

LIFELONG LEARNING: HIGHER EDUCATION

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This briefing provides a general introduction to lifelong learning in Scotland and focuses specifically on higher education. It presents key statistics for the sector, information on the funding of Scotland's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the financial support available for higher education students. It also looks at recent developments and key issues facing the Higher Education sector.

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KEY POINTS

- Responsibility for education in Scotland is devolved. The Scottish Executive's Education Directorate is responsible for further and higher education in Scotland.
- The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) distributes funding for teaching, research and other activities in Scotland's colleges and Higher Education Institutions. In 2006-07 the SFC was allocated just over £1.5 billion by the Scottish Executive.
- Higher education is a term used to describe education at SCQF level 7 and above. In 2004-05 there were 285,180 higher education students studying at Scottish institutions. The majority of students studied at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) around a fifth studied at further education colleges. HEIs have five main sources of income these are SFC grants, tuition fees and education contracts, other income, endowment and investment income, and research grants and contracts.
- Financial support for Scottish higher education students is mainly loan-based. The funding that may be available includes: paid tuition fees; student loans; young student bursary; students outside Scotland bursary; Scottish Executive health department bursaries; postgraduate student allowance scheme; disabled student allowance; travel expense allowance; and supplementary grants.
- The Graduate Endowment which is a fixed amount that some graduates have to pay after they have completed their degree was introduced in 2001 following the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001.
- There are a number of issues and recent developments that may affect higher education in Scotland. These include the introduction of a Scottish Skills Strategy in September 2007, the SFC's review of college and HEI teaching funding methodologies, the anticipated primary legislation for the abolition of the Graduate Endowment fee, proposals being prepared for student loans to be replaced with means-tested grants and servicing the existing debt of Scottish students. In addition, the Scottish Executive is currently considering the SNP manifesto commitments of an additional £10 million for cutting edge research and the creation of a Scottish Life Sciences Institute. These proposals are being considered in the context of the 2007 Spending Review.
- A number of areas for possible consideration in the Scottish Parliament were highlighted in the Enterprise and Culture Committee's legacy paper. These included:
 - a review of funding for part-time students in further and higher education
 - a review of funding more generally and in higher education
 - the forthcoming teaching funding methodology review of the Scottish Funding Council
 - a review of post-graduate numbers in Scotland

INTRODUCTION

LIFELONG LEARNING

Lifelong learning is a term used to describe all levels of education and training in both formal and informal settings. It can be delivered in a number of ways including through further education, higher education, continuing education, distance learning, work based training, and community education (Davies and Wakefield, 2003).

In 2001-02 the Scottish Parliament Enterprise and Lifelong Committee undertook an inquiry into lifelong learning in Scotland. The [Final Report on Lifelong Learning](#) was published in October 2002. Following this inquiry, the Scottish Executive published its lifelong learning strategy for Scotland, [Life Through Learning: Learning Through Life](#) (Scottish Executive, 2003).

The lifelong learning strategy has 5 goals for the people of Scotland. These are:

- people have the confidence, enterprise, knowledge, creativity and skills they need to participate in economic, social and civic life
- people demand and providers deliver a high quality learning experience
- peoples' knowledge and skills are recognised, used and developed to best effect in their workplaces
- people are given the information, guidance and support they need to make effective learning decisions and transitions
- people have the chance to learn, irrespective of their background or current personal circumstances

The previous Scottish Executive (2006a) undertook a consultation, [Lifelong Learning - Building on Success: A Discussion of Specific Issues Related to Lifelong Learning in Scotland](#) which focused on the following themes:

- engagement with employers
- flexible learning opportunities, entitlement and discretionary support
- information, advice and guidance
- community learning and development
- journeys into and through learning

It is envisaged that the Lifelong Learning Strategy will be replaced by a new Skills Strategy. This is discussed later.

This briefing focuses specifically on higher education in Scotland. A separate briefing, published in March 2007 (SB07-13), covers skills and adult learning.

HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND

Responsibility for education in Scotland is devolved. The Scottish Executive's Education Directorate is now responsible for further and higher education. Under the previous administration, this responsibility fell to the Scottish Executive's Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning Department.

The Scottish Funding Council

The Scottish Executive funds the [Scottish Funding Council](#) (SFC), which is a non-departmental public body (NDPB), set up to distribute funding for teaching, research and other activities in Scotland's colleges and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In 2006-07 the SFC was allocated just over £1.5 billion by the Scottish Executive (Scottish Executive, 2006b).

The SFC was established in 2005 under the terms of The Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005. It replaced the Scottish Further Education Funding Council (SFEFC) and the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council (SHEFC). The main roles of the SFC are outlined below (SFC, 2007)

- develops and implements policies and strategies for teaching and, learning, skills, research and innovation;
- allocates public funding to colleges and universities for running costs related to teaching and research, for buildings and equipment – including major capital projects – and for specific initiatives and strategic developments;
- regulates as necessary the use of public funding by colleges and universities and their activities so as to safeguard the public interest and promote high standards of governance and administration;
- works with the quality assessment agencies (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education in the college sector and the Quality Assurance Agency in the university sector) to assess and enhance the quality of learning programmes;
- holds Scotland's colleges and universities accountable for delivering the quantity, quality and relevance of further and higher education and research sought by the Scottish government, for achieving best value from public funds, and for managing their financial and other resources in a sustainable way;
- collects, evaluates and publishes relevant statistical data and other evidence to enable the Scottish government, the Council, colleges and universities, other interested bodies and the public generally to be better informed about further and higher education and research; and
- advises Government on matters relating to further and higher education and research.

The SFC's (2007) [Corporate Plan 2006-09](#) has seven main aims and sets out the Council's plans for implementing the strategic priorities for the Council, colleges and universities. These were based on the previous Minister for Enterprise and Lifelong Learning's priorities. These were set out in the Ministerial Strategic Guidance Letter to the Scottish Funding Council (Scottish Executive, 2005a). The aims are:

- Scotland's colleges and universities to offer – within the volume of learning set by Scottish Ministers – fair access to a diverse range of learning programmes suited to individual learners' circumstances
- learning provision and programmes offered by Scotland's colleges and universities to be relevant to students' lives and careers, society and the economy
- all learning provision and programmes offered by colleges and universities to be of high quality
- Scotland's universities to provide a high quality and internationally competitive research base
- Scotland's colleges and universities to generate effective knowledge exchange that stimulates innovation and development in public and private sector organisations and enterprises
- colleges and universities to support Scotland's international ambitions
- Scotland's colleges, universities and Funding Council to be highly effective, world-class organisations

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework

A range of qualifications are offered by Scotland's Colleges and HEIs. [The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework](#) (SCQF) sets out the relationships between levels of qualification. It covers the mainstream qualifications offered by the [Scottish Qualifications Authority](#) (SQA), Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and Scottish Vocational Qualifications (SVQs). The SCQF table of main qualifications can be found in Appendix 1.

