFC/AN/26/2021

Summary: This announcement describes how the fee anomalies grant will operate in AY 2021-22.

FAO: Principals / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities

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## Fee anomalies grant for universities in AY 2021-22

### Background

1. SFC recognises that anomalies in tuition fee income may arise. Although our teaching funding method assumes a certain fee income per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate funded place, there are some full-time undergraduate courses where this fee assumption will not match up to what is actually received by the university. We will therefore consider claims from universities for fee anomaly compensation in cases where:
  - Full-time undergraduate courses, where universities' receipt of tuition fees is less than the fee rate assumed by SFC in our teaching funding model.
  - Accelerated courses that do not attract appropriate tuition fee support.
  - Under the SFC '2+2' articulation places scheme, universities' receipt of tuition fees for students enrolled in a college is less than the £1,820 fee rate assumed by the SFC articulation scheme model.
  - Outgoing rest of UK (rUK) students undertake their ERASMUS+ programme or, new in AY 2021-22, Turing Scheme year abroad.
  - Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery students eligible for funding have begun a course in the expectation that it would be fully funded but are subsequently unable to access tuition fee support through Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).
2. All claims related to AY 2021-22 should be submitted to SFC by **2 June 2022**.
3. The fee anomalies budget for AY 2021-22 has been set at £1.8 million. This amount is unchanged from AY 2020-21 and is similar to previous years' funding. Even with the introduction of new components to the fee anomalies policy, we believe this budget will be sufficient to meet AY 2021-22 demands.

### Accelerated courses

4. Accelerated courses are designed to allow students to complete their studies quicker than a traditional degree. This can result in a mismatch between the tuition fee assumption and actual funding received by universities (e.g. a 4 year degree delivered in 3 years only receives 3 years' worth of funding). SFC will compensate for this difference in funding.

### Additional articulation places ('associate student') scheme for partnership between universities and colleges

5. SFC is funding 4,449 FTEs for articulation routes in AY 2021-22. These places are used to support provision based on the '2+2' model of articulation where

recruitment has been to a guaranteed place on a degree course at university.

6. The scheme has been designed so that students enrol on a degree programme, but will spend one or two years at college in the first instance. We are aware that this has not always been the case; if a lower tuition fee than anticipated has been received as a result of the student being enrolled on an HNC/D programme rather than a degree, then we will compensate the universities for the shortfall in fees at a maximum of £535 per FTE.

### **ERASMUS+ Programmes and Turing Scheme fee compensation/funding**

7. As a result of the UK leaving the European Union (EU) and the understanding that the UK could no longer fully participate in future ERASMUS+ programmes, the new Turing Scheme was introduced for AY 2021-22 as the UK Government's programme to provide funding for international opportunities in education and training across the world. The [Turing Scheme](#) website provides more information on this programme.
8. Funding for the Turing Scheme is available from September 2021 to August 2022. SFC will therefore include this within the scope of the current fee compensation/funding arrangement for outgoing rUK students who take part in the scheme during AY 2021-22.
9. Pre-committed funding will support exchanges under the ERASMUS+ programmes until May 2023, after which the UK will no longer be able to participate. Therefore, Scottish universities can continue to claim compensation for outgoing rUK students who take part in the ERASMUS+ programmes during AY 2021-22 and AY 2022-23. This means that both ERASMUS+ programmes and the Turing Scheme will operate in the UK in AY 2021-22.
10. Under the ERASMUS+ programmes and Turing Scheme fee compensation/funding system, Scottish universities can receive a maximum rate of £1,820 per FTE from SFC for outgoing rUK students. Additionally, Scottish universities can charge these outgoing rUK students 15% of the cost of the maximum full-time tuition fee rate (currently £9,250 per year). This funding compensation is in recognition for the loss of fees experienced by Scottish universities for outgoing rUK students who participate in the ERASMUS+ programmes and Turing Scheme.
11. Compensation will only be provided for students spending a full year abroad under the ERASMUS+ programmes or Turing Scheme. SFC does not provide fee compensation for students taking part in other exchange programmes.
12. Future programme and funding arrangements will depend on negotiations and agreements reached within the Scottish and UK Governments. SFC will provide additional information on future arrangements once it becomes available.

## **Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery fee anomaly consideration**

13. In response to the change in fee policy for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery students from AY 2021-22, universities may claim a fee anomaly where continuing students eligible for funding are unable to receive tuition fee support from SAAS. From AY 2021-22 Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery students should apply to SAAS for tuition fee support (a tuition fee element was previously included in SFC's teaching grant for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery), however, some continuing students may not be eligible for SAAS fee support due to their individual circumstances, e.g. previous study.
14. Students who commenced their Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery studies with no expectation of having to pay tuition fees should not be disadvantaged by this change in policy. Universities should claim fee anomalies funding for continuing students eligible for funding who are unable to access fee support through SAAS, and these students should not be charged for this anomaly in funding.

## **Claim forms (SFC funded portion)**

15. Please use the claim form in **Annex A** to make your accelerated courses, additional articulation places, ERASMUS+ Programmes/Turing Scheme and Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery claims for consideration (selected through a drop-down menu in column J).

## **Conditions of funding**

16. The following conditions of grant apply:
  - All claims for fee anomalies grant must be signed by the university's Registrar/Director of Planning, or equivalent, to confirm they are content with the validity of claims. The submission of a claim will be taken as an acceptance of these conditions of grant.
  - SFC reserves the right to scrutinise the documentation relied upon to complete claims in order to verify their integrity.
  - Universities are required to use all grant paid for the purpose(s) for which it is provided.
  - SFC provides funding to Scottish universities based on the numbers of outgoing rUK students on their ERASMUS+ programme and Turing Scheme year abroad at the maximum rate of £1,820 per FTE.
  - Scottish universities can only charge outgoing rUK students spending a full year abroad under the ERASMUS+ programmes and Turing Scheme 15% of the cost of the maximum full-time tuition fee rate (currently £9,250 per year).

### **Completion and timescale of claims**

17. Completed claims for AY 2021-22 should be sent, **by 2 June 2022**, to Hazel McCartney, Funding Policy Officer, email: [hmccartney@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:hmccartney@sfc.ac.uk).

### **Further information**

18. For further information please contact Hazel McCartney, Funding Policy Officer, tel: 0131 313 6601, email: [hmccartney@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:hmccartney@sfc.ac.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Lorna MacDonald**  
Director of Finance