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SFC Statistical publication

Students Eligible for Funding 2016-17

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FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

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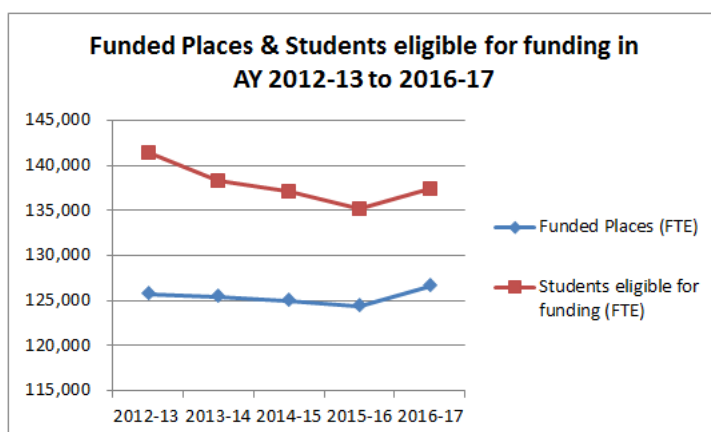
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Contents

Contents.....	2
Executive Summary	3
Introduction	4
Students eligible for funding in 2016-17	4
Changes in students eligible for funding between 2015-16 and 2016-17	5
Changes in students eligible for funding between 2012-13 and 2016-17	5
Subject areas.....	6
Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2012-13 and 2016-17	7
Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students	7
Consolidation of controlled and non-controlled subject areas	8
Rounding of data	9
Annex A: Notes for tables.....	13
Annex B: Institutions funded by SFC in 2016-17	15
Annex C: Consolidation and under-enrolment	16
Annex D: Background information	18
Annex E: Categories used in the Early Statistics Return.....	20
Annex F: Subject areas.....	21
Annex G: Other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education	24

Executive Summary

- The total FTE number of students eligible for funding increased by 2,710, a change of 1.9% between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- The number of undergraduate students increased by 0.8%, taught postgraduates increased by 12.2% and research postgraduates by 5.2% between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Between 2012-13 and 2016-17 there was a fall of -2,890 students eligible for funding, a change of -2.0%, principally due to the introduction of deregulated fees for students from the rest of the UK (RUK).
- Scottish and other EU students increased by 8,510, a change of 6.3% between 2012-13 and 2016-17.
- Undergraduate and taught postgraduate students increased by 2,340, a change of 1.7% between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Between 2012-13 and 2016-17 there was a reduction of -2.8% of undergraduate and taught postgraduate students principally as a result of the deregulation of RUK fees.
- The number of students eligible for funding has exceeded the number of funded places consistently over the past five years as can be seen in the graph below



- Of the total students eligible for funding in 2016-17, 86.2% were undergraduate, 8.5% taught postgraduate and 5.2% research postgraduate.

Introduction

1. This publication 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 academic year 2016-17 (see annex B). The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general, students eligible for funding are those paying home fees, 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. RUK students who started their courses prior to 2012-13 continue to pay the same level of tuition fees as Scottish and other EU students and 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. Annex 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 annexes D, E and F.

Students eligible for funding in 2016-17

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2016-17 at HEIs funded by SFC was 145,040 (see Table 1). Of this total:
 - 125,095 FTE (86.2%) were undergraduates.
 - 12,385 FTE (8.5%) were taught postgraduates.
 - 7,560 FTE (5.2%) were research postgraduates.
 - 16,565 FTE (11.4%) were part-time students.

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2015-16 and 2016-17

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding in 2015-16 and 2016-17.
7. Changes between 2015-16 and 2016-17 include:
 - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding increased by 2,710 FTE (1.9%).
 - Full-time students increased by 2,035 FTE (1.6%).
 - Part-time students increased by 680 FTE (4.3%).
 - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 375 FTE (5.2%).
 - Taught postgraduates increased by 1,350 FTE (12.2%).
 - Undergraduates increased by 980 FTE (0.8%).
8. The fall in the total number of undergraduate students eligible for funding seen in the previous three years has been reversed with a small increase of 0.8% shown in 2016-17. The total number of undergraduate students eligible for funding is also affected by consolidation policies (see Annex C and paragraphs 27 to 30 for further details).

