

# SFC Statistical publication

## Students Eligible for Funding, 2014-15

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at the Scottish higher education institutions in 2014-15

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's colleges and/or universities

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## Introduction

1. This bulletin 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 2014-15, see Annex B. The figures shown are sector level aggregates.
2. In general, students eligible for tuition fee 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 and the rest of the EU have been eligible for funding. However, the 2012-13 academic session saw the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for students from the rest of the UK (RUK) 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). Further information on the Early Statistics Return can be found in Annexes D, E and F.

## Students eligible for funding in 2014-15

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2014-15 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 144,300, see Table 1. Of this total:
  - 125,700 FTE (87.2%) were undergraduates
  - 11,400 FTE (7.9%) were taught postgraduates
  - 7,100 FTE (4.9%) were research postgraduates
  - 15,900 FTE (11.0%) were part-time students

## **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2013-14 and 2014-15**

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding in 2013-14 and 2014-15.
7. Changes between 2013-14 and 2014-15 include:
  - Total FTE number of students eligible for funding declined by 920 FTE (0.6%)
  - Full-time students decreased by 940 FTE (0.7%), with part-time students increasing by 20 FTE (0.1%)
  - Research postgraduates increased by (3.5%), taught postgraduates increased by (1.1%) and undergraduates decreased by (1.0%)
8. The decrease in undergraduates is partly due to the reduction in RUK students eligible for funding caused by new RUK students being liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and therefore not be eligible for funding, see paragraphs 10 to 13. The number of full-time undergraduate RUK students eligible for funding decreased by 2,900 FTE. This decrease is larger than the overall decrease in undergraduates eligible for funding of 1,200 FTE. This means the number of Scottish and non-UK EU undergraduate students eligible for funding has increased from 2013-14 to 2014-15, from 119,500 FTE to 121,100 FTE.
9. The decline in the total number of students eligible for funding is also likely to be partly affected by consolidation policies, see Annex C and paragraphs 16 to 19 for further details.

### **Deregulated tuition fees and continuing rest of UK students**

10. As indicated in paragraph 2, in general, RUK students entering undergraduate and taught postgraduate courses from 2012-13 onwards were liable to be charged deregulated tuition fees. Students paying deregulated tuition fees are not eligible for funding.
11. As an indication of the effect this has had on the numbers of students eligible for funding, the more detailed individual student records collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicate that 5,200 FTE RUK students eligible for funding started 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 in 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.

12. 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 defined as being continuing RUK students. The numbers of continuing RUK students will gradually decline to zero over the next few academic sessions.
13. There were 4,800 FTE full-time continuing RUK students in 2014-15, compared to 7,800 in 2013-14. Taught postgraduates accounted for 230 FTE of these continuing RUK students in 2014-15, while 4,600 FTE were undergraduates. Continuing RUK students made up 4.1% of all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding and 2.8% of all full-time taught postgraduates.

### **Subject areas**

14. Table 1 shows the FTE number of students eligible for funding enrolled on controlled subjects. The controlled subject areas are defined to be those subjects that the Scottish Government sets intake targets for. Enrolments in the controlled subject areas made up 17,300 (12.0%) of the total FTE number of students eligible for funding. For taught postgraduates, controlled subjects, principally initial teacher education courses, made up 17.9% of the total enrolments.
15. For undergraduates, the controlled subject areas (Medicine, Dentistry, Initial Teacher Education and Nursing and Midwifery pre-registration) made up 12.1% of the total FTE number of students eligible for funding. 43,300 (34.4%) of undergraduates were enrolled on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects, see Annex F for further details of STEM subjects.

### **Consolidation of controlled and uncontrolled subject areas**

16. Annex C gives details of the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for controlled and non-controlled subject areas for 2014-15.
17. In order to adhere to the consolidation policy for non-controlled subject areas, an institution's total enrolments of full-time undergraduates in these subject areas should not exceed its indicative number by more than 10%. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled indicative numbers for 2014-15 was

92,400. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish and other EU students in the non-controlled subject areas was 95,300, which is 3% above the indicative number. 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.

