



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## **Intake Targets for Medicine AY 2021-22**

**SFC Announcement**

Issue Date: 6 April 2021

## Intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for AY 2021-22

Issue date: 6 April 2021

Reference: SFC/AN/15/2021

Summary: Announcement of intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year (AY) 2021-22.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's universities

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## Contents

Intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year 2021-22.....	4
Purpose .....	4
Background .....	4
Key changes in AY 2021-22.....	4
Intake targets.....	4
Widening Access places.....	5
Deferrals and appeals .....	5
Scottish Domicile policy.....	5
European Union students.....	6
Intake targets.....	6
COVID-19 impacts.....	6
Funding and funded places .....	7
Further information.....	7
Table 1: Intake targets for the Scottish Medical Schools for AY 2021-22.....	8

## **Intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year 2021-22**

### **Purpose**

1. I am writing to announce the academic year (AY) 2021-22 intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine. This is set out in Table 1 below.

### **Background**

2. SFC receives annual guidance from the Scottish Government's Health Workforce Directorate, providing recommended intakes for medical schools in Scotland. This letter of guidance for AY 2021-22 is provided in Annex A.
3. Consideration of medical undergraduate numbers for 2021-22 has taken place against a complex background consisting of factors such as the ongoing delivery of Widening Access, ScotGEM and Scottish domicile commitments as well as the changes resulting from the United Kingdom's (UK) departure from the European Union (EU).

### **Key changes in AY 2021-22**

4. The following areas have changed for AY 2021-22:
  - In order to be eligible to be counted against the Widening Access (WA) target students must be from a SIMD 20 area only.
  - The intake target for WA students has increased by 10, to a total of 60 students.
  - The intake target for international students has increased by 14, to a total of 78 students.
  - The Scottish Domicile policy was put on hold in AY 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, AY 2021-22 will be the second year in which this policy is applied, with full implementation now expected in the intake for AY 2022-23.

### **Intake targets**

5. SFC has received guidance from the Scottish Government advising that the recommended intake for Medicine for AY 2021-22 will be **1,117** students.

6. There is a core intake of 784 students with 'Home Fees', rest of UK (rUK), and Republic of Ireland (RoI) status. 612 students from the 784 total must be allocated for students with 'Home Fees' status. The total intake target is broken down as follows:
  - 784 students for the core intake target.
  - 60 students for WA.
  - 55 students for ScotGEM.
  - 85 students for the additional intakes from AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21.
  - 32 students for deferral applications.
  - 23 students for appeals.
  - 78 international students.
7. This intake represents an increase of 79 students compared with last year's baseline target. This consists of: 32 deferrals, 23 appeals, 10 widening access (WA) Places (1% growth), and 14 extra International students.

#### **Widening Access places**

8. The criteria for WA students has changed in AY 2021-22. Students now must be from SIMD 20 areas only to meet Ministerial aims and aspirations on widening access and participation. This is in line with the recommendations from the Fair Access Commissioner Report published last summer.
9. A further 10 WA students (1% growth) have been allocated in AY 2021-22. This results in a total of 60 WA students allocated across the five Medical Schools.

#### **Deferrals and appeals**

10. Should any of the places reserved for deferrals or appeals become vacant, these places should only be made available and allocated to SIMD 20 applicants.

#### **Scottish Domicile policy**

11. The minimum intake target for students eligible to pay 'Home Fees' was introduced in AY 2019-20 in order to increase the number of medical graduates who would progress to join the Scottish NHS workforce. In light of the extraordinary circumstances of 2020-21, implementation of the Scottish Domicile policy was not possible. Therefore, AY 2021-22 will be the second year in which this policy is applied, with full implementation now expected in the intake for AY 2022-23 (rather than this year being the final year of this policy). In practice, this means that for AY 2021-22 the minimum number of students eligible to pay 'Home Fees' within the core intake target will remain at the same level as AY 2020-21 and increase by 33 in AY 2022-23 while the number of rUK students should decrease by the same number.

12. Students eligible for funding (SEFF) will be used to monitor the Scottish Domicile policy. SEFF will include all students who are assessed as being eligible to pay 'Home Fees' as per the SAAS guidelines.

### **European Union students**

13. As a result of the United Kingdom leaving the EU and the transitional period ending in January 2021, EU students without 'Home Fee' status, starting their courses in AY 2021-22 are not eligible for funding by SFC. Students should be classified according to guidance provided by SAAS which can be found at [SAAS: Brexit guidance.](#)

### **Intake targets**

14. Should you foresee any difficulties in meeting these targets (particularly on the number of 'Home Fee' students) you should make this apparent at the earliest opportunity so that any potential flexibilities could be explored outwith normal tolerance levels. Contact Duncan Condie at SFC (0131 313 6671 or [dcondie@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:dcondie@sfc.ac.uk)) and Michelle Campbell at Scottish Government (07760 990951 or [Michelle.Campbell@gov.scot](mailto:Michelle.Campbell@gov.scot)) to further discuss if you feel your institution will not meet your intake target.
15. SFC may recover funds from universities who under-recruit eligible students against funded places by more than 3% and apply penalties to universities who over-recruit and exceed their 'consolidation number' by more than 10%, subject to the consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by the university. Specific allocations of funded places will be provided in the final university funding announcement for AY 2021-22.

### **COVID-19 impacts**

16. Due to the impacts of Covid-19 in academic year (AY) 2020-21, the agreed intake target of 1,038 was exceeded by 100 students, of which 44 were eligible for funding. This was due to the 2020 exam results being regraded and followed the Deputy First Minister's commitment that the Scottish Government would "make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded." These 100 extra students and the circumstances surrounding them were unique to 2020-21 only and will not be factored into future years' intakes. These extra medical students will be funded by the Scottish Government for each year of their study within their respective Medical Schools.
17. As a result, 44 additional funded medical school places were allocated by the Workforce Development Unit to universities in AY 2020-21, as announced in: [Additional university places in 2020-21 following 2020 SQA results](#), published 26

August 2020. SFC will be writing to institutions shortly with the details of these additional funded places.

### **Funding and funded places**

18. We will provide further information with regards to funding and funded student places for the controlled subject of Medicine in due course, with a view to formally publishing these in the final funding announcement.

### **Further information**

19. Please contact Duncan Condie, Senior Funding Policy Officer, tel: 0131 313 6671, email: [dcondie@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:dcondie@sfc.ac.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Lorna MacDonald**  
Director of Finance

**Table 1: Intake targets for the Scottish Medical Schools for AY 2021-22**

Institution	Core intake target		Additional intake targets				Total International	Total Intake Target for AY 2021-22 excluding Deferrals and Appeals	Deferrals	Appeals	Total Intake Target for AY 2021-22 including Deferrals and Appeals
	Scottish domiciled, rest of UK, and rest of EU	Of which a minimum must be Scottish domiciled and rest of EU	Widening Access Places	Additional Widening Access Places	ScotGEM	Additional intakes from AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21					
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)
Aberdeen, University of	152	131	10	2	-	30	19	213	6	-	219
Dundee, University of	134	119	10	2	-	-	16	162	10	-	172
Edinburgh, University of	190	131	10	2	-	25	21	248	4	7	259
Glasgow, University of	210	172	10	2	-	30	22	274	8	16	298
St Andrews, University of	98	59	10	2	55	-	-	165	4	-	169
<b>Sector</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1,062</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,117</b>

Note: the section highlighted in green represents a change for AY 2021-22.