



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

**Allocation of additional university
places in 2020-21 following
2020 revised SQA results**

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 5 March 2021

Allocation of additional university places in AY 2020-21 following 2020 revised SQA results

Issue date: 5 March 2021

Reference: SFC/AN/08/2021

Summary: Announcement of the allocation of additional funded student places for universities in Academic Year 2020-21 following the Scottish Government's statement regarding the revised 2020 SQA qualification results.

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland's universities

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

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Additional university places in 2020-21 following 2020 revised SQA qualification results

Summary

1. I am writing to announce the allocation of additional funded student places that universities will receive in Academic Year (AY) 2020-21 following the revised 2020 Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) qualification results.

Background/context

2. SFC wrote to the university sector on 26 August 2020 providing guidance on the [allocation of additional funded student places following the 2020 SQA results](#). This guidance followed the Scottish Government's statement to the Scottish Parliament on 11 August 2020 where the Deputy First Minister gave a commitment that the Scottish Government would *"this year make provision for enough places in universities and colleges to ensure that no one is crowded out of a place they would otherwise have been awarded"*.
3. That guidance set out how SFC intended to meet the commitment given by the Scottish Government that there would be sufficient university student places to cater for these students (i.e. sufficient funded places for universities to be able to enrol all students who had gained the required SQA qualifications to take up their places on their courses).
4. Provided universities filled their existing funded places for AY 2020-21, the guidance confirmed that SFC would fund the increase in Scottish school and college leavers, with Highers and Advanced Highers from the 2020 SQA qualification diet, enrolled on full-time undergraduate courses between AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21 through the allocation of additional funded places in AY 2020-21. The guidance also confirmed the removal of the Scottish Government's over-recruitment ('consolidation') policy for AY 2020-21 to avoid financial penalties for the over-recruitment of full-time Scottish/European Union (EU) undergraduate students.

Determining additional places/funding for AY 2020-21

5. Using UCAS¹ data, SFC has calculated the increase between AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21 in the numbers of Scottish domiciled students aged 18 and under enrolling at your institution. All universities have had the opportunity to comment on these numbers prior to this announcement.
6. We have derived an average price per undergraduate funded place for your

¹ The UCAS data provides the numbers of 18 year olds and under places at university. It may not include some entrants from college admitted on the basis of Highers and Advanced Highers from the 2020 qualification diet.

institution using your allocation of funded places by teaching subject price group and then removed the assumed SAAS tuition fee level, to estimate the amount of additional teaching funding for those leavers. We have also confirmed, using our Early Statistics Return, that universities have filled their existing AY 2020-21 funded places.

7. **This has resulted in a total of 1,297 additional funded student places and additional teaching grant of £7.2 million for AY 2020-21.** A breakdown of the allocation of those additional funded places and associated teaching grant to individual universities is shown in **Annex A**.
8. The additional funding for these student places relates to AY 2020-21. SFC intends to announce indicative university outcome agreement funding for AY 2021-22 around mid-late March 2021 and this will include rolling forward these places to allow this cohort to continue their courses. The indicative funding announcement will also address any further changes to funded places, including health-related controlled subjects.

Payment of funds

9. The additional teaching grant will be paid to universities in March 2021.
10. SFC may adjust this allocation of funding, if necessary, when the number of entrants from schools and colleges (with Highers and Advanced Highers) can be compared with corresponding information derived from the HESA student returns in December 2021.

Future years

11. Funding for these additional places will continue to support this larger AY 2020-21 student cohort moving through the system until AY 2023-24/2024-25 (based on a four/five year degree programme), taking account of any change in the unit of teaching resource and progression rates.
12. As referred to above, whilst the focus of this announcement is on providing additional places to meet the increased demand for entry in AY 2020-21 from school leavers, SFC is aware that there is likely to be a similar increased demand for entry in AY 2021-22 from 2020 S5 pupils with improved results moving to S6 this year. SFC will therefore continue to engage with the Scottish Government and the sector, and provide further information when we announce the indicative outcome agreement funding allocations in March.

Conditions of grant

13. SFC's standard [conditions of university funding 2020-21](#), published in June 2020 as part of the updated [University Outcome Agreement Funding allocations for AY 2020-21](#), apply to the additional places/funding set out in this announcement.

Further information

14. Should you have any queries or require any additional information, please contact Martin Smith, Chief Funding & Information Officer, tel: 0131 313 6528, email: msmith@sfc.ac.uk.



Karen Watt
Chief Executive