18. 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 (+2.0%)
- Dentistry (+3.1%)
- Primary Initial Teacher Education (+4.8%)
- Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-8.9%)
- Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (-1.4%)

19. The sector as a whole has therefore adhered to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy for all of the controlled subject areas.

### **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2010-11 and 2014-15**

20. Table 2 shows comparisons of the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, covering the 2010-11 to 2014-15 academic sessions.

21. Between 2010-11 and 2014-15 there was a decrease in the total FTE number of students eligible for funding of 10,200 (-6.6%). 2014-15 was the third session in which new RUK students were liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and not be eligible for funding. Prior to 2012-13, the vast majority of RUK students would have been eligible for funding.

22. Other changes between 2010-11 and 2014-15 include:

- The number of full-time students decreased by 7,800 FTE (-5.8%), while part-time provision decreased by 2,300 FTE (-12.6%)
- The FTE number of research postgraduate students increased by 660 (10.2%), undergraduate students decreased by 10,800 FTE (-7.9%), while the number of taught postgraduates decreased 3 (-0.0%).

23. If you have questions about this bulletin, email: [sriddell@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:sriddell@sfc.ac.uk) or Telephone: 0131 313 6658.

Table 1: Students eligible for funding, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 (1,2)

Level of study by subject area and mode of study

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2012-13			2013-14			2014-15			Change		
	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE	Full-time FTE	Part-time FTE	Total FTE
<b>Research postgraduate</b>	5,623	911	<b>6,533</b>	5,975	913	<b>6,888</b>	6,106	1,021	<b>7,127</b>	8.6%	12.1%	<b>9.1%</b>
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>												
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>												
Initial Teacher Education	1,452	7	1,459	1,796	30	<b>1,826</b>	1,879	58	<b>1,936</b>	29.4%	695.3%	<b>32.7%</b>
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	83	1	84	113	-	<b>113</b>	110	-	<b>110</b>	32.5%	-100.0%	<b>31.7%</b>
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>	<b>5,874</b>	<b>3,032</b>	<b>8,905</b>	6,186	3,151	<b>9,337</b>	6,141	3,217	<b>9,358</b>	4.6%	6.1%	<b>5.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,409</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>8,095</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>11,276</b>	<b>8,130</b>	<b>3,275</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>9.7%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>
Of which: Continuing RUK (2)	214			228			<b>226</b>			6.6%		
<b>Undergraduate</b>												
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>												
Medicine	3,958	-	3,958	3,633	-	<b>3,633</b>	3,448	-	<b>3,448</b>	-12.9%		<b>-12.9%</b>
Dentistry	813	-	813	760	-	<b>760</b>	674	-	<b>674</b>	-17.0%		<b>-17.0%</b>
Initial Teacher Education	3,508	21	3,529	3,314	30	<b>3,343</b>	3,180	18	<b>3,198</b>	-9.3%	-13.7%	<b>-9.4%</b>
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	7,625	43	7,668	7,247	185	<b>7,432</b>	7,771	113	<b>7,884</b>	1.9%	162.9%	<b>2.8%</b>
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>												
STEM subject areas (3)	40,800	3,901	44,701	40,133	3,932	<b>44,065</b>	39,456	3,797	<b>43,253</b>	-3.3%	-2.7%	<b>-3.2%</b>
Other subject areas	61,922	8,362	70,283	60,130	7,655	<b>67,784</b>	59,586	7,691	<b>67,277</b>	-3.8%	-8.0%	<b>-4.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>118,624</b>	<b>12,326</b>	<b>130,951</b>	<b>115,216</b>	<b>11,801</b>	<b>127,017</b>	<b>114,115</b>	<b>11,619</b>	<b>125,734</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>-5.7%</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
Of which: Continuing RUK (2)	11,774			7,533			4,623			-36.0%		
<b>Total</b>	<b>131,655</b>	<b>16,276</b>	<b>147,932</b>	<b>129,286</b>	<b>15,895</b>	<b>145,181</b>	<b>128,351</b>	<b>15,915</b>	<b>144,266</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>	<b>-2.2%</b>	<b>-2.5%</b>

See Annex A for notes to the table.

