



Scottish Funding Council
Promoting further and higher education



College Statistics 2017-18

SFC Statistical Publication

College Statistics 2017-18 Executive Summary

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Summary: This publication provides an overview of college sector statistics from 2008-09 to 2017-18.

FAO: Principals and Directors of Scotland's colleges, students, parents, guardians and the general public

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Scottish Funding Council

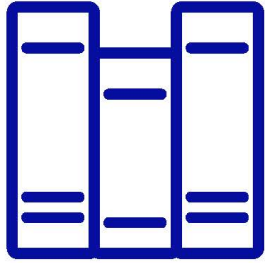
Promoting further and higher education

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Executive Summary

1. This report provides an overview of college sector statistics for 2017-18 and shows how these figures have changed over the last ten years, since 2008-09. This report covers trends relating to student numbers and college activity, including the sector's performance towards government targets. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) utilises a range of measurements, which are discussed in this report, relating to both students (including enrolments and headcounts) and college activity (Full-Time Equivalents). The data reported in this publication is sourced from the Further Education Statistical return (FES) and quality assured by SFC.
2. SFC publishes this report annually on college sector statistics and previous reports can be found on the [SFC website](#). Furthermore, a broader range of enrolment trends will be published in the [Report for Widening Access](#) later this year.
3. The main findings of this year's report are:
 - Scotland's colleges exceeded the government's 116,269 FTE target by 2,415 Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) in 2017-18.
 - The college sector actually delivered 131,953 FTEs, but not all are funded or counted against the 116k target.
 - The number of enrolments (303,115) and headcount (242,488) to Scotland's colleges increased in 2017-18 on the previous year by 3.9% and 2.9% respectively.
 - The number of enrolments to non-recognised qualifications (NRQs) and courses under 10 hours in duration has increased in 2017-18 by 23.2% on the previous year. This can be, at least, partly explained by an increase in the number of primary and secondary school pupils enrolled at colleges on these types of courses.

Key Statistics - 2017/18



303,115

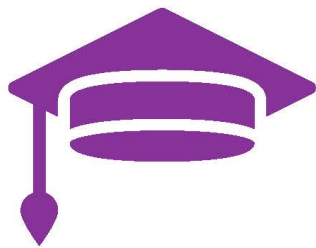
enrolments

3.9% increase since 2016-17

242,488

headcount

2.9% increase since 2016-17



118,684

FTEs*

2,415 above target in 2017-18

*Full-time equivalent (FTE), see Annex A: Key definitions (p22)