



# SFC Statistical publication

## Students eligible for funding, 2015-16

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Summary: To inform stakeholders of the enrolments of students eligible for funding at the Scottish higher education institutions in 2015-16

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

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## **Students eligible for funding, 2015-16**

### **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 2015-16, 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). Further information on the Early Statistics Return can be found in annexes D, E and F.

### **Students eligible for funding in 2015-16**

5. The total FTE number of students eligible for funding in 2015-16 at the HEIs funded by SFC was 142,330, see table 1. Of this total:
  - 124,115 FTE (87.2%) were undergraduates.
  - 11,035 FTE (7.8%) were taught postgraduates.
  - 7,185 FTE (5.0%) were research postgraduates.
  - 15,885 FTE (11.2%) were part-time students.

## **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2014-15 and 2015-16**

6. Table 1 shows comparisons of the number of students eligible for funding in 2014-15 and 2015-16.
7. Changes between 2014-15 and 2015-16 include:
  - The total FTE number of students eligible for funding declined by -1,935 FTE (-1.3%).
  - Full-time students decreased by -1,910 FTE (-1.5%).
  - Part-time students decreased slightly by -30 FTE (-0.2%).
  - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 60 FTE (0.8%).
  - Taught postgraduates decreased by -370 FTE (-3.2%).
  - Undergraduates decreased by -1,620 FTE (-1.3%).
8. The decrease in undergraduates is principally 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 Scottish and non-UK undergraduate students eligible for funding actually increased by 1,710 FTE (1.6%) to 111,200 FTE.
9. The total number of undergraduate students eligible for funding is also affected by consolidation policies, see annex C and paragraphs 23 to 26 for further details.

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

10. 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.
11. 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 the 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.

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 called continuing RUK students. The numbers of continuing RUK students will gradually decline to zero over the next few academic sessions.
13. 2015-16 was the fourth session in which new RUK students were liable to pay the deregulated tuition fees and not be eligible for funding. There were 1,470 FTE full-time continuing RUK students in 2015-16, compared to 4,850 FTE in 2014-15. Of the continuing RUK students in 2015-16, 95 FTE were taught postgraduates and 1,375 FTE were undergraduates. Continuing RUK students made up 1.2% of all full-time undergraduate students eligible for funding and 1.2% of all full-time taught postgraduates in 2015-16.

#### **Changes in students eligible for funding between 2011-12 and 2015-16**

14. Table 1 shows comparisons of the numbers of students eligible for funding over the last five years, from 2011-12 to 2015-16.
15. Between 2011-12 and 2015-16 there was a decrease in the total number of students eligible for funding of -10,515 FTE (-6.9%). This is principally due to the introduction of deregulated tuition fees for RUK students in 2012-13, see paragraphs 10 to 13.
16. Other changes between 2011-12 and 2015-16 include
  - Full-time students eligible for funding decreased by -9,415 FTE (-6.9%).
  - Part-time students decreased by -1,105 FTE (-6.5%).
  - Research postgraduate students eligible for funding increased by 565 FTE (8.5%).
  - Taught postgraduates increased by 55 FTE (0.5%).
  - Undergraduate students decreased by -11,130 FTE (-8.2%).

#### **Subject areas**

17. 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.
18. 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).

19. The controlled subjects accounted for 17,495 FTE (12.9%) of the total FTE number of taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2015-16. Over 20% of the taught postgraduates were studying a controlled subject (2,250 FTE), principally PDGE courses. The controlled subject areas made up 15,245 FTE (12.3%) of the total FTE number of undergraduate students eligible for funding in 2015-16.
20. 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 has allocated an additional 300 funded places for STEM provision each year from 2012-13 to 2015-16. Further details on SFC's allocations of funding for the higher education institutions for 2015-16 can be found on the [SFC website](#).
21. Of the 108,870 FTE undergraduate students eligible for funding in the non-controlled subjects in 2015-16 44,665 FTE (41.0%) were enrolled on STEM subjects.
22. The number of undergraduates on STEM subjects increased by 1,410 FTE (3.3%) between 2014-15 and 2015-16 while the other undergraduates in the non-controlled subject areas decreased by -3,070 FTE (-4.6%).