Table 2: Students eligible for funding, 2010-11 to 2014-15 (1)

Level and mode of study

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13 (2)	2013-14	2014-15	Percentage change from 2013-14 to 2014-15	Percentage change from 2010-11 to 2014-15
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
<b>Research postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	5,553	5,760	5,623	5,975	6,106	2.2%	10.0%
Part-time	914	863	911	913	1,021	11.8%	11.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,466</b>	<b>6,622</b>	<b>6,533</b>	<b>6,888</b>	<b>7,127</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Taught postgraduate (4)</b>							
Full-time	7,615	7,669	7,409	8,095	8,130	0.4%	6.8%
Part-time	3,792	3,310	3,039	3,181	3,275	2.9%	-13.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,408</b>	<b>10,979</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>11,276</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Undergraduate (4)</b>							
Full-time	123,063	122,427	118,624	115,216	114,115	-1.0%	-7.3%
Part-time	13,504	12,817	12,326	11,801	11,619	-1.5%	-14.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,567</b>	<b>135,244</b>	<b>130,951</b>	<b>127,017</b>	<b>125,734</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	<b>-7.9%</b>
<b>All Levels of Study</b>							
Full-time	136,231	135,856	131,655	129,286	128,351	-0.7%	-5.8%
Part-time	18,210	16,990	16,276	15,895	15,915	0.1%	-12.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,441</b>	<b>152,846</b>	<b>147,932</b>	<b>145,181</b>	<b>144,266</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>-6.6%</b>

## Notes for tables

## Annex A

## Notes for tables

Number	Table(s) Note Relates to	Note
1	1,2	The numbers of students eligible for funding exclude 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, and many students on Continuing Education courses which are not funded by the SFC. The figures include a forecast element. Further information on the criteria for eligibility for funding is available at: <a href="http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx">http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx</a>
2	1,2	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. 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.
3	1	STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 7 of: <a href="http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx">http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx</a>
4	2	Some of the controlled nursing and midwifery pre-registration provision is at taught postgraduate level, however, prior to 2011-12 all of this provision was recorded as being at undergraduate level. In 2011-12 there were 50 FTE taught postgraduate students eligible for funding on controlled nursing and midwifery pre-registration courses.

***Rounding of data***

Each figure in this bulletin has been rounded independently, which is why there may be some slight differences between totals and the apparent sums of their component parts. Figures quoted in commentary are rounded to the nearest 100 if over 1,000 or to the nearest 10 if under 100. Percentages are derived from unrounded figures.

**Institutions funded by SFC in 2014-15**

Edinburgh Napier University  
Glasgow Caledonian University  
Glasgow School of Art  
Heriot-Watt University  
The Open University in Scotland  
Queen Margaret University  
Robert Gordon University  
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland  
SRUC (1)  
University of Aberdeen  
University of Abertay Dundee  
University of Dundee  
University of Edinburgh  
University of Glasgow  
University of St Andrews  
University of Stirling  
University of Strathclyde  
University of the Highlands and Islands  
University of the West of Scotland

(1) SRUC was formed from the merger of the Scottish Agricultural College and the land-based further education colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge on 1 October 2012.

