

# National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2025-26



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## National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2025-26

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Issue Date: 13 June 2025

Reference: SFC/GD/05/2025

Summary: Explanation of the conditions of use of SFC Further Education student support bursary funds allocated to colleges for Academic Year 2025-26.

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

Further Information: **CONTACT:** Student Support team  
**DIRECTORATE:** Finance & Funding  
**EMAIL:** [studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk)

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# National Policy for FE Student Support Bursaries AY 2025-26

## Introduction

1. The following policy documents set out the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) national policy for Further Education (FE) student support bursaries for Academic Year (AY) 2025-26. They stipulate the conditions of use of FE bursary funds allocated to colleges by SFC and set out the rates for calculation for AY 2025-26. These policies continue 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. We adjusted the student support budget for AY 2024-25 to better reflect actual demand and recent trends in budget spend. In balancing our priorities, the student support budget for AY 2025-26 has been maintained at the same level as AY 2024-25 (£123.0 million) - this is detailed in the [College Final Funding Allocation AY 2025-26](#) 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 2025-26

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.
5. As part of the simplification of the funding body landscape reforms, FE student support will transfer from SFC to the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS). We will communicate further with the sector as plans are finalised.

## Status of policy

6. These documents aim to provide a standard foundation on which college staff can assess student support funding awards and decisions. Where there is a need to provide additional or exceptional guidance, SFC 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](mailto:studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk).

**Tiffany Ritchie**

Acting Director of Finance

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## Annex A

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### Summary of updates to FE Student Support Bursary Policy Guidance for AY 2025-26

Fee Waiver		
Subject	Paragraph(s)	Summary
Part-time students	6iii	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The guidance has been updated to reflect the increases to the income thresholds.</li></ul>
Full-time Advanced (HE) fees	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The guidance has been updated to prohibit students from receiving more than one full-time fee waiver if studying at FE and HE level simultaneously, in a single Academic Year.</li></ul>