



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

## Funding for Saltire Scholarships 2021-22

# SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 30 September 2021

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Reference: SFC/AN/27/2021

Summary: Announcement of funding for Saltire Scholarships at universities and colleges in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22.

FAO: Principals / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities and colleges

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## Funding for Saltire Scholarships 2021-22

### Summary

1. I am writing to announce the allocation of additional funding for universities and colleges in Financial Year (FY) 2021-22 for Saltire Scholarships. This funding has been provided by the Scottish Government to allow institutions to cover a proportion of the tuition fees for some of their incoming students from the European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) starting in Academic Year (AY) 2021-22.

### Purpose of funding

2. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) recognises that the UK leaving the EU has impacted upon international mobility, in particular upon the eligibility of 'home' tuition fees. From AY 2021-22, only EU nationals who have 'settled' or 'pre-settled' status in the UK will remain eligible to apply for home tuition fees. This scholarship funding will support the university/college sectors by enabling institutions to use scholarships to attract EU students following the drop-off in applications since the UK's departure from the EU.
3. The Scottish budget for FY 2021-22 included an increase for University and College International Activity of £6.75 million - positioned as '*Increased funding to support international and EU activity and collaboration including boosting support for international research collaboration and talent attraction*' and to '*Increase scholarship offering to include EU students and support the effective use of alumni globally.*' In July 2020, the Scottish Government's [COVID-19 Further and Higher Education Sustainability Plan](#) included a commitment towards '*...establishing scholarships for EU and international students to continue to welcome them to Scotland*'.

### Summary of eligibility criteria

4. This funding is to be used by institutions as an award against EU and EEA students' tuition fees only.
5. Students must be citizens or permanent residents of an EU or EEA country and have a conditional or unconditional offer of a place at a Scottish university or college on an eligible course that will be delivered physically in Scotland.
6. Courses must be full-time, in **any** subject area, at the following levels:
  - University - Masters/Taught Postgraduate (TPG) level.
  - College - Higher National (HN) level, i.e. Higher National Certificate (HNC) or Higher National Diploma (HND).
7. Full details on eligibility criteria are set out in [Annex B](#).

## Funding allocations

8. The total additional funding being allocated to the university and college sectors in FY 2021-22 is £2.25 million.
9. One scholarship place is based on £8,000 for universities (aligned with the existing Saltire Scholarship Scheme) and £4,000 for colleges.
10. Funding allocations are based on factors including: the institution's percentage shares of sector EU student numbers, the institution's proportion of EU students and Tier 4 VISA status.
11. For universities, the allocations were based on their average percentage shares of the sector total FTE number of EU TPG students in the non-controlled subject areas in the academic sessions 2017-18 to 2019-20. In addition, to acknowledge those universities which had higher proportions of EU students, a weighting of 30% was applied to the EU TPG numbers for those universities for which EU students made up at least 14% of their total FTE number of TPG students.
12. For colleges, the allocations were based on their average percentage shares of the sector total FTE number of EU students in the academic sessions 2017-18 to 2019-20.
13. A breakdown of funding for individual universities and colleges/regions is shown in [Annex A](#).

## Conditions of funding

14. This funding must only be used for the purpose(s) for which it is being allocated; that is, for the provision of EU Scholarship awards. Funding has been allocated on the basis of a set number of places and must be allocated using this approach (1 place = £8,000 or £4,000 dependent upon institution). 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).
15. A fair and robust assessment, selection and award process must be in place with equalities requirements. Assessment must include consideration of the three 'additional requirements' set out in [Annex B](#).
16. **Funding must be awarded to students by the end of FY 2021-22 (by 31 March 2022).** Funding can be utilised for students that have already enrolled.

### **Reporting requirements**

17. As a condition of grant, institutions must provide a short, end of FY report to SFC, confirming the number of students that have been awarded scholarships. This should be provided to [saltirescholarships@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:saltirescholarships@sfc.ac.uk) by 29 April 2022.

### **Payment of funds**

18. Subject to the acceptance of this offer, funding allocations for universities and non-incorporated colleges, as set out in Annex A, will be made in October 2021. Incorporated colleges/regions should draw down funds as required, as per their monthly cash flows, up to the end of March 2022.

### **Acceptance of grant**

19. Institutions are invited to formally accept this offer of funding by writing to Graeme Scotland, Senior Budgeting & Reporting Officer, by emailing: [gscotland@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:gscotland@sfc.ac.uk) by 11 October 2021.

### **Further information**

20. Should you require any additional information or have any queries in relation to this announcement, please email: [saltirescholarships@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:saltirescholarships@sfc.ac.uk).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martin Boyle', with a long, sweeping underline stroke extending to the right.

**Martin Boyle**

Director of Policy, Insight & Analytics

**Breakdown of scholarship funding for individual universities and colleges/regions in FY 2021-22**

University	No. scholarship places*	Funding allocation (£)
Aberdeen, University of	12	96,000
Abertay University	4	32,000
Dundee, University of	9	72,000
Edinburgh Napier University	32	256,000
Edinburgh, University of	56	448,000
Glasgow Caledonian University	8	64,000
Glasgow School of Art	7	56,000
Glasgow, University of	37	296,000
Heriot-Watt University	27	216,000
Highlands & Islands, University of the	1	8,000
Open University in Scotland	-	-
Queen Margaret University	13	104,000
Robert Gordon University	5	40,000
Royal Conservatoire of Scotland	4	32,000
SRUC	1	8,000
St Andrews, University of	23	184,000
Stirling, University of	9	72,000
Strathclyde, University of	22	176,000
West of Scotland, University of the	2	16,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>2,176,000</b>

\*Allocations based on institutions' percentage shares of sector EU taught postgraduates with a weighting of 30% for institutions for which EU students make up at least 14% of their taught postgraduates.

College/region	No. scholarship places*	Funding allocation (£)
Edinburgh College	4	16,000
Glasgow Region	9	36,000
Highlands & Islands Region	1	4,000
North East Scotland College	2	8,000
Sabhal Mòr Ostaig	1	4,000
SRUC	1	4,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>72,000</b>

\*Allocations based upon all EU students (all FTEs) using three-year average (2017-19 to 2019-20) data.

## Scholarship eligibility criteria

Eligibility	Scholarships
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a citizen or permanent resident of an EU or EEA country, (<i>with international fee paying status at their Scottish HE provider</i>).</li> </ul>
Course requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be a full-time course, in <b>any</b> subject area, at the following levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ University - Masters level postgraduate (Undergraduate level may be considered on a discretionary basis).</li> <li>○ College - HNC/HND.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Course related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a conditional or unconditional offer of a place at a Scottish university or college, on an eligible course that will be delivered physically in Scotland.</li> <li>• Not have previously studied in Scotland and/or at a Scottish institution (<i>exception made for previous short courses of less than one year</i>).</li> <li>• Have international fee paying status at their Scottish institution. Course tuition fees, following application of scholarship amount, must not be lower than those of rUK fee paying students.</li> </ul>
Additional details	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whilst not a prerequisite, scholars should have the necessary interpersonal and communication skills required to participate in any Scottish Government activities that may accompany the scholarship, such as participating in online events/workshops.</li> <li>• Scholars should show willingness to support communications activity promoting Scotland and Scottish higher education, based on their own experience.</li> </ul>