National Policy for FE Bursaries AY 2023-24
National Policy for FE Bursaries: AY 2023-24

Issue Date: 29 June 2023

Reference: SFC/GD/13/2023

Summary: Explanation of the conditions of use of SFC Further Education bursary funds allocated to colleges for Academic Year 2023-24.

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

Further Information:

CONTACT: Student Support team

DIRECTORATE: Finance (Funding Policy)

EMAIL: studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk
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National Policy for FE Bursaries: AY 2023-24

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) 2023-24. 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 2023-24

3. The updates to the paragraphs and relevant sections of the guidance are set out in Annex A to this announcement. The main changes are:

   • **Increase in FE bursary maintenance rate**
     The annual bursary maintenance rate has been increased by 11.1% to a maximum of £5,398.65. Split over 43 weeks, this provides a new maximum weekly award of £125.55.

COVID-19

4. Colleges are continuing to work through many challenges as we recover from the impact of COVID-19. In AY 2023-24 SFC will continue to work with the sector to support students and staff in this context.

5. SFC is publishing its National Policy for FE 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.

Status of policy

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, we will continue to circulate this information directly to our established student support sector contacts.

Further information

7. Please contact the Student Support team, email: studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk.
Richard Maconachie
Director of Finance
### Annex A

**Summary of updates to FE Bursary Guidance for AY 2023-24**

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<td>Financial assessment outline</td>
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<td>College management of Further Education Discretionary Funding (FEDF)</td>
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<td>Fund Management &amp; Audit Information document</td>
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<td>weeks, giving a new maximum weekly award of £125.55.</td>
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