



Scottish Funding Council

Promoting further and higher education

SCOTTISH FUNDING COUNCIL
LEADING, INSPIRING, INVESTING:
MAKING SCOTLAND THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD
TO LEARN, EDUCATE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATE



INTRODUCTION

Scotland is one of the most highly educated countries in the world, renowned for its science and research excellence, and its ability to attract talent and investment. We are an ambitious nation, keen to translate our learning, knowledge and skills into sustainable and inclusive economic growth, creating opportunity, prosperity and wellbeing for everyone.

We are the birthplace of the Enlightenment, and a nation with a long and proud tradition of valuing learning and education as an essential part of a thriving social, cultural and civic life, and fundamental to our ability to flourish as individuals.

Our leading thinkers, researchers, inventors, writers, artists and performers continue to influence others across the globe, and to interpret, shape, and improve the world around us.

DELIVERING AS PART OF TEAM SCOTLAND

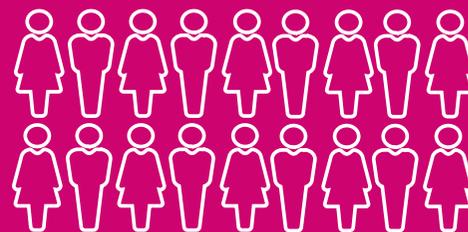
Everything we do is set within the context of the Scottish Government's objectives for tertiary education, science, research and innovation, and, given the breadth of our mission, within the context of Scotland's National Performance Framework where we deliver against each of the 11 National Outcomes. We have also built our framework on the foundations of the Enterprise and Strategic Board's vision of an inclusive, sustainable economy.



SFC WILL BE A CHAMPION FOR OUR INSTITUTIONS, OUR STUDENTS, OUR ECONOMY AND OUR CULTURE



**WE INVEST
£1.8BN
IN SCOTLAND'S
26 COLLEGES,
17 UNIVERSITIES AND
2 SMALL, SPECIALIST
INSTITUTIONS**



**WE SUPPORT ALMOST
500,000
STUDENTS EACH YEAR**

**OUR RESEARCH
EXCELLENCE GRANT
HELPS TO GENERATE
ALMOST**

**£800M
OF ADDITIONAL
RESEARCH
INCOME**



**OVER THE PAST 10 YEARS
WE HAVE INVESTED £1.8BN
IN COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY ESTATES**



OUR PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

WE WANT SCOTLAND TO BE THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO LEARN, EDUCATE, RESEARCH AND INNOVATE, SO THAT ALL OF OUR NATION CAN FLOURISH.

OUR PURPOSE: to create and sustain a world-leading system of tertiary education, research and innovation that changes lives for the better, enriches society, and supports sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

OUR CORE OBJECTIVES:

1 To invest in education that is accessible to learners from all backgrounds, gives them a high-quality learning experience, supports them to succeed in their studies, and equips them to flourish in employment, further study and fulfilling lives.

2 To invest in excellent research and innovation that adds to current knowledge, delivers economic and societal value, enhances Scotland's international reputation and attractiveness, and makes the world around us prosperous, healthier and more sustainable.

3 To ensure our autonomous colleges, universities and specialist institutions form part of a successful, world-leading, coherent and sustainable system of education that responds effectively to the future needs of learners and the skills needs of the economy and society, enhances our rich cultural life, and strengthens Scotland's international connections.

4 To be an excellent, outcome-focused public body that provides leadership, inspires confidence, models collaborative working, is committed to continuous improvement, and stewards public resources well.

BUILDING ON OUR STRENGTHS



Four universities in the top 200 in the world (per head of population only Switzerland achieves better).



Our small specialist institutions (Glasgow School of Art and the Royal Conservatoire Scotland) are ranked in the top 20 for art & design and performing arts respectively.



Scotland has the highest average number of citations per researcher, 27% ahead of nearest comparator country and 63% ahead of the UK average (between 2007-2015).



Our colleges work closely with our schools to ensure a more seamless learner journey, with 5,216 senior phase pupils studying vocational qualifications delivered by colleges in 2017-18, an increase of 13.5% from the previous year.



Eight world-leading Innovation Centres established, developing new ways to bring the knowledge and expertise of our academics to the forefront of business improvement.