In 2006 the European Commission adopted a proposal for the establishment of the [European Qualifications Framework](#) for lifelong learning (EQF). The EQF aims to support the movement of learners across Europe by providing a reference point for comparing qualifications across different education and training systems and to strengthen co-operation and mutual trust between the relevant stakeholders (European Commission, 2006).

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher education is a term used to describe education at SCQF level 7 and above (above Higher Grade level and their equivalents such as A Levels). In 2005-06 there were 285,180 higher education students studying at Scottish institutions. The majority of students, 82%, studied at Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), while 18% studied at Further Education colleges (Scottish Executive, 2007f).

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS¹

There are 21 Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Scotland comprising 14 universities, the Open University in Scotland, two colleges of higher education, two art schools, a conservatoire and the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC). A list of the HEIs in Scotland can be found in Appendix 2.

All of the HEIs are funded by the SFC, with the exception of the SAC, which is funded by the Scottish Executive through its grant-in-aid programme as part of the national provision for research and rural advisory services (SAC).

FUNDING HIGHER EDUCATION

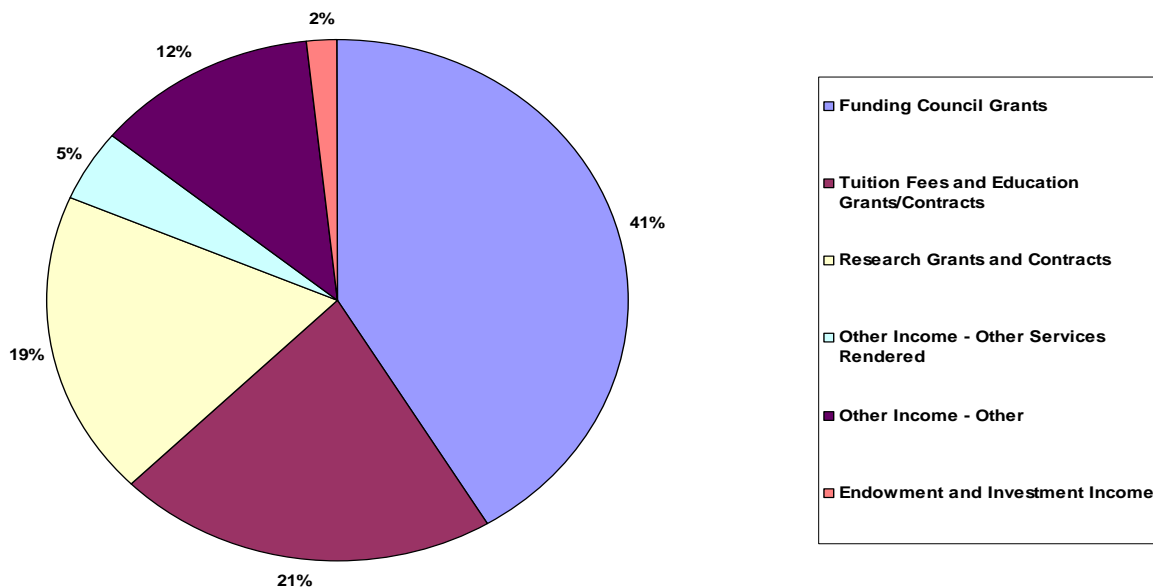
HEIs have six main sources of income. These are:

- SFC grants
- tuition fees, education grants and contracts
- research grants and contracts
- endowment and investment income
- other income – other services rendered (such as income from UK central government/local authorities, health and hospital authorities, EU government bodies)
- other income – other (such as catering operations, grants from local authorities etc)

In 2005-2006 the total income for HEIs in Scotland was just over £2 billion. Figure 1 shows a breakdown of this funding (HESA, 2007). Further detail can be found in Appendix 3.

¹ Further information can be found in SPICe Research Briefing 02/02 [Higher and Further Education Institutions](#).

Figure 1: Income of HEIs in Scotland by source, 2005-06



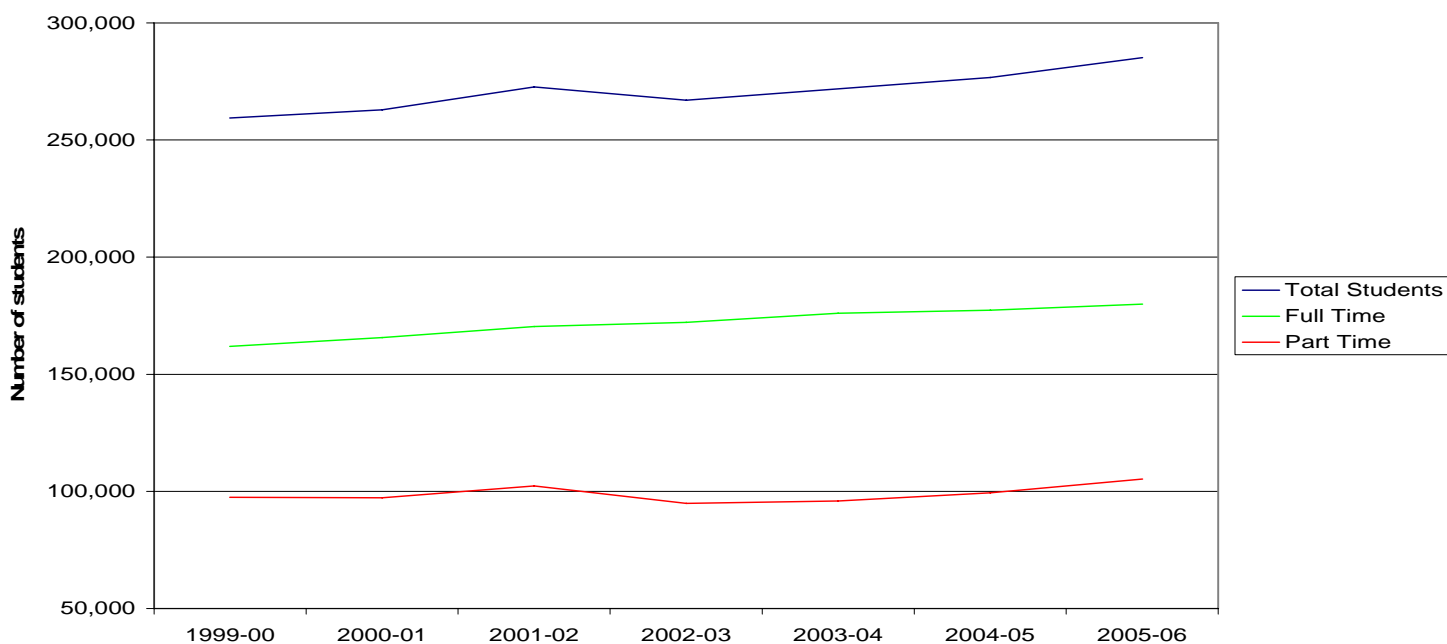
Source: HESA 2007

For the academic year 2007-08 the SFC allocated just over £1 billion to HEIs for teaching and research and £75 million of capital funding (SFC, 2007). A breakdown can be found in Appendices 4 and 5.

STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

In 2005-06 there were 285,180 higher education students in Scotland (Scottish Executive, 2007f). Figure 2 below shows the number of students between 1998-99 and 2005-06.

Figure 2: Number of higher education students, 1998-99 to 2005-06



Source: Scottish Executive (2007f)

Figure 2 shows that there has been a gradual increase in the number of students from 255,965 in 1998-99 to 285,180 in 2005-06.

In general a higher proportion of higher education students are female. In 2005-06 56% of students were female and 44% were male. The majority of students study full-time. In 2005-06 63% studied full-time, 37% studied part-time.

HIGHER EDUCATION COURSES

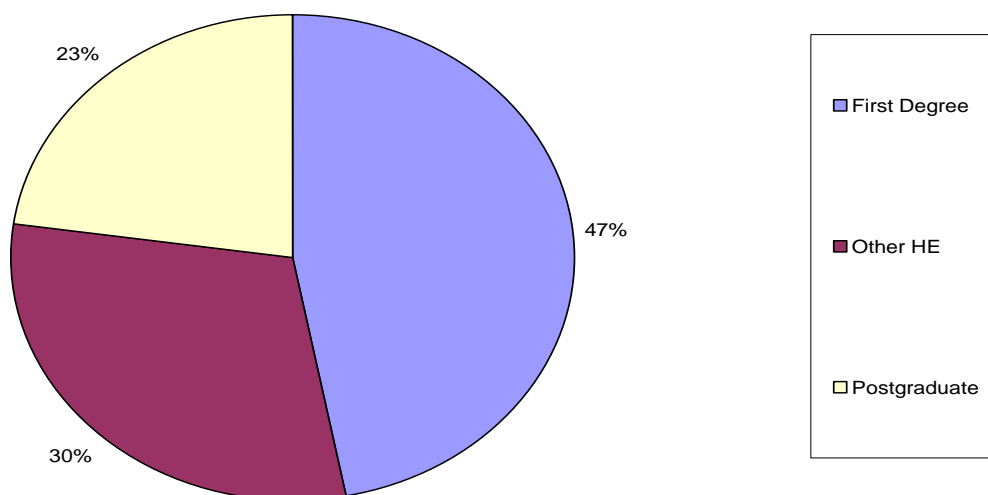
HEIs offer courses at a range of levels. Courses above SCQF Level 7 (excluding Advanced Highers) are thought of as higher education and include:

- Higher National Certificates and Diplomas
- Certificates and Diplomas in Higher Education
- Graduate Diplomas and Certificates
- First Degrees²
- Postgraduate Degrees including Masters and Doctorates

(SCQF)

In 2005-2006 134,125 students were on a first degree course, 86,095 were on other higher education courses and 64,965 were on postgraduate courses. Figure 3 below shows the proportion of higher education students by level of study for 2005-06.

Figure 3: Higher education students by level of study, 2005-06



Source: Scottish Executive (2007f).

² Undergraduate (first degree) students may obtain an Ordinary degree after three academic years of study and an Honours degree after four years of study. Some courses such as Law and Medicine may require longer periods of study and may involve a professional work experience placement (Scottish Executive, 2005b).

FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS IN 2007-08

Currently, financial support for Scottish higher education students is mainly loan-based with a number of mean tested grants for specific groups of students (Scottish Executive, 2007b). Table 1 shows the types of funding that may be available for higher education students in the academic year 2007-08 by mode of study.

Table 1: Type of funding available for higher education students by mode of study

Type of funding	Full-time	Part-time	Distance learning
Tuition fees	✓	✓	✓
Student Loans	✓	✓	✓
Young Student Bursary	✓		
Students Outside Scotland Bursary	✓		
Scottish Executive Health Department Bursaries	✓		
Postgraduate Student's Allowance Scheme	✓		
Disabled Student Allowance	✓	✓	✓
Travel Expense Allowance	✓		
Supplementary Grants	✓		
Other Sources of Funding	✓	✓	✓

Source: Scottish Executive (2007b)

The [Student Awards Agency for Scotland](#) (SAAS) deals with financial support of Scottish students in higher education throughout the UK. The SAAS is part of the Scottish Executive and responsible to Scottish Ministers. To qualify for financial support a student has to meet the personal and residency eligibility conditions and be enrolled on an eligible course³. The level of support a student receives is dependent on when they entered higher education, where they are studying, their course of study and their personal circumstances.

Tuition Fees

The Scottish Executive introduced changes to full-time HE tuition fees in Scotland from academic year 2006-07. The main reason for the new higher fee rates is to ensure that the cross-border flow of students is not unduly affected by the introduction of variable fees in the rest of the UK and to recognise the particularly acute pressure on cross-border flow in medicine. See SPICe briefing [The Student Fees \(Specification\) \(Scotland\) Order 2006](#) (Mullen, F. 2006).

The SAAS pays tuition fees for most⁴ Scottish domiciled and EU students studying in Scotland. Most full-time students in Scotland do not have to pay tuition fees. Part-time students who are (or whose family are) in receipt of certain benefits may be eligible for a fee waiver grant (SFC, 2007c). Students studying outside Scotland may have to pay up to £3,070 towards their own tuition fees but a loan may be available from the SAAS, which would only be repaid after the course is finished and the graduate is earning over £15,000 per year.

³ The eligibility requirements are complex and for individual cases a student may find it useful to contact the SAAS directly. The SAAS website can be found at: <http://www.saas.gov.uk/home.htm>.

⁴ The SAAS will not usually pay tuition fees for students who have previously received support from public funds for a full-time higher education course.

Student Loans

Scottish students can apply to the SAAS for a loan to help with living costs. The amount of the loan is partly dependent on the student's income, and in some cases the income of their parents, spouse or civil partner. Information on the amounts available to people attending a Scottish institution, who entered higher education in 2007-08 on a 30 week course, can be found in Appendix 6. From 2007-08 student loans and bursaries will be paid monthly.