Changes in students eligible for funding between 2012-13 and 2016-17

9. Table 1 shows comparisons of the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2012-13 to 2016-17.
10. Between 2012-13 and 2016-17 there was a decrease in the total number of students eligible for funding of -2,890 FTE (-2.0%). This is principally due to the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for RUK students in 2012-13 (see paragraphs 23 to 26).
11. There has been a large reduction in continuing RUK students eligible for funding caused by most new RUK students being liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and therefore not being eligible for funding (see paragraphs 23 to 26). The FTE number of Scottish and other EU full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding has increased by 5,920 (5.5%) from 106,850 to 112,770 between 2012-13 and 2016-17, while the FTE number of Scottish and other EU full-time taught postgraduate students eligible for funding has increased by 1,610 (22.4%) from 7,195 to 8,805.
12. Other changes between 2012-13 and 2016-17 include
 - Full-time students eligible for funding decreased by -3,180 FTE (-2.4%).
 - Part-time students increased by 290 FTE (1.8%).

- Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 1,025 FTE (15.7%).
- Taught postgraduates increased by 1,935 FTE (18.5%).
- Undergraduate students decreased by -5,855 FTE (-4.5%).

Subject areas

13. Table 2 shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding split by the subject areas used for the Early Statistics Return. See Annex F for more details of the subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return.
14. 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 that the Scottish Government sets intake targets for. The controlled subject areas are:
 - Medicine (undergraduate).
 - Dentistry (undergraduate).
 - Initial Teacher Education (Bachelors of Education and Postgraduate Diplomas of Education (PGDE) courses).
 - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (taught postgraduate and undergraduate).
15. The controlled subjects accounted for 18,000 FTE (13.1%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2016-17. Over 20% of the taught postgraduates were studying a controlled subject (2,540 FTE), principally PGDE courses. The controlled subject areas made up 15,460 FTE (12.4%) of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2016-17.
16. The non-controlled undergraduate subject areas are split into STEM and other subjects. The STEM subjects consist of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics subjects (see annex F for further details). 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.
17. Of the 109,640 FTE undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subjects in 2016-17, 44,635 FTE (40.7%) were enrolled on STEM subjects. The proportion of non-controlled undergraduate students eligible for funding in the STEM subjects has increased from 38.9% in 2012-13 to 40.7% in 2016-17.

18. The number of undergraduates on STEM subjects decreased by -30 FTE (-0.1%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas increased by 800 FTE (1.2%). However the decrease in STEM proportion was due to one HE Institution reclassifying students in 2016-17 as non-STEM when the students on this course were classified in previous years as STEM. If students in this subject had not been re-classified as non-STEM then the number of undergraduates on STEM subjects would have increased by 515 FTE (1.2%) between 2015-16 and 2016-17 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas would have increased by 255 FTE (0.4%).

Comparison of students eligible for funding and funded places between 2012-13 and 2016-17

19. Table 3 shows comparisons of the number of funded places for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students with students eligible for funding for 2012-13 to 2016-17.
20. Changes between 2015-16 and 2016-17 include:
- Funded places increased by 1.8% from 124,315 to 126,535.
 - Students eligible for funding increased by 1.7% from 135,145 to 137,485.
21. As set-out in paragraph 11 above there has been a large reduction in continuing RUK students eligible for funding. Changes between 2012-13 and 2016-17 include:
- Funded places increased by 0.6% from 125,735 to 126,535.
 - Students eligible for funding decreased by -2.8% from 141,400 to 137,485.
22. In all years HEIs filled their funded places and recruited additional students eligible for funding by the undernoted percentages:
- 2012-13 by 12.5%.
 - 2013-14 by 10.3%.
 - 2014-15 by 9.8%.
 - 2015-16 by 8.7%.
 - 2016-17 by 8.7%.

Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students

23. 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.

24. As an indication of the effect this will have on the numbers of students eligible for funding, the more detailed individual student records collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicate that there were around 18,800 FTE RUK students eligible for funding on full-time undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses at 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 and there are some courses, such as nursing and midwifery pre-registration courses, where the HEIs agreed to charge RUK students the same tuition fees as Scottish and other EU students.
25. RUK students who started their programmes prior to 2012-13 are not liable to pay deregulated tuition fees and can 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 are called continuing RUK students. The numbers of continuing RUK students will gradually decline to zero over the next few academic sessions.
26. 2016-17 was the fifth session in which new RUK students were liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and not be eligible for funding. There were 585 FTE full-time continuing RUK students in 2016-17, compared to 1,470 FTE in 2015-16 (see Table 1). Of the continuing RUK students in 2016-17 60 FTE were taught postgraduates and 530 FTE were undergraduates. Continuing RUK students made up 0.5% of all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding and 0.7% of all full-time taught postgraduates in 2016-17.