High levels of student satisfaction with our colleges, universities and specialist institutions.



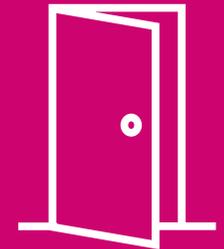
Nearly half of Scotland's population qualified at levels equivalent to Higher National Certificate (HNC) and above.



Six of our colleges in the top 10 – and two ranked in first place for the last five years – for WorldSkills UK.



Our universities are attractive to international students, welcoming nearly 55,000 each year from overseas.



Increasing numbers of people from deprived areas accessing further and higher education.

ECONOMIC IMPACT



OVER
200,000
STUDENTS QUALIFY FROM OUR
TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS ANNUALLY



THE VALUE OF EXPORTS
FROM TERTIARY
INSTITUTIONS IS VALUED
AT APPROXIMATELY
£1.7BN

OUR TERTIARY
INSTITUTIONS DIRECTLY
EMPLOY ALMOST

50,000
STAFF



OUR TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS
GENERATE TOTAL INCOME OF
£4.5BN



INVESTMENT IN R&D FROM
SCOTLAND'S UNIVERSITIES
WAS APPROXIMATELY
£1BN IN 2017



AROUND
20,000
CONTRACTS ANNUALLY
FOR KNOWLEDGE
EXCHANGE WITH
SCOTTISH
ORGANISATIONS

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IMPACT



- Foster **citizenship, creativity** and open debate.
- Generate **intellectual and artistic impacts** that matter in their own right for human flourishing.
- International connections bring a **richness and cultural diversity** to Scotland.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUTURE

Against the backdrop of a slowing economy, advances in technology will drive changes in job roles and skills needs and the way we live our lives. We will also see profound impacts from climate change. We expect global competition to grow while at the same time we are challenged with managing regional inequalities. Preparing to leave the EU adds to this uncertainty. This is why our education system is so important to our future success – to prepare people for the changes to come and to help people of all ages learn, re-skill and up-skill throughout their lives.

FUTURE FOCUS

We will continue to give a high priority to promoting wider access to, and participation in, tertiary education; meeting our targets for learning provision; providing expert and effective stewardship of public funds;