Young Student Bursary

This means tested bursary is available to young Scottish students studying in Scotland, at a maximum of £2510 a year. This bursary replaces the equivalent amount of student loan. Information on eligibility can be found on the SAAS website. Information on the level of Young Student Bursary is available in Appendix 6. An additional loan is also available for some people who are eligible for the Young Student Bursary (SAAS).

Students' Outside Scotland Bursary

Young and mature students studying at an UK institution outside Scotland in 2007-08 can apply for an income assessed Students' Outside Scotland Bursary of up to a maximum of £2,045 a year (for incomes of less than £18,360). Incomes over £32,515 do not qualify for this bursary. Low income students (or their families) attending English and Northern Ireland Universities may be eligible to receive a mandatory bursary or discretionary bursaries or scholarships.

Scottish Executive Health Department Bursary

Students on a degree course in the Allied Health Professions receive free tuition fees, an income assessed Scottish Executive Health Department Bursary and a student loan (SAAS). Information on the amount of bursary and non-income assessed loan available can be found in Appendix 7.

The Allied Health Profession courses are:

- chiropody
- dental hygiene
- dental therapy
- dietetics
- language therapy
- occupational therapy
- orthoptics
- physiotherapy
- podiatry
- prosthetics and orthotics
- radiography
- speech therapy

(Scottish Executive, 2007b)

Students who entered a degree course in nursing or midwifery in 2001-02 or later can receive support under the [Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary Scheme](#) (SAAS). Students on medicine or dentistry courses are entitled to the same student support package as other students in years 1 to 4. From year 5 they may be entitled to the Scottish Executive Health

Department Bursary and student loan (Scottish Executive, 2007b). People studying for a Dentistry (BDS) degree at Dundee or Glasgow University may get a [Dental Bursary](#) of £4,000 a year from year 2 onwards (SAAS).

Practical placement expenses to cover extra travel and accommodation costs may also be available.

Postgraduate Students' Allowance Scheme

Under the Postgraduate Students' Allowance Scheme (PGAS), students may receive support for some full-time vocational courses, rather than Masters. The support available included paid tuition fees of up to £3,235, and an income assessed maintenance grant. The maximum standard maintenance grant for a 30 week course is:

- £2,710 for students living in their parent's home
- £3,585 for students living in a hall of residence or lodging outside London
- £4,545 for students living in a hall of residence or lodging in London

These awards are discretionary, rather than mandatory, so no award is guaranteed. Information on the eligibility criteria for the PGAS can be found on the [SAAS](#) website.

Research Councils

Support for postgraduate students may also be available from seven [UK Research Councils](#) which are:

[Arts and Humanities Research Council \(AHRC\)](#)

[Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council \(BBSRC\)](#)

[Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council \(EPSRC\)](#)

[Economic and Social Research Council \(ESRC\)](#)

[Medical Research Council \(MRC\)](#)

[Natural Environment Research Council \(NERC\)](#)

[Science and Technology Facilities Council \(STFC\)](#)

Disabled Student Allowance

Students with a disability or learning difficulty can claim a Disabled Student Allowance. An allowance of up to £1,640 is available for items like tapes, Braille paper and small items of equipment. An allowance of up to £4,905 is available for large items of equipment. A yearly allowance of up to £12,420 is also available for non-medical personal help this covers sign language interpreters, note-takers etc (SAAS).

Travel Expense Allowance

An income assessed travel expense allowance is available to help people cover the cost of daily travel to their HEI. It can also be used to pay for the cost of travel between a student's home and their term-time address at the start and end of each term or semester. Students are required to pay the first £155 of the yearly total. Further information on the Travel Expense Allowance and eligibility is available on the [SAAS](#) website.

Supplementary Grants

[Supplementary grants](#) to help with living costs are also available from the SAAS:

- **Dependents' Grant:** This is an income assessed grant of up to £2,510 for a student's husband or wife, or civil partner.
- **Lone Parents Grant:** This grant of £1,240 is available for students bringing up at least one dependent child on their own.
- **Additional Childcare Grant for Lone Parents:** An extra grant of up to £1,155 is available for students receiving Lone Parents' Grant who have to pay all or part of the cost for registered or formal childcare.
- **Care Leaver Grant:** A grant of up to £100 a week is available to help students who were in care to cover accommodation costs during the long holiday.

Other sources of funding

Students on higher education courses may also be eligible for support from Individual Learning Accounts (ILA) Scotland, a Career Development Loan and Child Tax Credits as detailed in the previous section. Higher education students who are experiencing financial difficulties may be able to apply for help from their institutions hardship fund.

People who are not eligible for student support may be able to obtain funding from the institution at which they are studying or from an educational trust or scholarship.

