



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Additional AY 2020-21 student number collection (university sector)

SFC Call for Information

Issue Date: 24 September 2020

Additional AY 2020-21 student number collection (university sector)

Issue date: 24 September 2020

Deadline: 9 October 2020

Reference: SFC/CI/08/2020

Summary: To request early information on student numbers at Scotland's universities for AY 2020-21 in order to assist Public Health Scotland, advice for Scottish Government Ministers and to inform SFC planning.

FAO: Principals / Chairs of Scotland's universities

Further information: **Contact:** Martin Smith
Job title: Chief Funding and Information Officer
Department: Policy, Insight and Analytics
Tel: 0131 313 6528
Email: msmith@sfc.ac.uk

Contents

Additional AY 2020-21 student number collection (university sector).....	4
Introduction	4
The Collection	5
Returning the Information and Collection Dates	6

Additional AY 2020-21 student number collection (university sector)

Introduction

1. I am contacting you to request regular updates on the numbers of students who have commenced studies at your institution in academic year (AY) 2020-21. Institutions were made aware that this request would be coming in the recently published guidance on the additional funded student places that will be allocated following the revisions to the 2020 SQA results. This guidance is available on the SFC website ([SFC/AN/14/2020 Additional Places](#)).
2. Paragraph 20 of this guidance states:
“Given the unique circumstances, there is obviously some uncertainty in relation to potential student numbers. In order to gain more robust evidence:
 - *UCAS will provide SFC with individual institutional data throughout the clearing process.*
 - *Universities must also provide regular enrolment updates broken down by domicile - Scottish, rest of UK, EU and international (non-EU) - to SFC through until December 2020.**(To that end, SFC will create an online pro forma for universities.)”*
3. With regard to the first bullet point we are working with UCAS to receive information that will enable us to derive increases in Scottish school leavers between AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21 to inform the allocations of additional funded places for revised SQA results.
4. With regard to the second bullet point we require early indications of student numbers for AY 2020-21, in particular by domicile and age and for the controlled subjects, for the following purposes:
 - To assist Public Health Scotland with their work on the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - For advice for Scottish Ministers, including on youth unemployment.
 - To monitor intakes to the controlled subjects for workforce planning purposes.
 - To enable SFC planning for the university sector to be based on the latest information.
5. We do not intend to publish this information nor will we use it to inform or adjust allocations of funding.

6. We appreciate that this will cause additional burden on university staff at a busy time. We have limited the request for information to that required by SFC and the Scottish Government to monitor and plan for the effects of the pandemic.
7. A spreadsheet for providing the information is available for downloading from the SFC website. A draft version of this spreadsheet was shared with university planners for comment. Their feedback has led to some changes to the spreadsheet and has informed the guidance for this collection.
8. This call for information now describes the information that is to be collected, the dates by which collections should be returned and how the collection should be returned to SFC.

The Collection

9. SFC requires the numbers of students who have commenced studies with the institution in AY 2020-21 split by:
 - Domicile: Scotland; Rest of UK; EU; Other Overseas.
 - Level of Study: Research Postgraduate; Taught Postgraduate; Undergraduate.
 - Mode of Study: Full-time; Part-time.
 - Entrant Status: Entrant; Continuing Student.
 - Subjects: Individual Controlled Subjects; All Other Subjects.
10. SFC also requires the following age-related breakdowns:
 - The age groups of students who are studying at the institution.
 - The level of study and entrant status for Scottish-domiciled students aged 16 to 24.
11. To get an indication of the overall current student numbers the collection concentrates on students who have commenced study with the institution in AY 2020-21. This includes students who are studying online and not currently attending the university. In addition, for public health reasons, the collection also asks for the numbers of students currently studying at the university. The spreadsheet for returning the information gives the criteria for these different categories of student. The spreadsheet also defines the categories for the information to be collected about the students who have commenced their studies.
12. The spreadsheet for returning the information gives institutions the

opportunity to provide any caveats or contextual information that should be taken into account when looking at the figures provided.

Returning the Information and Collection Dates

13. We require a return from all universities by 9 **October 2020** and after that the information should be returned every two weeks namely: 23 October, 6 November, 20 November, etc. When the student numbers settle down they would only require to be updated when there are significant changes to them.
14. Please ensure that the correct institution is selected from the drop down list in the spreadsheet and that the date of completing the update is entered into the box for doing so.
15. Completed spreadsheets should be sent to HEdatareturns@sfc.ac.uk.

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

Martin Boyle

Director of Policy, Insight and Analytics