Consolidation of controlled and non-controlled subject areas

27. Annex C gives details of the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for controlled and non-controlled subject areas for 2016-17.
28. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for non-controlled subject areas, an institution's total enrolments of full-time Scottish and other EU undergraduates in these subject areas should not exceed its indicative number by more than 10%.
29. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled indicative numbers for 2016-17 was 97,190. [Further details of consolidation numbers for 2016-17](#) can be found in Table 5 on the SFC website.
30. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and other EU students in the non-controlled subject areas, derived from the Early Statistics

Return as at December 2016, was 97,535, which is 0.4% above the indicative number. Further information regarding SFC's Early Statistics Return can be found on page 19. Thus the sector as a whole has adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for full-time undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas.

31. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for controlled subject areas, an institution's enrolments in a controlled subject area should not exceed its indicative number by more than 10% or 10 FTE places, whichever was the larger. At sector level, the percentage difference between the FTE number of enrolments, which include RUK students not eligible for funding, and the sum of the institutions' indicative numbers for each controlled subject area were:
 - Medicine (-1.1%).
 - Dentistry (+1.0%).
 - Primary Initial Teacher Education (+5.1%).
 - Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-7.5%).
 - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (+3.8%).
32. The sector as a whole has therefore adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for all of the controlled subject areas.

Rounding of data

33. 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, 2012-13 to 2016-17 (1)

Level and mode of study

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2012-13 (2)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Percentage change from 2015-16 to 2016-17	Percentage change from 2012-13 to 2016-17
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Research postgraduate							
Full-time	5,625	5,975	6,105	6,055	6,315	4.3%	12.3%
Part-time	910	915	1,020	1,130	1,245	10.2%	36.8%
Total	6,535	6,890	7,125	7,185	7,560	5.2%	15.7%
Taught postgraduate							
Full-time	7,410	8,095	8,130	7,815	8,865	13.4%	19.6%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	215	230	225	95	60	-36.8%	-72.1%
Part-time	3,040	3,180	3,275	3,215	3,525	9.6%	16.0%
Total	10,450	11,275	11,405	11,035	12,385	12.2%	18.5%
Undergraduate							
Full-time	118,625	115,215	114,115	112,575	113,300	0.6%	-4.5%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	11,775	7,535	4,625	1,375	530	-61.5%	-95.5%
Part-time	12,325	11,800	11,620	11,540	11,800	2.3%	-4.3%
Total	130,950	127,015	125,735	124,115	125,095	0.8%	-4.5%
All Levels of Study							
Full-time	131,655	129,285	128,350	126,440	128,475	1.6%	-2.4%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>	11,985	7,760	4,850	1,470	585	-60.2%	-95.1%
Part-time	16,275	15,895	15,915	15,885	16,565	4.3%	1.8%
Total	147,930	145,180	144,265	142,330	145,040	1.9%	-2.0%

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, 2012-13 to 2016-17 (1)

Level of study by subject area

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2012-13 (2)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Percentage change from 2015-16 to 2016-17	Percentage change from 2012-13 to 2016-17
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Research postgraduate	6,535	6,890	7,125	7,185	7,560	5.2%	15.7%
Taught postgraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Initial Teacher Education	1,460	1,825	1,935	2,150	2,405	11.9%	64.7%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	85	115	110	100	135	35.0%	58.8%
Non-controlled subject areas	8,905	9,335	9,360	8,785	9,845	12.1%	10.6%
Total	10,450	11,275	11,405	11,035	12,385	12.2%	18.5%
Undergraduate							
Controlled subject areas							
Medicine	3,960	3,635	3,450	3,065	2,885	-5.9%	-27.1%
Dentistry	815	760	675	620	555	-10.5%	-31.9%
Initial Teacher Education	3,530	3,345	3,200	3,180	3,195	0.5%	-9.5%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (3)	7,670	7,430	7,885	8,380	8,825	5.3%	15.1%
Non-controlled subject areas							
STEM subject areas (4)	44,700	44,065	43,255	44,665	44,635	-0.1%	-0.1%
Other subject areas	70,285	67,785	67,275	64,205	65,005	1.2%	-7.5%
Total	130,950	127,015	125,735	124,115	125,095	0.8%	-4.5%
Total	147,930	145,180	144,265	142,330	145,040	1.9%	-2.0%

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 Students eligible for funding, 2012-13 to 2016-17 (1)
SFC and Scottish Government Funded Places for Taught postgraduate and Undergraduate students

