



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

Funding for College and University Students' Associations 2020-21

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 27 January 2021

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Reference: SFC/AN/01/2021

Summary: Announcement of additional funding in Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 for college and university students' associations and unions.

FAO: Principals/Directors, Finance Directors, Chairs and Board Secretaries of Scotland's colleges and universities.

Further information: **Contact:** Fiona Burns
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Funding for Students' Associations and Unions

Summary

1. I am writing to confirm the allocation of funding to provide additional support for students' associations and unions in colleges and universities in Financial Year (FY) 2020-21. This funding has been provided by the Scottish Government.
2. This announcement compliments the additional funding for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing support which was published on 18 December 2020¹. This guidance encourages institutions to work closely with their students' associations in developing and providing mental health support for their students and to co-create services where possible.

Purpose of funding

3. This funding is for college and university students' associations to provide support for students in colleges and universities. This additional funding should not displace any support to the students' association that is currently being provided by the institution.
4. Students' associations, as the legally representative voice of students, are uniquely placed and "critical not just in embedding student voice at the heart of the system, but also in building healthy, connected communities"² in order that students can identify their own needs, represent their interests and bring about the changes they want to see to enhance learning and improve mental health and wellbeing support.
5. SFC is committed to flexibility in the use of this additional funding for students' associations. Each students' association's needs and circumstances at this time are different, and this funding should be used where it will have the greatest impact for your students. Examples of how you may wish to use this funding include (but are not limited to):
 - The building of safe online student communities to encourage contact, support learning, facilitate connections and the feeling of being part of the wider student community.
 - Increasing membership engagement in order that students' views can continue to be heard. Finding new ways to help members engage with each other and the institution is always important in order to maintain the vitality of the association.

¹ Guidance: <http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications-statistics/announcements/2020/SFCAN212020.aspx>

² <https://www.collegecommission.co.uk/the-scottish-college-of-the-future>

- The communication of public health and wellbeing messages to their members.
 - Building expertise and capacity of students' associations by investing in staff. We recognise that even the best student' associations are unlikely to deliver impact without a staff team to support them and without the right reporting structures in place.
 - Mental health and wellbeing support for students. These funds can supplement the additional institutional Funding for Student Mental Health and Wellbeing 2020-21 announced in December 2020.
6. We recognise the excellent work that is already taking place in students' associations at this time, and that you may already have some of the above actions in place. The purpose of this funding is to further support students' associations to enhance the help they can offer students and to allow this to be expanded where needed.
 7. Funds have also been allocated by Scottish Government to NUS Scotland. Their role is to offer specialist advice to students' associations on the co-ordination of activities, to promote good practice, and to draft an outcomes based report to Scottish Government and SFC setting out how associations have used the additional resources to support students.
 8. The total funding to be received by the college and university sectors in FY 2020-21 is £730,250.

Funding allocations

9. The allocations to institutions are based on a £2,000 flat rate per association or union, and the total number of students (part-time and full-time) studying at FE and HE level by headcount.
10. There are two exceptions in the college sector: Newbattle Abbey College and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO). Newbattle Abbey College does not have a students' association, however it does have a Student Representative Council and has been allocated £250. SMO will receive funding through the UHI Student Association (HISA) upon which it has the representation. The exception in the university sector is The Open University in Scotland which will receive the £2,000 flat rate. This is because they have a UK-wide Students' Association and a well-developed staffing support and online platforms to support their students.
11. A breakdown of funding for individual colleges/regions and universities is shown in **Annex A**.

Conditions of funding

12. This funding must only be used for the purpose for which it is being allocated; that is, for the provision of additional support for college and university students' associations. SFC retains the right to audit relevant institutional documentation to satisfy itself that this is the case and the institution undertakes that it will provide such assistance as SFC reasonably requires.
13. College and university students' associations should liaise with NUS Scotland which will compile a report on the use of funds and outcome for the Scottish Government and SFC. Students' associations must provide NUS Scotland with summary reports by **31 July 2021**. The report will cover affiliated and non-affiliated student associations and will detail the effectiveness of the investment and the impact it has created.

Payment of funds

14. Funding for universities and non-incorporated colleges will be paid in two equal instalments in February and March 2021. Incorporated colleges should draw down funding from their allocations, as required, over the same period.

Acceptance of grant

15. Institutions are invited to formally accept this offer of funding by writing to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting & Reporting Officer, email: gscotland@sfc.ac.uk by **Friday 5 February 2021**.

Further information

16. Should you require any further information, please contact Fiona Burns, Assistant Director - Access & Outcomes, email: fburns@sfc.ac.uk or Nick Stansfeld, Policy/Analysis Officer, email: nstansfeld@sfc.ac.uk.



Lorna MacDonald
Director of Finance

Breakdown of funding for individual colleges/regions and universities

Colleges/Regions	Total funding allocation*
Ayrshire College	£21,000
Borders College	£8,000
Dumfries & Galloway College	£9,000
Dundee & Angus College	£24,000
Edinburgh College	£36,000
Fife College	£41,000
Forth Valley College	£20,000
Glasgow Region	£78,000
Highlands & Islands Region***	£49,000
Lanarkshire Region	£29,000
Newbattle Abbey College	£250**
North East Scotland College	£31,000
SRUC****	£11,000
West College Scotland	£33,000
West Lothian College	£11,000
Total	£401,250
<p>*Numbers rounded to the nearest £1,000. **Numbers rounded to nearest £250. *** Sabhal Mòr Ostaig is included as they are represented on the UHI Student Association (HISA). Funding also includes UHI's HE students. **** Includes funding for SRUC's HE students.</p>	

Universities	Total funding allocation*
Aberdeen, University of	£21,000
Abertay University	£8,000
Dundee, University of	£23,000
Edinburgh Napier University	£20,000
Edinburgh, University of	£47,000
Glasgow Caledonian University	£24,000
Glasgow School of Art	£5,000
Glasgow, University of	£42,000
Heriot-Watt University	£16,000
Highlands & Islands, University of the**	-
Open University Scotland	£2,000
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	£9,000
Robert Gordon University	£18,000
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	£4,000
SRUC**	-
St Andrews, University of	£16,000
Stirling, University of	£18,000
Strathclyde, University of	£32,000
West of Scotland, University of the	£24,000
Total	£329,000
* Numbers rounded to the nearest £1,000.	
** Funding for UHI's and SRUC's HE students are included within the college/region allocation.	