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

23. Annex C gives details of the Scottish Government's consolidation policies for controlled and non-controlled subject areas for 2015-16.
24. 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%
25. The sector total of the institutions' non-controlled indicative numbers for 2015-16 was 95,330. The total FTE number of full-time undergraduate Scottish

and other EU students in the non-controlled subject areas was 96,485, which is 1.2% 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.

26. 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 (-3.3%).
- Dentistry (+3.9%).
- Primary Initial Teacher Education (+7.1%).
- Secondary Initial Teacher Education (-11.3%).
- Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (+3.9%).

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

### ***Rounding of data***

27. 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, 2011-12 to 2015-16 (1)**

**Level and mode of study**

Level of Study / Mode of Study	2011-12	2012-13 (2,3)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Percentage change from 2014-15 to 2015-16	Percentage change from 2011-12 to 2015-16
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
<b>Research postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	5,760	5,625	5,975	6,105	6,055	-0.8%	5.1%
Part-time	865	910	915	1,020	1,130	10.8%	30.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,620</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>6,890</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>7,185</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>8.5%</b>
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
Full-time	7,670	7,410	8,095	8,130	7,815	-3.9%	1.9%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>		215	230	225	95	-57.8%	
Part-time	3,310	3,040	3,180	3,275	3,215	-1.8%	-2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,980</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>11,275</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Undergraduate (3)</b>							
Full-time	122,425	118,625	115,215	114,115	112,575	-1.3%	-8.0%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>		11,775	7,535	4,625	1,375	-70.3%	
Part-time	12,815	12,325	11,800	11,620	11,540	-0.7%	-9.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,245</b>	<b>130,950</b>	<b>127,015</b>	<b>125,735</b>	<b>124,115</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>
<b>All Levels of Study</b>							
Full-time (3)	135,855	131,655	129,285	128,350	126,440	-1.5%	-6.9%
<i>Of which: Continuing RUK (2)</i>		11,985	7,760	4,850	1,470	-69.7%	
Part-time	16,990	16,275	15,895	15,915	15,885	-0.2%	-6.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,845</b>	<b>147,930</b>	<b>145,180</b>	<b>144,265</b>	<b>142,330</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>

**Table 2: Students eligible for funding, 2011-12 to 2014-15 (1)**

**Level of study by subject area**

Level of Study / Subject Areas	2011-12	2012-13 (2,3)	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	Percentage change from 2014-15 to 2015-16	Percentage change from 2011-12 to 2015-16
	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE	FTE		
<b>Research postgraduate</b>	6,620	6,535	6,890	7,125	7,185	0.8%	8.5%
<b>Taught postgraduate</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas</b>							
Initial Teacher Education	1,280	1,460	1,825	1,935	2,150	11.1%	68.0%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration	50	85	115	110	100	-9.1%	100.0%
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>	<b>9,650</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>9,335</b>	<b>9,360</b>	<b>8,785</b>	<b>-6.1%</b>	<b>-9.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,980</b>	<b>10,450</b>	<b>11,275</b>	<b>11,405</b>	<b>11,035</b>	<b>-3.2%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>
<b>Undergraduate (3)</b>							
<b>Controlled subject areas (4)</b>							
Medicine	4,205	3,960	3,635	3,450	3,065	-11.2%	-27.1%
Dentistry	830	815	760	675	620	-8.1%	-25.3%
Initial Teacher Education	3,735	3,530	3,345	3,200	3,180	-0.6%	-14.9%
Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration (5)	8,375	7,670	7,430	7,885	8,380	6.3%	0.1%
<b>Non-controlled subject areas</b>							
STEM subject areas (3,6)	45,680	44,700	44,065	43,255	44,665	3.3%	-2.2%
Other subject areas (3)	72,425	70,285	67,785	67,275	64,205	-4.6%	-11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135,245</b>	<b>130,950</b>	<b>127,015</b>	<b>125,735</b>	<b>124,115</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>152,845</b>	<b>147,930</b>	<b>145,180</b>	<b>144,265</b>	<b>142,330</b>	<b>-1.3%</b>	<b>-6.9%</b>