GRADUATE ENDOWMENT

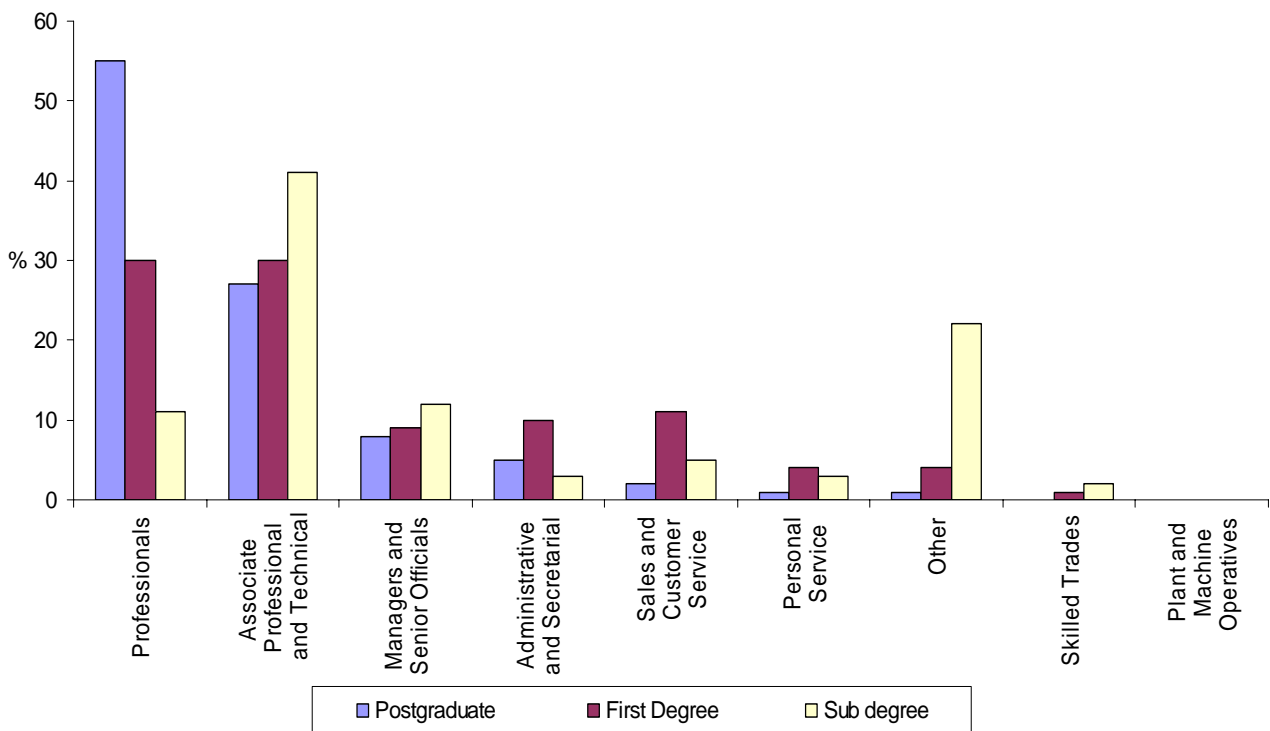
The Graduate Endowment was introduced in the academic year 2001-02, following the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) Act 2001. The Graduate Endowment is a fixed amount that some Scottish and EU students who study for a full-time first degree at a publicly-funded university or college in Scotland are eligible to pay after they have completed their degree and once they earn over £15,000. The amount of the Graduate Endowment depending on when the student entered higher education (the levels are set out in Appendix 8). Students can pay the Graduate Endowment in a lump sum or by taking out an additional student loan (SAAS). Some groups of students are exempt from paying the Graduate Endowment, information on these groups can be found on the [SAAS](#) website. On 13 June 2007, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning announced the new administration's intention to abolish the Graduate Endowment. Details are explained later in the 'recent developments' section.

GRADUATE DESTINATIONS

In 2004-05 69,885 students successfully completed a higher education course in Scotland (Scottish Executive, 2006d). Of the graduates who responded⁵ to the First Destination Surveys, approximately 6 months after graduation 59% had obtained permanent or temporary employment in the UK and 3% had gained employment overseas (Scottish Executive, 2006d).

Figure 4 below shows the proportion of graduates (from 2004-05) who had gained permanent employment in the UK, by type of work and level of qualification obtained.

Figure 4: Permanent graduate employment in the UK by type of work and qualification obtained, 2004-05



Source: Scottish Executive (2006d).

It is possible to see from Figure 4 that the majority of postgraduate graduates (55%) found work in professional occupations 6 months after graduating. 30% of first degree graduates found work in professional occupations; a further 30% were employed in associate professional and technical occupations. The majority of people who graduated from sub-degree courses (41%) were also employed in the associate professional and technical occupations.

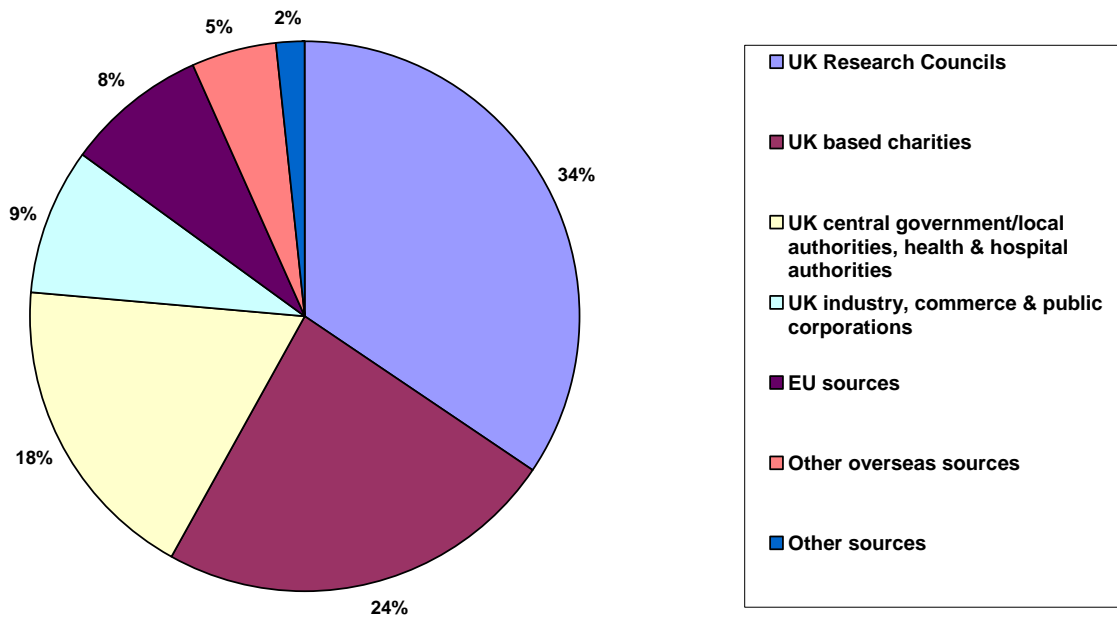
⁵ Response rate for the 2004-05 First Destinations Surveys for 2004-05 was 71% (Scottish Executive, 2006j).
providing research and information services to the Scottish Parliament

RESEARCH

Research and innovation play an important role in the Scottish economy by driving productivity growth and thereby increasing prosperity (Scottish Executive, 2006e). Universities Scotland (2006) reports that investment in research results in returns of between 20% and 30%.

Research is mainly funded through project-specific research contracts, charities and public funding. Figure 5 below shows the sources of research funding for HEIs in Scotland for 2005/06.

Figure 5: Sources of research income for Scottish HEIs, 2005-06.



Public funding for research comes from the SFC and the UK Research Councils. The SFC aims to “ensure that Scotland’s higher education institutions provide a high quality and internationally competitive research base and that they can build on their research strengths” (SFC, 2007b). For the academic year 2007-08 the SFC allocated £263 million for research and knowledge transfer. This funding was allocated to the following grants:

Main Quality Research Grant

The Main Quality Research Grant exists to support to high quality research (SFC, 2007b). This grant is distributed considering the quality, volume and cost of the research. The quality of research is measured by the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). Information on how the 2001 RAE has been used in the allocation of the SFC’s research funding for 2007-08 can be found in [Circular SFC/16/2007 Annex B: Main Grants for Research 2007-08](#) (SFC, 2007b). The next [Research Assessment Exercise](#) is due to take place in 2008 (RAE 2008).

