



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Updated estimates of non-EU international student fee income for AY 2020-21

SFC Call for Information

Issue Date: 12 January 2021

Updated estimates of non-EU international student fee income and student accommodation income for AY 2020-21

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Reference: SFC/CI/01/2021

Summary: This Call for information requests institutions to provide updated estimates of non-EU international student fee income and student accommodation income for Academic Year 2020-21.

FAO: Principals, Finance Directors and Board Secretaries of Scotland's universities

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Updated estimates of non-EU international student fee income and student accommodation income for Academic Year 2020-21

Purpose

1. This Call for Information requests institutions to provide updates of estimated non-EU international student fee income and student accommodation income for Academic Year (AY) 2020-21.

Background

Financial monitoring framework

2. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, universities provided two main financial returns to SFC in the course of the year:
 - Forecasts submitted at the end of June (outturn forecast for the current year and forecasts for the following three years).
 - Annual accounts submitted at the end of December (audited financial statements and supporting reports by institutions' audit committee, internal and external auditors).
3. As result of the COVID-19 pandemic, SFC requested institutions to provide additional financial returns, comprising updated forecasts for 2019-20 and 2020-21, by the end of April and the end of July 2020. These replaced the main 2020 Strategic Plan Forecast return. Institutions also provided updated financial forecasts at the end of November 2020.

International student fee income

4. We asked institutions to provide, by 28 October 2020, updated non-EU international student fee forecast data for 2019-20 and 2020-21 to contribute to an assessment of the overall level of support available to individual institutions through the UK Government Sustaining University Research Expertise (SURE) Fund.
5. We advised that we would be requesting a further update by the end of January 2021. Following discussions with Universities Scotland, and in light of the Scottish Government announcement on 8 January 2021 of changes to the earlier guidance on phased return of students to campus, we are now asking institutions to provide this further updated forecast by **18 January 2021**. While we acknowledge that the situation remains very fluid, the data requested will inform Scottish Government of the current position.

Student accommodation income

6. We are also asking institutions to provide updated forecasts for student accommodation income which will help us to get a picture of income reductions arising from potential shortfalls in international student recruitment and/or increased online teaching.

Other updates

7. We know that international tuition fee income and student accommodation income are particular areas where institutions are likely to experience significant fluctuations. Where relevant, it would be helpful if institutions could also highlight any other anticipated material changes to income or expenditure since the submission of the Strategic Plan Forecast in November 2020.
8. I would therefore be grateful if you could complete the template in Annex A and return it to SFC by 18 January 2021.

Proposed data collection arrangements

9. The following table provides details of the proposed data collection arrangements for the remainder of AY 2020-21.

Date	Return
16 April 2021	2021 Strategic Plan Forecast (high level) covering period to 2022-23.
30 June 2021	2021 Strategic Plan Forecast (detailed) covering period to 2022-23.

10. Please note that it is possible that some of the above dates may be subject to change while additional data returns cannot be ruled out as a result of the continuing evolving picture. We currently plan to revert to a regular data collection routine towards the end of 2020-21 but will continue to liaise closely with finance directors concerning the format and timing of future financial returns. Thank you for providing the additional financial returns over recent months.

Information requested

11. Please email an electronic copy of the return to isg-returns@sfc.ac.uk by **18 January 2021**.

Further information

12. Please contact Andrew Millar, Assistant Director, Finance (Tel: 0131 313 6538; email: amillar@sfc.ac.uk) to discuss any aspect of this letter.

L. MacDonald

Lorna MacDonald
Director of Finance

Updated financial forecast data for Academic Year 2020-21

	Forecast Nov 2020 SPF (£000)	Forecast Jan 2021 (£'000)	Commentary
Total non-EU international student fee income (Headings 1d,1e and 1f of SPF income worksheet)			Please provide an explanation for any significant movement between current and previous forecast.
Residences, catering and conferences income (Heading 4a of SPF income worksheet)			Please provide an explanation for any significant movement between current and previous forecast.
Estimated cost of refunds to students included above			Please provide details of your policy on refunds for student accommodation during January & February 2021 as a result of the phased return to campus.
Other – please describe			Please provide an explanation for any significant movement between current and previous forecast.
Other – please describe			Please provide an explanation for any significant movement between current and previous forecast.
Other – please describe			Please provide an explanation for any significant movement between current and previous forecast.