Funded Places / Students eligible for funding	2012-13 (2)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	Percentage change from 2015-16 to 2016-17	Percentage change from 2012-13 to 2016-17
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
Funded Places (5)	125,735	125,345	124,940	124,315	126,535	1.8%	0.6%
Students eligible for funding	141,400	138,295	137,140	135,145	137,485	1.7%	-2.8%
Percentage of places overfilled (+) or underfilled (-)	12.5%	10.3%	9.8%	8.7%	8.7%		

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

Annex 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. • Students on courses which are closed to normal applicants or are provided on a full cost recovery basis. • 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 2016-17 the forecast element accounts for 2.17% of the total figures.</p>
2	1,2,3	<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 remain eligible for funding.</p>
3	2	<p>Prior to 2014-15 honours nursing pre-registration provision was not controlled. Since 2014-15 SFC has been phasing in the controlling of this provision, 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 number of honours nursing pre-registration students eligible for funding classified as controlled was 245 FTE in 2014-15, 455 FTE in 2015-16 and 660 FTE in 2016-17.</p>

4	2	Further information on the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects is available in section 7 of the Early Statistics Notes of Guidance for 2016-17 .
5	3	In general the funded places shown are taken from the final published main grant letters or Outcome Agreements, and do not take account of any subsequent adjustments. The main exception to this is the additional funded places allocated for 2012-13 after the main grant letter was published are shown. These additional places are predominantly due to the merger between the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and the three land-based colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge at the start of the 2012-13 academic session to form SRUC. An additional 598 places was added to the original allocation for SAC to produce the allocation for SRUC.

Annex B: Institutions funded by SFC in 2016-17

Aberdeen, University of
Abertay Dundee, University of
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

Annex C: Consolidation and under-enrolment

1. The Scottish Government has consolidation policies to limit the numbers of students in the controlled and non-controlled subject areas. The controlled subject areas cover the medicine, dentistry, initial teacher education and nursing and midwifery pre-registration provision for which the Scottish Government sets intake targets.
2. To ensure that institutions conform to the consolidation policies, SFC sets each institution separate indicative numbers for the non-controlled subject areas and for each of the controlled subject areas, which the institutions are not expected to exceed. Recognising that planning student numbers is subject to some uncertainty SFC allows institutions certain leeway, called the tolerance threshold, within which an institution can exceed an indicative number without facing a potential financial penalty for doing so. For 2016-17 the tolerance threshold was 10% for the non-controlled subject areas and 10% or 10 FTE, whichever is the higher, for the controlled subject areas.
3. The non-controlled indicative number relates only to Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding. Continuing RUK students (see paragraphs 23 to 26) are not covered by the indicative number. This is because the purpose of the consolidation policy is to prevent excessive demand on the budget of the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) and, in general, RUK students can not apply to SAAS for their fees to be paid and for financial support for their studies.
4. 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 students, both those eligible and those not eligible for funding are included in the consolidation limits.
5. SFC assigned each institution an indicative number for 2016-17 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.

6. Due to the small numbers involved for some of these subject areas at some of the institutions, a tolerance level of 10% or 10 FTE, whichever was the larger, was allowed for these subject areas.
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 2016-17 is available on SFC's website.

Pilot scheme to increase consolidation limits under-enrolment

8. SFC wrote to institutions in 2014 asking for expressions of interest to take part in a pilot scheme to increase consolidation limits in 2014-15 and 2015-16. Three institutions initially asked to take part in the scheme - Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Heriot-Watt University and Robert Gordon University. Stirling University asked to be included for 2015-16. The institutions' indicative numbers have not been adjusted, however, the relaxation does allow them to recruit a small number of additional widening access or ICT places beyond the 10% tolerance threshold. This pilot scheme was requested by a previous Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in his Ministerial Letter of Guidance¹ for 2015-16.

Under-enrolment

9. SFC may recover funding if institutions under-enrol and fall short of the target number of SFC funded places. The tolerance threshold for under-enrolment against funded student places in non-controlled areas is 2%. This threshold applies to total funded places for Scots, EU and continuing RUK students within non-controlled price groups. For controlled subjects the tolerance threshold is 3%. This threshold applies to funded student places for Scots, EU and continuing RUK students at a course level for controlled subjects.

¹ [Letter of Guidance to SFC](#)

Annex 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.
 - Entitled to pay home fees.
 - Taking courses that are funded by SFC and open to any suitably qualified applicant.
2. These figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on SFC-funded institutions' mainstream courses.
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 publication come from SFC's Early Statistics Return, which asked institutions to provide FTE student numbers, including forecasts of enrolments expected later in the academic years, excluding students who withdrew shortly after the start of the course. The forecasts of the numbers of enrolments later in the academic years, 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. Annex E includes a definition of each level of study.

