

Conditions of University Outcome Agreement Funding

1. Grant funding is provided to allow universities to deliver their outcome agreements under the terms of Section 5 of the Further and Higher Education (Scotland) Act 2005.
2. Governing bodies and their designated officers must comply with the terms of the Financial Memorandum (FM) between the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Higher Education Institutions.
3. Universities must have regard to public sector pay policy set by Scottish Ministers.
4. Universities are required to comply with any principles of governance which appear to SFC to constitute good practice in relation to such bodies. Regional strategic bodies receiving grant funding from SFC are required, when making payments to any institution assigned to it, to impose this condition on the institution.
5. All funded provision must be of satisfactory quality, in line with SFC guidance.
6. If the Scottish Government revises its grant funding to SFC, we reserve the right to make in-year adjustments to university funding. In this case, SFC would renegotiate the terms of its outcome agreement with the university.
7. Where appropriate, universities must provide data returns requested by SFC to the deadlines and standards specified. Relevant guidance can be found on the SFC website.
8. Where a university is in receipt of European Social Funding (ESF) it must follow and adhere to ESF guidance / requirements.
9. The funding outlined in this announcement is subject to the agreement of your outcome agreement for 2018-19.

Tuition fees

10. Where applicable, universities must charge student tuition fees at the levels set by Scottish Ministers under either the Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2006 or the Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2011, whichever is applicable. Under the 2005 Act, regional strategic bodies receiving grants from SFC are required, when making payments to any institution assigned to it, to impose this condition on the institution. However:

- The tuition fee levels set by Scottish Ministers under the Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2006 does not apply to students who do not have a relevant connection with the United Kingdom and Islands or are not excepted students within the meaning of the Education (Fees and Awards) (Scotland) Regulations 2007.
- The tuition fee levels set by Scottish Ministers under the Student Fees (Specification) (Scotland) Order 2011 do not apply to students who do not have a relevant connection with Scotland or are not excepted students within the meaning of the Education (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2011, but any tuition fees charged to students from the rest of the United Kingdom (rUK) must not exceed £9,250 per year.

Funded places

11. Universities should fill the target number of funded student places that SFC provides. We may recover funding if universities under-enrol or over-recruit, subject to the tolerance thresholds set out in paragraphs 12 to 18 below.

Under-enrolment policy

Non-controlled subjects

12. The tolerance threshold for under-enrolment against funded student places in non-controlled areas will normally be 2%, subject to the terms of the outcome agreement. This threshold applies to total funded places – for Scots, European Union (EU) and any continuing rUK students – within non-controlled price groups.

Controlled subjects

13. The tolerance threshold for under-enrolment against funded student places in controlled areas is 3%. This threshold applies to funded student places – for Scots, EU and any continuing rest of UK (rUK) students – at a course level for controlled subjects.

Consolidation (over-recruitment) policy

14. Universities should not exceed their student numbers for consolidation, for non-controlled and controlled subjects, by more than the tolerances set out below. The purpose of this condition of grant is to ensure that universities conform to the Scottish Government's consolidation policy by limiting the numbers of full-time (and sandwich) undergraduate students eligible for funding across all years.

Non-controlled subjects

15. In AY 2018-19, the penalty for breach of consolidation for non-controlled subjects will be withdrawal of part of the Main Teaching Grant equivalent to the estimated tuition fee income generated by the student numbers in excess of a 10% threshold. As the control will cover Scots and EU students only, the level of this income will be based on the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) fee.

Controlled subjects

16. For the controlled subjects of Initial Teacher Education, Medicine, and Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education, universities will be liable for a penalty if they exceed their indicative number by 10% or 10 FTE places (whichever is larger).
17. For the controlled subject of Dentistry, universities will be liable for a penalty if they exceed their indicative number by 5%.
18. The control covers Scots, EU and rUK students. The penalty per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) in breach of consolidation is the tuition fee for Scots / other EU students and the subject price for rUK students based on the breakdown of student numbers in excess of the threshold.

Additional funded places

19. We will continue to monitor the use of additional funded student places awarded for specific purposes to ensure that these places are being fully utilised. Where additional funded places have been unfilled, we will consider re-allocating these places and / or we may recover funding if universities under-enrol.

Articulation (Associate Student Scheme)

20. Universities should follow the requirements of the scheme as set out in the original Articulation [Guidance](#) and [FAQ](#) documents. Universities should be undertaking a joint recruitment process with colleges and ensure that there is sufficient support for students through their studies at college to ensure that articulation takes place. We expect 75% of funding for those years in which activity is delivered in colleges to be transferred from universities to colleges.

Taught Postgraduate

21. SFC is providing full funding (including the fee element) for a set number of additional Taught Postgraduate Skills and Innovation Centre places. Universities should ensure students who are eligible for these places have their fees waived.

22. There is no tolerance threshold for the additional Articulation or Taught Postgraduate places.

Research funding

23. Universities must use Research Excellence Grant (REG) funding for research purposes only; targeting their REG allocations predominantly on world-leading and internationally-excellent research.
24. Research Postgraduate Grant (RPG) funding should be used to address Scottish Government priorities relating to university-industry collaboration and the exploitation of research, and entrepreneurial and employability skills of graduates.

Global Challenges Research Funding

25. Global Challenges Research Funding (GCRF) allocations are conditional upon universities submitting satisfactory research strategies, setting out their intended use of this funding over the next three years.

University Innovation Fund

26. SFC is continuing to work with a small number of institutions to finalise their University Innovation Fund (UIF) plans for AY 2018-19. The retention of UIF allocations for AY 2018-19 is conditional on the submission of a satisfactory UIF plan.

Strategic funding

27. Strategic grant funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is provided. Universities must adhere to the requirements and any specific conditions of grant as detailed in each strategic project's letter of grant.

Capital funding

Capital / Maintenance Grant

28. Capital Maintenance Grant funding must be used for estates build / maintenance and / or debt servicing associated with capital developments. All expenditure should be aligned to a university's estate strategy.
29. Capital funding for SRUC for very high priority backlog maintenance must be used for the purpose for which it was allocated; that is, to address very high priority backlog maintenance requirements informed by the estate condition survey.

30. Universities are required to demonstrate how these funds contribute towards Scottish Government wider strategic priorities. SFC will shortly be consulting with the sector on how this condition can best be met.

SFC / DBEIS Research Capital

31. Research Capital funding from SFC and the UK Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) should be used to enable universities to focus on maintaining excellent departments with the critical mass to compete globally and the expertise to work closely with business, charities and public services. All expenditure should be aligned to a university's estate strategy. SFC will be updating its reporting requirements for this funding stream shortly.

Failure to adhere to these conditions

32. If a university does not deliver its outcome agreement and the targets set out within it, or does not meet any other conditions of grant (including those set out in this document), SFC will consider the clawback of grant and / or reductions in future funding.