



# SFC Announcement

## Fee anomalies grant for universities in academic year 2018-19

Issue date: 10 July 2018

Reference: SFC/AN/11/2018

Summary: The purpose of this announcement is to describe how the fee anomalies grant will operate in academic year 2018-19.

FAO: Principals and directors of Scotland's universities

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## Fee anomalies grant for universities in academic year (AY) 2018-19

### Background

1. We recognise that anomalies in fee income may arise because, although our teaching funding method assumes a certain fee income per full-time equivalent (FTE) undergraduate (UG), there are some full-time UG courses where this fee assumption will not match up to what is actually received by the university. We will, therefore, provide fee compensation to Scottish universities for shortfalls arising from the following anomalies:
  - Accelerated courses that do not attract appropriate tuition fee support.
  - Non-postgraduate courses, where institutions' receipt of tuition fees is less than the fee rate assumed by us in our teaching funding model.
  - Outgoing rest of UK (RUK) ERASMUS (European Community Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students) students who started their course at Scottish Universities before AY 2012-13.
  - SFC '2+2' articulation places funded where institutions' receipt of tuition fees for students enrolled in a college is less than the £1,820 fee rate assumed by the SFC articulation model.
  - For outgoing rest of UK students who started their course at Scottish Universities from AY 2012-13 who undertake their ERASMUS year abroad in AY 2018-19.
2. In AY 2018-19, we will align the articulation fee compensation claims deadline with the other Fee anomalies deadline. This will mean that the claim related to AY 2017-18 should be submitted in August 2018, while the claim related to AY 2018-19 should be submitted in June 2019. (Full details below).
3. The budget for the fee anomalies grant has been increased to £1.93 million for AY 2018-19. If total claims for fee anomalies exceed this budget, we will reduce our payments accordingly. However we anticipate that this budget will be sufficient to meet the claims that we expect to receive in AY 2018-19.

### Claiming fee anomaly compensation

4. We will consider claims from Scottish universities for fee anomaly compensation in cases where:
  - You have introduced accelerated course provision and are unable to obtain fee support through the normal channels.
  - There are shortfalls in funding resulting from anomalies in the eligibility of full-time non-postgraduate courses to charge full tuition fees.

5. As the claims may vary in nature for fee anomalies listed in paragraph four above, as in previous years there is no standard claim form. A covering letter outlining the nature of the claim, signed by the university's Registrar/Director of Planning (or equivalent) along with supporting documentation will be sufficient.

### **Additional articulation places scheme for partnership between colleges and universities**

6. SFC is funding 4,449 FTE for articulation routes in AY 2018-19. These places are used to support provision based on the '2+2' model of articulation where recruitment has been to a guaranteed place on a degree course at university.
7. The scheme has been designed so that students enrol on a degree programme, but will spend one or two years at college in the first instance. We are aware that this has not always been the case; if a lower fee than anticipated has been received as a result of the student being enrolled on an HNC/D programme rather than a degree, then we will compensate the universities for the shortfall in fees at a maximum of £535 per FTE.
8. As in previous years, institutions should write to us with the number of students enrolled on this programme in AY 2017-18 who are attracting a lower fee, detailing the appropriate amount of fee compensation. Claims should be sent by the University Registrar/Director of Planning (or equivalent) to Caroline Leburn ([cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk)) by 17 August 2018. Subject to confirmation of this data, we intend to pay the shortfall of fees in September 2018.
9. Additionally, this year we would like to align the two different Fee Anomalies claims deadlines so that all claims relating to one academic year are submitted at the same time. Hence, institutions should also write to us in June 2019 with the number of students enrolled on this programme in AY 2018-19 who are attracting a lower fee, detailing the appropriate amount of fee compensation. Claims should be sent by the University Registrar/Director of Planning (or equivalent) to Caroline Leburn ([cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk)) by 7 June 2019. Subject to confirmation of this data, we intend to pay the shortfall of fees in July/August 2019.

### **ERASMUS fee compensation/funding**

#### ***Background***

10. ERASMUS fee compensation is open to outgoing students who spend a full year abroad under the ERASMUS scheme and who ordinarily satisfy the conditions laid down by the Students Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) or the appropriate local authority for eligibility for tuition fees support. Institutions are not able to claim fee compensation for students who are ineligible to claim fee

support because of previous study.

11. You should note that we only provide compensation for students taking part in the ERASMUS exchange programme, which operates with the European Union, the European Economic Area, and the Candidate Countries. We do not provide fee compensation for students taking part in other exchange programmes.
12. Starting in AY 2016-17, following a review from the Scottish Government and SFC, a new system was provisionally introduced by the Scottish Government to allow Scottish universities to receive a maximum rate of £1,820 per FTE from SFC and additionally for Scottish universities to charge RUK students who started on their course on or after 1 September 2012 on their ERASMUS year abroad 15% of the cost of the maximum full-time tuition fee rate (capped at £9,000 per year in AY 2016-17, increasing to £9,250 for AY 2017-18). This funding compensation is in recognition of the costs incurred by host universities in teaching and supporting incoming European students and to encourage student mobility. This arrangement will continue for AY 2018-19.
13. The Student Loans Company confirmed that all of the devolved administrations agreed to amend their legislation from AY 2016-17 to enable their students, studying at Scottish universities, to apply for a student loan to cover up to 15% of the cost of the full-time equivalent fee (capped at £9,250 per year for AY 2018-19) when on their ERASMUS exchange year.

#### ***ERASMUS claim form (SFC funded portion)***

14. As in previous years please use the claim form at Annex A to make your ERASMUS claim.
15. Please do not include the names or other personal details of the students you are claiming for, as this could contravene data protection legislation.

#### **Conditions of grant**

16. The following conditions of grant apply:
  - The claim should be signed by the institution's Registrar/Director of Planning, or equivalent, to confirm they are content with the validity of your claim. The return of a claim will be taken as an acceptance of the condition of grant.
  - We reserve the right to scrutinise the documentation relied upon to complete the claim in order to verify its integrity.
  - Institutions are required to use all grant paid for the purpose for which it is provided.
  - SFC provides funding to Scottish universities based on the numbers of RUK outgoing students on their ERASMUS year abroad at the maximum rate of £1,820 per FTE.

- Scottish universities can only charge RUK students who started their course on or after 1 September 2012 on their ERASMUS year abroad 15% of the cost of the maximum full-time tuition fee rate (currently £9,250 per year).

### Completion and timescale of returns

17. Articulation claims for 2017-18 should be sent to Caroline Leburn ([cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk)) by Friday 17 August 2018.
18. All other fee anomalies and/or RUK ERASMUS claims, for 2018-19, should be sent by Friday 7 June 2019 to Caroline Leburn ([cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk)).
19. Articulation claims for 2018-19 should also be sent by Friday 7 June 2019 to Caroline Leburn ([cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk)).
20. For AY 2019-20 onwards, there should be only one deadline for all types of Fee Anomalies claim, in June 2020. Full details for 2019-20 will be provided in summer 2019.

### Further information

21. For further information please contact Caroline Leburn, tel: 0131 313 6627, email: [cleburn@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:cleburn@sfc.ac.uk).



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