## Notes for tables

Note No.	Table(s) Note Relates to	Note
1	1,2	<p>The numbers of students eligible for funding exclude, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students from outwith the EU</li> <li>• Rest of UK students paying deregulated tuition fees</li> <li>• Students on courses financed from other public sources</li> <li>• Students on courses which are closed to normal applicants or are provided on a full cost recovery basis</li> <li>• Many students on Continuing Education courses which are not funded by the SFC.</li> </ul> <p>The figures include a forecast element.</p>
2	1,2	<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	1,2	<p>The Scottish Agricultural College merged with the land-based further education colleges of Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge on 1 October 2012 to form SRUC.</p> <p>The difference between the FTE number of students eligible for funding reported by SAC in 2011-12 and SRUC in 2012-13 was 410 FTE. The vast majority of this difference relates to undergraduates (400 FTE) and full-time students (400 FTE), with the difference for undergraduate students in the STEM and non-STEM subjects being 290 FTE and 105 FTE respectively.</p>
4	2	<p>The classification of controlled subjects was changed for 2012-13. The figures for 2011-12 are based on the classification introduced for 2012-13.</p>
5	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 and 455 FTE in 2015-16.</p>
6	2	<p>STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Further information on the STEM subjects is available in section 7 of the Early Statistics</p>

		<p><a href="#">Notes of Guidance for 2015-16 [PDF]</a>.</p> <p>The definition of STEM was introduced for the Early Statistics Return for 2012-13. The figures for 2011-12 relate to trying to apply this definition to the subject information collected for 2011-12. However, it is not possible to produce STEM figures for 2011-12 on exactly the same basis.</p> <p>One of the differences between the figures for STEM for 2011-12 and those for 2012-13 onwards is that the subjects of pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacy are included in the STEM figures for 2011-12 but not those from 2012-13 onwards. The more detailed individual student records collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) indicate that there were around 1,670 FTE undergraduate students eligible for funding taking these subjects in 2011-12.</p>
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**Institutions funded by SFC in 2015-16**

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<sup>1</sup>  
St Andrews University of  
Stirling, University of  
Strathclyde, University of  
West of Scotland, University of the

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<sup>1</sup> 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 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, the 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 the 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 2015-16 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 onwards 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 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.
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. The SFC assigned each institution an indicative number for 2015-16 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

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 2015-16 is available on [SFC's website](#) [PDF].

### **Pilot scheme to increase consolidation limits Under-enrolment**

9. 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 the previous Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning in his Ministerial Letter of Guidance<sup>2</sup> for 2015-16

### **Under-enrolment**

10. 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

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<sup>2</sup> Cabinet Secretary's [Letter of Guidance](#) to SFC.

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.

## 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 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.
6. 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**

7. 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.

Annex E includes a definition of mode of study.

8. The notes of guidance for the Early Statistics Return for 2015-16, 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***

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, i.e. 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 for 2015-16, available on [SFC's website](#).

### Subject areas

1. 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.
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 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.
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 2015-16, available on [SFC's website](#).

**Table of subject areas for 2015-16 for undergraduates**

Subject Area	JACS Subject Classification	
	Code	Subject Group / Principal Subject
<b>Controlled Subject Areas</b>		
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)
BEd Primary / Music / PE / Technology	X1	Education (part of this provision)
<b>Non-controlled Subject Areas</b>		
STEM Subjects	C D <i>Excluding</i> D1 D2	Biological Sciences Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and Related Subjects <i>Excluding</i> <i>Pre-clinical veterinary medicine</i> <i>Clinical veterinary medicine and dentistry</i>
Other Subjects	F G H I J All other subject codes <i>Including</i> D1 D2	Physical Sciences Mathematical Sciences Engineering Computer Sciences Technologies  <i>Pre-clinical veterinary medicine</i> <i>Clinical veterinary medicine and dentistry</i>

**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: [SFC Reports & Publications](#)

***Scottish Government***

The Scottish Government publishes some information on higher education in Scotland. This can be found on the Scottish Government's website at: [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: [Publications and products](#)