Subject areas

8. Subjects are shown in the subject areas used by SFC for monitoring for under-enrolment against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policy (see Annex F).

Mode of study

- Full-time.
 - Part-time.
9. Annex E includes a definition of mode of study.
 10. The notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2016-17](#), including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, can be found on SFC's website.

Annex 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 for 2016-17](#), available on SFC's website.

Annex F: Subject areas

1. SFC introduced a new method of funding for teaching during 2012-13. Previously SFC gave each institution an allocation of funded places, split over 12 funding subject groups and four levels of study (for funding purposes taught postgraduates are split into two categories depending on the fee level associated with the students). Each funding subject group had its own unit of resource, with these being used to derive the allocations of funding. SFC is now using allocations of funded places to price groups to validate current levels of funding and will only alter an institution's funding if the validated amount is more than a certain percentage away from the current level of funding.
2. As SFC is no longer using funding subject groups to inform allocations of funding for teaching, there was no requirement to continue collecting information on the amount of provision in all of the funding subject groups in the Early Statistics Return. There is also no requirement to collect information on price groups through the Early Statistics Return as this information can be obtained through the detailed Individual Student Returns collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). The subject information collected in the Early Statistics Return for 2013-14 is required by SFC to monitor for under-enrolment against allocations of funded places and for adherence to the consolidation policy. Undergraduate enrolments in 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.
3. The STEM subjects are defined in terms of the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject codes used by HESA and the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). See the table at the end of this Annex. 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. Thus, students aiming for a degree in physics are counted wholly under 'STEM subjects', even though the current year may include studying, say, business or languages.

More than one subject of course aim

4. Students can have up to three subjects of course aim recorded in their HESA returns to take account of students studying for joint and combined degrees. In some cases, the different subjects will belong to the same subject category (STEM, Other Subjects), so a student can be allocated to that subject category. In cases where a student has subjects of course aim in both subject categories, the student's FTE is apportioned as follows:

- **Balanced combination** (for example, a degree in Mathematics and French). Each of the two subjects forms at least 40% of the overall programme of study. In such cases 50% of the FTE is allocated to STEM subjects and 50% to the other subjects.
 - **Major/minor combination** (for example, a degree in engineering with business studies). One subject is dominant, forming 60% or more of the programme of study and the minor subject forms between 25% and 40%. Any component of less than 25% is ignored for the purposes of recording combinations of the subjects of the overall course aim. In such cases 67% of the FTE should be counted to the subject category containing the major subject and the remaining 33% to the subject category containing the minor subject.
 - **Three subjects of course** (for example, a degree in politics, philosophy and economics). All three subjects form between 25% and 40% of the overall programme. In such cases a third of the student's FTE should be counted against the subject categories associated with the three subjects.
5. Further information on the subject areas can be found in the notes of guidance for the [Early Statistics Return for 2016-17](#), available on SFC's website.

Table of subject areas for 2016-17 for undergraduates

Subject Area	JACS Subject Classification	
	Code	Subject Group / Principal Subject
Controlled Subject Areas		
Clinical Medicine	A3	Clinical Medicine
Clinical Dentistry	A4	Clinical Dentistry
Pre-clinical Medicine	A1	Pre-clinical Medicine
Pre-clinical Dentistry	A2	Pre-clinical Dentistry
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	B7	Nursing (part of this provision)
B.Ed. Primary / Music / PE / Technology	X1	Education (part of this provision)
Non-Controlled Subject Areas		
STEM Subjects	C D	Biological Sciences Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and Related Subjects
	<i>Excluding D1</i>	<i>Excluding Pre-clinical veterinary medicine</i>
	<i>D2</i>	<i>Clinical veterinary medicine and dentistry</i>
	F G H I J	Physical Sciences Mathematical Sciences Engineering Computer Sciences Technologies
Other Subjects	All other subject codes <i>Including D1</i>	<i>Pre-clinical veterinary medicine</i>
	<i>D2</i>	<i>Clinical veterinary medicine and dentistry</i>

Annex G: Other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education

Scottish Funding Council (SFC)

Other [publications produced by SFC relating to higher education](#) are available on SFC's website.

Scottish Government

The Scottish Government publishes some [information on higher education in Scotland](#).

Higher Education Statistics Agency

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](#).