Strategic Research Development Grant

This grant exists to allow a strategic view to be taken of the needs of the overall research base in Scotland. It aims to create opportunities to bring together research strengths and strengthen areas which are of strategic interest to Scotland and the UK (SFC, 2007b).

Research Postgraduate Grant

This grant provides support for postgraduate research provision (SFC, 2007b).

Knowledge Transfer Grant

Knowledge transfer is about ensuring that the research created in HEIs is applied in policy and practice (ESRC). The Knowledge Transfer Grant exists to support knowledge transfer activities which may include developing the skills of key staff to support knowledge transfer, supporting the dissemination of research outcomes, developing continuing professional and vocational education and increasing public understanding of science, technology, and arts and humanities (SFC, 2007b).

Research Development Foundation Grant

The Research Development Foundation Grant exists to support new and developing subject areas at institutions that do not have access to major resources from the Main Quality Research Grant (SFC, 2007b).

Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme (ORSAS)

This scheme aims to strengthen the research base in the UK by attracting high quality international students to undertake research (SFC, 2007b).

Research Support Libraries Programme

This support covers the library access scheme and funding for the research information network which aims to lead and co-ordinate the provision of research information across the UK (SFC, 2007b).

OTHER RELATED SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE POLICIES

Fresh Talent Initiative

In 2004 the Scottish Executive announced its Fresh Talent initiative. This initiative was established to encourage people to consider living and working in Scotland (Scottish Executive: A Place to Live and Work). As part of this initiative the [Fresh Talent: Working in Scotland scheme](#) was setup (Scotland is the Place). Under this scheme any non-EEA student graduating from a Scottish higher or further education institute with an HND, degree, masters or doctorate is eligible to apply for leave to remain for up to two years without requiring a work permit (Scottish Executive: A Place to Live and Work).

Higher Education Review

The Scottish Executive carried out a [Higher Education Review](#) which concluded in 2004. This review had three phases. The first phase looked at the past performance of SHEFC. The second phase looked at the future of higher education in Scotland, and set out the Executive's ten year higher education strategy in [A Framework for Higher Education in Scotland](#) (Scottish Executive, 2003). The third phase looked at the competitiveness of HE in Scotland.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

There are a number of other organisations and associations that provide services to, and support the work of, the HEIs in Scotland. These include:

[Universities Scotland](#) which exists to provide services to its members and to represent, promote and campaign for the Scottish higher education sector.

[UCAS](#) is a UK wide organisation that processes applications for entry to full-time first degrees, HNDs and university diplomas. The mission of UCAS is to promote a partnership between prospective students and universities and colleges.

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA) is an independent body funded by HEIs and funding bodies. The QAA works with higher education institutions to define academic standards and quality, and undertake reviews against these standards. QAA has a Scotland office whose work reflects the distinctive needs of higher education in Scotland.

ISSUES AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Review of college and HEI teaching funding methodologies

The SFC is currently reviewing of the effectiveness and fitness for purpose of its teaching funding methodologies. A consultation was issued in September 2006 and a set of funding principles that underpin the review were produced. An Advisory Group has been established and the SFC plans to consult on proposed changes during 2008 (SFC, 2007b).

Anticipated Primary Legislation: The Graduate Endowment Bill

At the meeting of the Parliament on 13 June 2007, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning announced her intention to introduce a Bill to repeal parts of the Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support)(Scotland) Act 2001 (“the Act”) in order to abolish the Graduate Endowment fee.

The [Consultation on the Abolition of the Graduate Endowment fee](#) (Scottish Executive 2007c) closes on the 7 September 2007. A list of consultees can be found in Annex 9.

In addition to establishing the Graduate Endowment, the Act also made provision for

- financial support for students on distance learning courses
- exemption of students from liability for council tax.

It is anticipated that the new legislation will repeal the parts of the Act that relate to the establishment of the Graduate Endowment but will not repeal the parts that relate to financial support and exemption from liability for council tax.

The Executive’s intention is that students who are about to graduate this summer, students who are currently at university, students who are about to enter university this autumn and all subsequent students will no longer have to pay the Graduate Endowment fee. It is anticipated that a Bill would be introduced at the end of October 2007 with provisional timings of:

- Stage 1 completed by the end of January 2008
- Stage 2 in February 2008
- Stage 3 completed by early March 2008.

The Scottish Skills Strategy

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning announced on 9 June that the Scottish Executive would develop a Skills Strategy for Scotland that would be ready within the first 100 days of the new administration.

The Scottish Skills Strategy is currently being developed by the Scottish Executive, taking into account the Leitch Review, the UK Government's response ['World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England'](#) (Department for Innovation, University and Skills, 2007) and the evidence from the [Scottish Executive Lifelong Learning Strategy consultation](#), which was completed in February 2007. The Skills Strategy is currently due to be published in early September 2007. It is intended that it will replace the previous administration's Lifelong Learning Strategy and act as a response to the Leitch review. It should be noted though that some of the Leitch recommendations listed above are aimed at reforming the English system and the specifics may not apply to the Scottish context, although the principles underlying the review do.

The Skills Strategy will be very broad-ranging, covering education and learning systems from early years to adulthood, setting out what Ministers want to achieve, with priorities and options. After the draft Strategy has been published in September, stakeholders will be consulted on how the Strategy can best be implemented (Scottish Executive, 2007e).

The New Administration

In addition to the announcement of the intention to abolish the Graduate Endowment fee, the following proposals were put forward in the SNP document ['It's Time to Look Forward: The First 100 Days of an SNP Government'](#) (SNP 2007):

- to prepare draft legislation to replace the current system of student loans with means-tested grants
- to bring forward detailed proposals for the Scottish Executive to service the existing debt of Scottish Domiciled students by meeting their annual student loan repayments as long as they are resident in Scotland
- An additional £10 million for cutting edge research and the creation of a Scottish Life Sciences Institute

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning stated on 13 June 2007 that detailed options for these proposals would be considered as part of the Spending Review (Scottish Executive, 2007d).

Statutory Instruments

A negative Statutory Instrument, to formally change the names of the recently merged Bell College and Paisley University to the University of the West of Scotland, is expected to be directed to the Education, Lifelong Learning and Culture Committee in Autumn 2007.

ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE LEGACY PAPER

As part of its [Legacy Papers](#), the Scottish Parliament Enterprise and Culture Committee (2007) highlighted a number of areas the new committee(s) may wish to consider as part of their early work programme. Regarding higher education the Committee suggested the following:

- a review of funding for part-time students in higher education
- a review of funding in higher education in particular given the issues with the Crichton campus, Dundee University, Strathclyde University etc⁶
- the forthcoming teaching funding methodology review of the SFC
- a review of post-graduate numbers in Scotland.
- post-legislative scrutiny of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students have a positive effect on the Scottish economy. In 2001-02 international students were estimated to be worth £370 million (Johnes, 2004). In 2004-05 there were over 10,000 students from other EU countries, and nearly 19,000 students from outside the EU attending Scottish HEIs. In 2004-05 the college sector attracted 4,300 international students

In March 2007 the Scottish Executive published [International Lifelong Learning: Scotland's contribution](#) (Scottish Executive, 2007a). This strategy aims to “*position Scotland as a world leader in international post-school education; and more widely to make Scotland a more attractive place to live, work and study in order to support economic growth*” (Scottish Executive, 2007d). It also aims to increase the economic value to Scotland from activities in international post-school education by 50% by 2012.

UK POLICY

On 1 July 1999, responsibility for education in Scotland passed to the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Executive is responsible for policy development, subject to parliamentary scrutiny. Administration of the Further Education and Higher Education sectors is now undertaken by the Scottish Executive Education Directorate.

On 28 June 2007, The UK Government's [Department for Children, Schools and Families](#) replaced the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) is responsible for improving the focus on all aspects of policy affecting children and young people.

In Wales the [Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills](#) has eight objectives as listed below:

- Promoting high expectations and performance for all learners and having effective regulation, inspection and support.
- Ensuring that all children and young people have a flying start in life and the best possible basis for their future growth and development.

⁶ This referred to the possible withdrawal of Glasgow University from Crichton campus (University of Glasgow, 2007) and potential job cuts at the University of Dundee (BBC, 2007a) and the University of Strathclyde (BBC, 2007b).

- Having properly accommodated, funded and well-governed education establishments which meet the demand for places, deliver high standards of education and offer facilities for the community.
- Promoting inclusion, reducing disadvantage and tackling poverty of educational opportunity.
- Ensuring that the education system in Wales has excellent practitioners who are supported and developed to deliver for learners.
- Funding and developing post-16 provision, aside from Higher Education, throughout Wales, with targeting of low (including basic), intermediate and high skill levels to enable more individuals, communities and employers to succeed in Wales.
- Securing high-quality higher education whilst maximising its economic, social and cultural impact on learners and the wider community.
- Delivering financial support to students and other learners in partnership with key stakeholders.

(Source: Welsh Assembly Government, 2007)

Some aspects of higher and further education are devolved to the Welsh Assembly. For example, institutional funding for higher education is devolved but funding for student support is not (DfES, 2003).

In Northern Ireland the [Department for Employment and Learning](#) (DELNI) is responsible for the policy, strategic development and financing of the statutory Further Education Sector. DELNI is also responsible for formulating policy and administering funding to support education, research and related activities in the Northern Ireland higher education sector.

EUROPEAN POLICY

Delivery of education and training in Member States is not an EU competence (see Articles 149 and 150 of the Treaty Establishing the European Community), and as such the European Community is required to limit itself to encouraging co-operation between Member States.

However co-operation between Member States is intended to contribute to the development of quality education (European Commission: Higher Education in Europe). This is, in part, achieved through the [Erasmus programme](#) which seeks to:

“enhance the quality and reinforce the European dimension of higher education by encouraging transnational cooperation between universities, boosting European mobility and improving the transparency and full academic recognition of studies and qualifications throughout the Union”

(European Commission: Erasmus)

Education and Training and the Lisbon Strategy

Following agreement of the Lisbon Strategy in 2000, Education ministers of the Member States agreed to adopt common objectives for the improvement of education and training systems and a work programme to achieve these objectives, known as the Education and Training 2010 programme. The programme is implemented through the Open Method of Coordination which

providing research and information services to the Scottish Parliament

encourages Member States to work together, and progress is measured through a series of indicators and benchmarks.

A [Communication from the Commission](#) entitled “A coherent framework of indicators and benchmarks for monitoring progress towards the Lisbon objectives in education and training” was published in February 2007. It identified “a new framework which fully reflects the political priorities of the Education & Training 2010 strategy as it has developed”. It proposed that for the future indicators and benchmarks are structured by reference to eight key policy domains identified within the strategy. These are:

- Improving equity in education and training
- Promoting efficiency in education and training
- Making lifelong learning a reality
- Key competencies among young people
- Modernising school education
- Modernising vocational education and training (the Copenhagen process)
- Modernising higher education (the Bologna process)
- Employability.

European Commission Communications have no binding force upon Member States and as such Member State participation is voluntary (McIver, 2007)

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SCQF TABLE OF MAIN QUALIFICATIONS

SCQF level	SQA National Units, Courses and Group Awards	Higher Education	Scottish Vocational Qualifications
12		Doctorates	
11		Masters	SVQ 5
10		Honours Degree Graduate Diploma/Certificate*	
9		Ordinary Degree Graduate Diploma/Certificate*	
8		Higher National Diploma Diploma in Higher Education	SVQ 4
7	Advanced Higher	Higher National Certificate Certificate in Higher Education	
6	Higher		SVQ 3
5	Intermediate 2 Credit Standard Grade		SVQ 2
4	Intermediate 1 General Standard Grade		SVQ 1
3	Access 3 Foundation Standard Grade		
2	Access 2		
1	Access 1		

* These qualifications are differentiated by volume of outcomes and may be offered at either level

Source: SCQF

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF HEIS IN SCOTLAND

[University of Aberdeen](#)
[University of Abertay Dundee](#)
[Bell College](#)
[University of Dundee](#)
[Edinburgh College of Art](#)
[University of Edinburgh](#)
[Glasgow Caledonian University](#)
[Glasgow School of Art](#)
[University of Glasgow](#)
[Heriot-Watt University](#)
[Napier University](#)
[The Open University in Scotland](#)
[University of Paisley](#)
[Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh](#)
[Robert Gordon University](#)
[Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama](#)
[University of St Andrews](#)
[University of Stirling](#)
[University of Strathclyde](#)
[UHI Millennium Institute](#)