### Consolidation policies

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 2012-13 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. Prior to 2012-13 the consolidation policy only covered the non-controlled subject areas. For 2011-12 the non-controlled subject areas were classified into two groups: priority and non-priority subject areas. Institutions had separate indicative numbers for priority and non-priority subjects, with tolerance thresholds of 10% for the priority subject areas and 7% for the non-priority subject areas. From 2012-13 institutions have been given one indicative number relating to all full-time undergraduate activity for Scots and EU students only in the non-controlled subject areas, with a tolerance threshold of 10%.
4. Prior to 2012-13 the consolidation policy related to all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subject areas. From 2012-13 onwards the non-controlled indicative number related only to Scottish and other EU students eligible for funding. Continuing RUK students, see paragraphs 10 to 13, were not included. This is because the purpose of the consolidation policy is to prevent the recruitment by institutions exceeding the number of funded places available in non-controlled subjects. In general, RUK students can not apply to the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) for their fees to be paid and for financial support for their studies.
5. Prior to 2012-13 the controlled subject areas also included veterinary medicine and all other provision within the education subject group. These subject areas are now classified as being non-controlled and the full-time enrolments in these subject areas are now being counted against the non-controlled indicative numbers to check for breaches of consolidation.
6. 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.

7. SFC assigned each institution an indicative number for 2014-15 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), and, nursing and midwifery pre-registration. 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.
8. 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 2014-15 is available on SFC's website at:

[http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Funding\\_Outcome\\_Agreements\\_2014-15\\_University\\_Sector\\_Summary/Annex\\_D\\_standard\\_conditions\\_of\\_grant.docx.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Funding_Outcome_Agreements_2014-15_University_Sector_Summary/Annex_D_standard_conditions_of_grant.docx.pdf)

## **Under-enrolment**

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.

## **Pilot scheme to increase consolidation limits**

SFC wrote to institutions in 2014 asking for expressions of interest to take part in a pilot scheme to increase consolidation limits in AY 2014-15 and AY 2015-16. Three institutions asked to take part in the scheme – Queen Margaret University, Heriot-Watt University, and Robert Gordon University. Their 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, which varies between 12% and 16% in AY 2014-15 and 2015-16. This pilot scheme was requested by the previous Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in his July 2014 Ministerial Letter of Guidance<sup>1</sup> for 2015-16.

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<sup>1</sup> Cabinet Secretary's Letter of Guidance to SFC:

[http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/About\\_the\\_Council/SFC\\_letter\\_of\\_guidance\\_2015-16.pdf](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/web/FILES/About_the_Council/SFC_letter_of_guidance_2015-16.pdf)

## Background information

### Eligibility for funding

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

These figures, therefore, cover the majority of the students on SFC-funded institutions' mainstream courses.

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

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**

The figures in this bulletin 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.

For the purposes of the return, students were classified using the following categories:

### **Level of study**

- Research postgraduate
- Taught postgraduate
- Undergraduate

Annex E includes a definition of each level of study.

### **Subject areas**

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 E.

### **Mode of study**

- Full-time
- Part-time

Annex E includes a definition of mode of study.

The notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, including a description of the FTE conversion factors used, can be found on SFC's website at:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx>

## Categories used in the Early Statistics Return

### Level of course

#### ***Research postgraduate***

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

#### ***Taught postgraduate***

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***

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***

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***

All other courses including short full-time courses with an overall course length of 24 weeks or less, ie full-time courses whose total length of course is less than or equal to 24 weeks.

Further information is contained in the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, available on SFC's website at:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx>

## Subject areas

SFC introduced a new method of funding for teaching for 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.

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 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects are also collected as SFC made allocations of additional funded places for provision in these subject areas for 2012-13 and 2013-14.

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

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

Further information on the subject areas can be found in the notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return, available on SFC's website at:

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/communications/Guidance/2014/SFCGD172014.aspx>



## **Some other statistical publications dealing with aspects of Scottish higher education**

### **Scottish Funding Council**

Other publications produced by SFC relating to higher education are available on SFC's website at: [www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/statistics.aspx](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/statistics/statistics.aspx) and [www.sfc.ac.uk/reportspublications/reportspublications.aspx](http://www.sfc.ac.uk/reportspublications/reportspublications.aspx)

### **Scottish Government**

The Scottish Government publishes some information on higher education in Scotland. This can be found on the Scottish Government's website at: [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Lifelong-learning)

### **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. Details can be accessed from their website: [www.hesa.ac.uk/](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/)

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