



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

## National Policy for Further Education Bursaries AY 2022-23

**SFC Guidance**

Issue Date: 15 June 2022

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Issue date: 15 June 2022

Reference: SFC/GD/09/2022

Summary: Explanation of the conditions for use of SFC Further Education bursary funds allocated to colleges for Academic Year (AY) 2022-23.

FAO: Principals and Finance Directors of Scotland's colleges.

Further information: **Contact:** Student Support team  
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## National policy for Further Education bursaries AY 2022-23

### Introduction

1. This policy document stipulates the conditions of use of Further Education (FE) bursary funds allocated to colleges by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and sets out the rates for calculation for Academic Year (AY) 2022-23. This policy continues to support the strategic priorities and outcomes of SFC and the Scottish Government.
2. Student support funds are cash-limited. Students who are eligible for support from this funding are not automatically entitled to this support.

### Updates for AY 2022-23

3. The updates to the paragraphs and relevant sections of the guidance are set out in the annex to this announcement. The main changes are:
  - **Increase in bursary maintenance rate**

The annual bursary maintenance rate has been increased by 4.1% to a maximum of £4,859.00. Split over 43 weeks, this provides a new maximum weekly award of £113.00.
  - **Informal Care-Experienced**

As part of the ongoing work to align with Student Award Agency Scotland (SAAS) policies and procedures where possible, we are widening access to the Care-Experienced Bursary to students in informal care arrangements where this can be confirmed by Social Work departments.
  - **Duration of support**

We have introduced some additional flexibilities on the duration of student support:

    - **Longer duration:** Students should be supported for the duration of their FE studies if they are continually progressing between levels (within SCQF levels 1 to 6). Consistent with our previous policy, students whose learning follows a non-standard pattern (e.g. those with learning disabilities) will not be required to be progressing between levels.
    - **Plus 1:** Colleges will be able to support students for one additional year at the same SCQF level, if required. In line with the SAAS policy, students can use their 'plus one' year for a change of course or repeat year for academic, health or compassionate reasons.
    - **Returns:** Colleges will also have the discretion to support returning students. This includes students who already hold a higher level

qualification and want to re-train in a different subject starting from a lower level. It also includes those who need to upskill in their existing subject.

- **COVID-19 interruption:** Students whose learning has been interrupted by COVID-19 will not have the period of disruption count towards their overall duration of support.

## COVID-19

4. Colleges are continuing to work through unprecedented times as we recover from COVID-19. In AY 2022-23 SFC will continue to work with the sector to support students and staff in this context.
5. SFC is publishing its National Policy for Further Education Bursaries to provide advice for college student support practitioners. We are aware of, and fully appreciate, the impact which those who work on student support have encountered during the pandemic. We also recognise the impact the pandemic continues to have on students' finances, a situation which is now compounded by cost of living pressures.
6. These documents aim to provide a standard foundation upon which student support funding award assessments and decisions can be made by college staff. Where there is a need to provide additional or exceptional guidance in relation to COVID-19 aspects, we will continue to circulate this information directly to our established student support sector contacts, and publish it on the [COVID-19 page](#) of SFC's website.

## Further information

7. Please contact the Student Support team, email: [studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk).



**Richard Maconachie**  
Director of Finance

## Annex: Summary of updates to FE Bursary Guidance for AY 2022-23

Award Assessment document		
Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Eligibility of student: Residency	3	In October 2021 and April 2022, SFC circulated updates to the FE Residency Guidance for AY 2021-22, covering changes arising from Brexit and the Ukrainian conflict. The Scottish Government wrote to college Principals on 8 March 2022 to outline further planned changes to legislation that will take effect from AY 2022-23. The fully updated version for AY 2022-23 will be published later in the summer.
Eligibility of student: Duration of support	11	Guidance update to include an additional year (+1 year) of support for first-time students. Returner students who have previously completed a period of FE study in the past and wish to return to the college to upskill or re-train may be supported for an additional period at the college's discretion.
Calculation of the previous student support funding received	14	Where students are applying for funding to support completion of their AY 2020-21 or AY 2021-22 studies which were disrupted due to COVID-19, the calculation should disregard any previous funding received for the duration of their disruption.
Specific Categories of Care Experience	53	Extension of Care Experienced Bursary to students in Informal Kinship Care which can be confirmed by a Local Authority.
Travel Allowance	78-80	Guidance update to reflect introduction of free bus travel for under 22s.
Financial assessment outline	109-111	Guidance update to include the two new Social Security benefits that are being delivered this year. These new benefits should be excluded from the income assessment.
FE Student Support Rates AY 2022-23	Annex A	Figures updated to reflect increase in bursary maintenance rate for AY 2022-23.

### Advisors' Notes document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Care-Experienced/Care Leavers/Looked after Children & Young People	8	Information on the different care experience eligibility categories for the FE Care-Experienced Bursary, along with the legislative context, can be accessed on our website.

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### Fund Management and Audit Information document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Fund Management	18	The overall bursary maintenance rate for AY 2022-23 is now a maximum annual award of £4,859.00 being split over 43 weeks, giving a new maximum weekly award of £113.00.

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