Source: SFC

APPENDIX 3: INCOME OF HEIS IN SCOTLAND BY SOURCE (£'000S), 2005-06

Total income	2064336
Funding Council grants	854985
HE provision(#7)	
Recurrent grants (Teaching)	582395
Recurrent grants (Research)	187050
Recurrent grants (other)	67202
Release of deferred capital grants	18338
FE provision(#8)	0
Tuition fees & education grants & contracts	434585
Home & EU domicile	
Full-time HE fees	
Standard rates	173562
Non-standard rates	44885
Part-time HE fees	27619
Non-EU domicile	143896
Non-credit-bearing course fees	26623
Other fees & support grants	18000
Research grants & contracts	389220
OSI Research Councils	134298
UK based charities	91716
UK central government/local authorities, health & hospital authorities	71727
UK industry, commerce & public corporations	33352
EU sources	31810
Other overseas sources	19343
Other sources	6974
Other income - other services rendered	92974
UK central government/local authorities, health & hospital authorities, EU government bodies	32336
Other	60638
Other income - other	257346
Residences & catering operations (including conferences)	115562
Grants from local authorities	7
Income from health & hospital authorities (excluding teaching contracts for student provision)	20191
Release of deferred capital grants	11196
Income from intellectual property rights	4976
Other operating income	105414
Endowment & investment income	35226

Source: HESA (2007)

APPENDIX 4: SUMMARY OF SFC BUDGETS FOR HEIS FOR 2007-08 (£'000S)

Teaching	
Main Teaching Grant ¹	638,261
Part-time Incentive Premium	8,381
Widening Access Retention Premium	10,001
Scottish Teachers' Superannuation Scheme ²	3,012
Part-time Fee Waiver Scheme	2,468
Disabled Students Premium	2,438
Small Specialist Institution Supplementary Grant	1,374
Fee Anomalies Grant	750
Vision Sciences	250
Total teaching grants	666,935
Research and knowledge transfer	
Main Quality Research Grant	188,675
Strategic Research Development Grant ³	23,500
Research Postgraduate Grant	25,688
Knowledge Transfer Grant	19,086
Research Development Foundation Grant	3,081
ORSAS	1,720
Research Support Libraries Programme	850
Total research and knowledge transfer grants	262,600
Improvement	
Quality Enhancement	10,781
Mergers and Collaboration	7,000
Access and Participation	4,949
Skills and Employability	3,060
Strategic Change Grant (existing commitments)	952
Procurement	815
Scottish Leadership and Management	500
International Activities	500
Promotion of Knowledge Transfer	470
Sustainable Development Grant	150
Total improvement grants	29,150
Infrastructure	
Science Research Investment Fund ⁴	15,000
SuperJanet	2,000
Total infrastructure grants	17,000
Other	
Museums, Galleries and Collections Grant	1,097
Chief Executive's Discretionary Fund	300
RSAMD Junior Academy	305
Medical Academics	200
Sabhal Mór Ostaig	134
Marine Biology	118
Fees and Subscriptions	112
RDG Evaluation	35
Total other grants	2,301
Total all grants	977,986

¹ this budget continues to reflect the effects of the new tuition fee arrangements that have been in place from AY 2006-07

² this budget will be embedded into the unit of resource for teaching each year until AY 2009-10

³ includes existing commitments for strategic research funding.

⁴ this budget is based on FY 2007-08. OSI will also contribute a total of £73M to this grant line over FYs 2006-2008

Note: all figures are approximate and for budgetary purposes only

Source: SFC (2007f)

APPENDIX 5: SUMMARY OF SFC RING-FENCED AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR HEIS FOR 2007-08 (£'000S)

Ring-fenced grants	
SEHD Nursing Contract	13,718
Additional Places for PGCE	6,877
Additional Places for Social Work	2,253
Edinburgh Medical School Running Costs ¹	2,034
Additional Places for Undergraduate Dentistry	542
Additional Medical 'Calman' Places	276
Total ring-fenced grants	25,700
Capital	
Learning and Teaching Infrastructure Funding	75,000

1 this budget is based on FY 2007-08

Note: all figures are approximate and for budgetary purposes only

Source: SFC (2007f)

APPENDIX 6: STUDENT SUPPORT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

Table 1: Level of Student Loan Available for People Attending a Scottish Institution who Entered Higher Education on 2007-08 on a 30 Week Course

	If you are living in a hall of residence or in lodgings			If you are living in the parents' home		
(£)	Maximum loan	Income assessed part	Non income assessed part	Maximum* loan	Income assessed part	Non income assessed part
Full Year	4,400	3,530	870	3,485	2,910	575
Final year	3,820	3,075	745	3,045	2,585	460

*Young Students' Bursaries replace part of the loan support.

Source: SAAS

Table 2: Level of Young Students' Bursary

Income (£)	Assessed bursary (£)
18,360	2,510
19,000	2,398
20,000	2,222
21,000	2,047
22,000	1,871
23,000	1,696
24,000	1,521
25,000	1,345
26,000	1,170
27,000	994
28,000	819
29,000	643
30,000	468
31,000	292
32,000	117
32,515	50
33,000	0

Incomes over £32,515 do not qualify for the Young Students' Bursary.

Source: SAAS

APPENDIX 7: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE HEALTH DEPARTMENT BURSARY

Scottish Executive Health Department Bursary

The basic rates of income assessed bursary, for a course that lasts for 30 weeks are as follows:

- £1,775 for students living with their parents
- £2,335 for students living in a hall of residence or lodgings
- £2,875 for students who undertake their course in London

Extra payments are available for each week on the course over 30 weeks and three days. The amounts are as follows:

- £46 for students living with their parents
- £77 for students living in a hall of residence or lodgings
- £100 for students who undertake their course in London

Information on the income assessment can be found on the [SAAS](#) website.

Non Income assessed Loan

- £1,655 for students living with their parents
- £2,155 for students living in a hall of residence or lodgings
- £2,665 for students who undertake their course in London.

The loan covers 52 weeks from the first day of the academic year of your course, except in a final year of study for which there are special rates.

Source: SAAS

APPENDIX 8: GRADUATE ENDOWMENT RATES

Session	Graduate Endowment Rate (£)
2001-2002	2,000
2002-2003	2,030
2003-2004	2,092
2004-2005	2,154
2005-2006	2,216
2006-2007	2,289

Source: SAAS

APPENDIX 9: LIST OF CONSULTEES TO THE ABOLITION OF THE GRADUATE ENDOWMENT CONSULTATION

Association of Scotland's Colleges
Coalition of Higher Education Students in Scotland
Commission for Racial Equality
Convention of Scottish Local Authorities
Disability Rights Commission
Educational Institute of Scotland
Equal Opportunities Commission
Members of the Scottish Parliament
National Union of Students, Scotland
Open University
Principals of all Higher Education Institutions
Scottish Funding Council
Scottish Members of the European Parliament
Scottish Parliament Education and Lifelong Learning Committee
STUC Lifelong Learning Unit
Scottish Youth Parliament Education Committee
Student Awards Agency for Scotland
Student Loans Company
Students Union presidents at all Higher Education Institutions
Universities Scotland
University and College Union