



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education

Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba
A' brosnachadh foghlam adhartach agus àrd ìre

Circular

Review of Widening Access and Retention Premium for HEIs

22 January 2010

SFC/04/2010

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This circular announces a review of the Council's Widening Access and Retention Premium for HEIs in 2010.

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

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22 January 2010

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Review of Widening Access and Retention Premium for HEIs

Introduction

- 1 The Council introduced the Widening Access and Retention Premium (WARP) in 2007 to help higher education institutions (HEIs) to improve the retention rates of students from deprived backgrounds in Scotland, as these students are most at risk of non-continuation of their studies.
- 2 The Council has decided to review the WARP in 2010 as part of a wider review of its access and inclusion programme funding in colleges and universities, and also in the context of the introduction of New Horizon funding.
- 3 The purpose of the review will be to assess the impact of the WARP on the retention of target groups; to consider the case for retaining it, for amending it or replacing it; and to assess whether there would be better ways to achieve the Council's aim of supporting the higher education (HE) sector in retaining students from deprived areas.
- 4 Our aim for future investment through Horizon Funding will be to:
 - target resource where there is greatest need;
 - align resources to deliver the best return on investment;
 - refocus existing resources where appropriate; and
 - establish the clear outcomes and impacts to be delivered by programme funding.
- 5 Our approach will also recognise that institutions face different challenges in relation to widening access and retention, and the Council is committed to working with institutions to deliver demonstrable improvements in equality, access and inclusion.

Review process and timescale

- 6 We will carry out the review throughout 2010. The first stage will be to gather evidence and hold discussions with institutions, and to carry out some additional statistical analysis. We will also draw on relevant evidence from the Universities Scotland Student Retention project. We will consult with the sector throughout all stages of the review. The Council will reach a decision on the future of the premium in

December and changes will be implemented in the main teaching funding letter for academic year (AY) 2011-12.

Changes to the allocation of WARP in 2010-11

- 7 The original allocation of the WARP was designed to give higher levels of premium to institutions with the highest proportion of students from deprived areas, but most (19) HEIs received an allocation of some level. (Annex 1 shows the WARP allocations for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10). HEIs receiving more than £300,000 for AY 2007-08, and/or those whose share of WARP exceeded one per cent of the Council's total teaching grant were also required to share their WARP strategies with the Council and to provide annual reports on use, effectiveness and impact of the funding.
- 8 The allocation method has resulted in small allocations to institutions with proportionately low levels of recruitment of students from deprived backgrounds and with low drop-out rates. Because we want to prioritise the Horizon Fund for Universities (HFU) on where it can have most impact, our intention at the moment for AY 2010-11, is to remove the premium from four HEIs that have received small proportions of premium and have never been required to separately report on the grant. The HEIs affected are the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Heriot Watt and St Andrews.
- 9 We will discuss the impact of these proposed changes further with the four institutions affected before we finalise this decision, and will arrange meetings in February.

Guidance on Annual WARP Reports for 2010

- 10 The 12 institutions recruiting the highest levels of deprived students have been required to report annually on their use of the WARP and the impact it has had. In 2010, 15 institutions will continue to receive WARP and we ask all of these institutions to provide a report. This will include the existing 12 HEIs, plus three small specialist institutions, (Glasgow School of Art, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) and Edinburgh College of Art). Institutions are asked to ensure that their reports contain evidence on:
 - the extra activity supported by WARP since 2007; and
 - the impact of this additional activity and funding on retention rates among target groups.

- 11 We plan to supplement the institutional reports with analysis of the latest Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data on 2008-09 entrants to HEIs. The Council will send institutions their data in February 2010, and will ask you to indicate which 2008-09 entrants were retained in 2009-10. The Council will then analyse:
- the numbers of full-time and part-time 2008-09 entrants retained in 2009-10; and
 - the numbers of full-time and part-time 2008-09 entrants retained from deprived backgrounds in 2009-10.
- 12 We are extending the reporting deadline for WARP reports until 30 April 2010 to allow for the collection of the additional information, and because some institutions will be reporting for the first time. We will hold discussions with all institutions during May and June to discuss the reports and the review more generally. All of this evidence will inform the review.

Further information

- 13 For further information and advice please contact Alison Cook, Senior Policy Officer, Strategic Development Group, Tel: 0131 313 6685, email: acook@sfc.ac.uk, or Jonathan Gray, Assistant Director, Strategic Development, Group, Tel: 0131 313 6672, email: jgray@sfc.ac.uk.



MTS Batho
Chief Executive

Widening Access Retention Premium, 2008-09

Institution (1)	Scottish-domiciled undergraduate students, 2006-07 FTE (2)	Median deprivation percentile, 2006-07 (3)	Median deprivation percentile - 20 * student FTE (4)	Widening Access Retention Premium, 2008-09 £ (5)
Aberdeen, University of	6,322	26	37,934	226,000
Abertay Dundee, University of	2,516	44	60,378	359,000
Dundee, University of	7,603	37	129,259	769,000
Edinburgh College of Art	700	29	6,301	37,000
Edinburgh, University of	7,544	24	30,176	179,000
Glasgow Caledonian University	10,932	47	295,164	1,755,000
Glasgow School of Art	700	30	7,001	42,000
Glasgow, University of	11,992	30	119,925	713,000
Heriot-Watt University	3,210	31	35,306	210,000
Napier University	5,868	35	88,021	523,000
Open University in Scotland	5,223	44	125,349	745,000
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	2,253	36	36,054	214,000
Robert Gordon University	6,165	29	55,485	330,000
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	346	34	4,837	29,000
St Andrews, University of	2,091	23	6,274	37,000
Stirling, University of	4,984	39	94,692	563,000
Strathclyde, University of	10,720	35	160,804	956,000
UHI Millennium Institute	3,110	44	74,628	444,000
West of Scotland, University of	9,719	57	359,597	2,138,000
Total	101,998		1,727,185	10,269,000

Widening Access Retention Premium, 2009-10

Institution (1)	Scottish-domiciled undergraduate students, 2007-08 FTE (2)	Median deprivation percentile, 2007-08 (3)	Median deprivation percentile - 20 * student FTE (4)	Widening Access Retention Premium, 2009-10 £ (5)
Aberdeen, University of	6,274	27	43,920	258,000
Abertay Dundee, University of	2,484	41	52,155	307,000
Dundee, University of	7,433	36	118,925	700,000
Edinburgh College of Art	680	29	6,121	36,000
Edinburgh Napier University	6,375	37	108,369	638,000
Edinburgh, University of	7,536	24	30,144	177,000
Glasgow Caledonian University	11,301	47	305,116	1,796,000
Glasgow School of Art	675	32	8,096	48,000
Glasgow, University of	11,791	31	129,696	763,000
Heriot-Watt University	3,133	30	31,326	184,000
Open University in Scotland	5,073	44	121,756	717,000
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	2,230	35	33,457	197,000
Robert Gordon University	6,000	29	54,003	318,000
Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama	396	35	5,933	35,000
St Andrews, University of	2,049	23	6,148	36,000
Stirling, University of	4,831	38	86,963	512,000
Strathclyde, University of	10,826	35	162,387	956,000
UHI Millennium Institute	4,415	45	110,364	650,000
West of Scotland, University of the	9,599	58	364,770	2,147,000
Total	103,100		1,779,651	10,475,000

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