



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC GUIDANCE

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# National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2024-25



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## National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2024-25

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Issue Date:	5 June 2024
Reference:	SFC/GD/05/2024
Summary:	Explanation of the conditions of use of SFC Further Education student support bursary funds allocated to colleges for Academic Year (AY) 2024-25.
FAO:	Principals and Finance Directors of Scotland's colleges.
Further Information:	<b>CONTACT:</b> Student Support team <b>DIRECTORATE:</b> Finance (Funding Policy) <b>EMAIL:</b> <a href="mailto:studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk">studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk</a>

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# National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2024-25

## Introduction

1. The following policy documents set out the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) national policy for FE student support bursaries for Academic Year (AY) 2024-25. They stipulate the conditions of use of Further Education (FE) bursary funds allocated to colleges by SFC, and set out the rates for calculation for Academic Year (AY) 2024-25. This policy continues to support the strategic priorities and outcomes of the SFC and the Scottish Government.
  - [Advisors' Notes](#)
  - [Award Assessment](#)
  - [Fund Management and Audit Information](#)
2. Student support funds are cash-limited. Students who are eligible for support from this funding are not automatically entitled to this support.
3. In balancing our priorities, we have adjusted the student support budget for AY 2024-25 to better reflect actual demand and recent trends in spend. This is detailed in the [College Final Funding Allocation 2024-25](#) announcement. Colleges should continue to assess applications for student support in line with the FE Bursaries Policy guidance, with particular reference to the Award Assessment and Advisors' Notes. We will, as in previous years, conduct an In Year Redistribution (IYR) exercise with colleges, providing the opportunity to relinquish funds that are not required or to request additional funds.

## Updates for AY 2024-25

4. A summary of the updates to the relevant sections and paragraphs of the policy guidance are set out in the Annex to this announcement. The main change is in respect of **Care-Experienced Bursary Signatories**.
5. **The eligibility for the Care-Experienced Bursary has been extended to include those individuals whose experience of care occurred outside of the UK.** To be eligible under the extended criteria, a student would be required to meet the residency criteria for accessing student support funds detailed in the [Student Support \(Scotland\) Regulations 2022](#), as amended by the [Education \(Fees and Student Support\) \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2024](#). Further information is detailed in the [Additional Information on Care-Experience Eligibility](#) supporting guidance.
6. We have expanded the list of authorised signatories listed in Section D of the SFC [Care-Experience Form](#). The expanded provision of authorised signatories now includes the following five professional categories: careers advisors, widening participation officers, representative/employee from an advocacy group, a member of the Children's

Panel, and a child contact centre representative. Further information is detailed in the [Care Experienced Form](#).

## Status of Policy

7. These documents aim to provide a standard foundation on which college staff can assess student funding awards and decisions. 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

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



**Richard Maconachie FCCA**  
Director of Finance

## Annex A

### Summary of updates to FE Student Support Bursary Policy Guidance for AY 2024-25

#### Award Assessment

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Care Experienced Bursary (CEB) Eligibility	50-54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is some additional context detailing the extension of the Care Experience Bursary to eligible students whose experience of care was outside of the UK.</li> </ul>
Study Expenses Allowance (Study Costs)	78-81	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guidance has been updated to reflect the post-Covid environment.</li> <li>Colleges are reminded that their spend on Study Expenses Allowance should be in line with the sector average of between 5-6% of their total Student Support spend.</li> </ul>
Digital Poverty Funding	83	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is detail on the Scottish Government not including a specific provision for digital poverty funding in their budget for FY 2024-25.</li> <li>Colleges are reminded that Student Support funds should not be used as a substitute for the end of the specific Digital Poverty Funding.</li> </ul>
Additional Support Needs for Learning Allowance (ASNLA)	96	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The guidance details that ASNLA should not be used to replace funding previously allocated by the Scottish Government for Mental Health Counsellors between AY 2019-20 and AY 2022-23.</li> </ul>
Study Expenses Allowance Table – Average Sector Spend	Annex B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an updated table detailed the average sector spend on Study Expense Allowance between AY 2016-17 and AY 2022-23.</li> </ul>

## Advisors' Notes

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Care arrangements outside the UK	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This additional paragraph details the extension of the eligibility to access the Care Experience Bursary to individuals whose care took place outside of the UK.</li> </ul>
National Allowance for Foster and Kinship Carers	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is updated information on the Scottish Government's National Allowance for Foster and Kinship Carers, the Scottish Recommended Allowance (SRA).</li> </ul>
Definition of Estrangement	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an updated definition of estrangement. This definition aims to provide more clarity and consistency, aligning with Scottish Government and Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).</li> </ul>

## Additional Information on Care Experienced Bursary Eligibility

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Care arrangements outside the UK	25-26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of extended eligibility for the Care-Experienced Bursary to include care arrangements that took place outside of the UK.</li> </ul>
Evidencing care arrangements outside the UK	33-35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is an overview of the evidence that is expected to be submitted by a student who experienced care outside of the UK.</li> <li>Additional information on the definition of a 'certified translation'.</li> </ul>

## Care-Experienced Form

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Extending the definition of an approved 'Professional Person'	Section D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have extended the definition of 'professional person' who is eligible to sign the Care-Experienced Form to include the following professional categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Careers Advisor.</li> <li>Widening Participation Officer.</li> <li>Representative/Employee of an Advocacy Group.</li> <li>Member of the Children's Panel.</li> <li>Child Contact Centre Representative.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## FE Discretionary Funding

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Eligibility of young asylum seekers, and children of asylum seekers, to access FEDF	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young asylum seekers, and children of asylum seekers, can access FE Discretionary Funding if they are studying a full-time or part-time FE course.</li> </ul>
Corporate Parenting Duties	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This details information regarding colleges Corporate Parenting Duties as detailed in the Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014.</li> </ul>

## Fund Management & Audit Information

Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Submitting documentation to evidence care arrangements outside the UK	70-71	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This details which documents a college should receive from a student whose experience of care took place outside the UK. This includes an original copy of the</li> </ul>



## Fund Management & Audit Information

		document and a certified translation.
Submitting a case for review to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO)	91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If a student is dissatisfied with the outcome of a college's Appeal Panel, in relation to their FE Bursary Award, they can escalate their case to the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman.</li></ul>