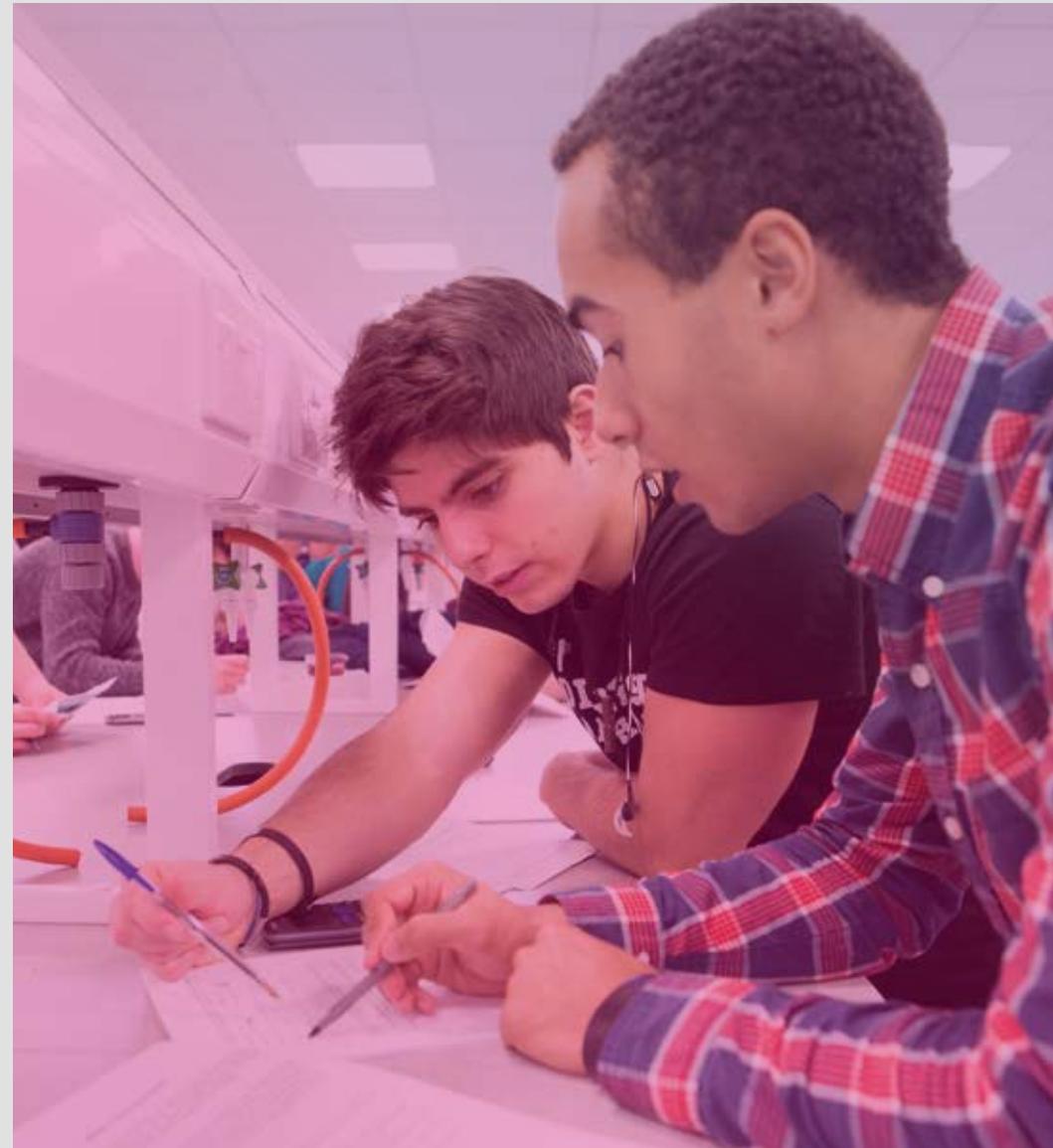
championing equality and diversity, student engagement and voice; supporting research excellence and innovation; and contributing to the achievement of national outcomes.

In order to seize the opportunities and address the challenges, and better influence our funding and policy context, we will bring a new focus in 10 areas:

1. **FUTURE PROOFING:** tracking and understanding, at UK, European and international levels, what will shape the future for our learners and the world of work.
2. **SYSTEM DESIGN:** creating greater opportunities for our tertiary institutions to consider with us how to deliver stretching outcomes within tight public funding settlements.
3. **CHAMPIONING LEARNERS:** challenging institutions to be more responsive to students across all aspects of their learner journey, ensuring they feel equipped for the next stage of their lives.
4. **HIGH QUALITY LEARNING:** sharpening our focus on enhancing quality, building even deeper engagement with learners and our quality enhancement agencies in order to support student success.
5. **FUTURE SKILLS:** working more closely with Skills Development Scotland and our tertiary institutions to develop a more dynamic, responsive skills ecosystem that helps to create an adaptive, resilient and future-proofed workforce.
6. **ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS:** setting a new pace around our contribution to the Enterprise & Skills Strategic Board, particularly on skills alignment, exports and innovation and our role in regional economic partnerships.
7. **PROMOTING SCOTTISH INTERESTS WITHIN THE REST OF THE UK:** strengthening our relationship with UKRI to protect and promote Scotland's scientific, research and innovation interests; and with the Office for Students, quality assessors and data collectors across other parts of the UK.
8. **INTERNATIONAL FOCUS:** developing our European and international capabilities to mitigate the potential impact of Brexit, creating the conditions for success overseas and enhancing Scotland's ability to attract and retain talent and investment, while recognising the importance of an internationalised student body and curriculum.

We use "tertiary" to include further and higher education; provision by colleges, universities and specialist institutions; or qualifications that are level 7 and higher in the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF)

9. **ENHANCED ANALYSIS:** improving our data, digital and analytical capability to make better use of the data we collect, improving its currency and sharing it more openly to help shape policies and accelerate better implementation of coherent and connected pathways for learners.
10. **COMMUNICATION:** communicating better the work we do and the contribution our sectors make to the economic, social and cultural life of Scotland and beyond.





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