



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC STATISTICS

College Statistics 2018-19 Executive Summary
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Summary: This publication provides an overview of college sector statistics from 2009-10 to 2018-19.

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

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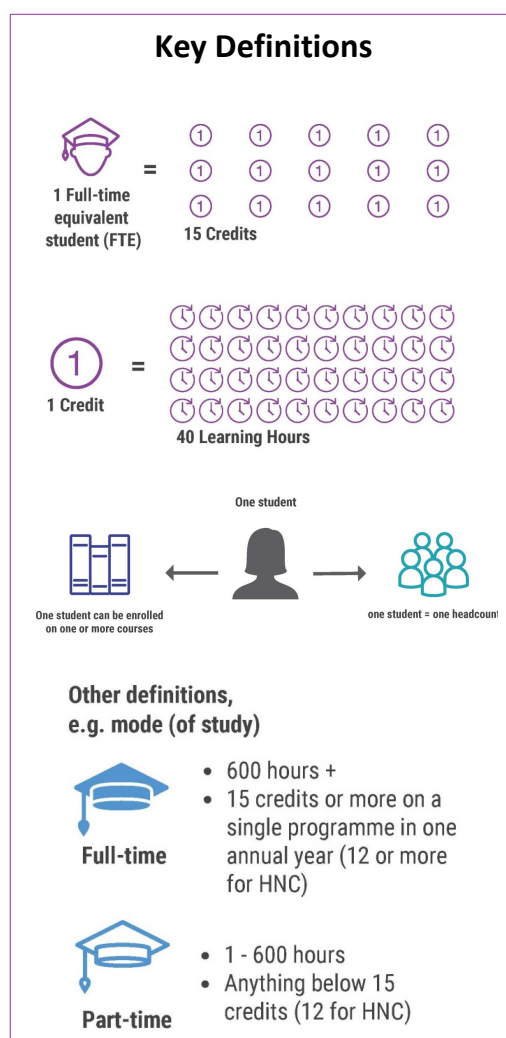
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Executive Summary

1. This report provides a statistical overview of the college sector in Scotland for the academic year 2018-19 and shows how these figures have changed over the last ten years, since 2009-10. In its analysis, the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) uses student headcounts, course enrolments, credits and Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs) as measures to track student numbers, college activity and the sector's performance towards Scottish Government targets (see Key Definitions box below). The data reported in this publication is collected and quality assured by SFC as part of the Further Education Statistical (FES) return. More information on the FES data collection process can be found on the [SFC website](#). Previous editions of this report, alongside other publications relating to the college sector, can also be found on the [SFC website](#).

2. The main findings from this year's report are:

- The college sector exceeded the Scottish Government's FTE target by 1,973 FTEs in 2018-19, delivering 118,242 FTEs towards the target. See Figure 1.
- At Further Education (FE) level, full-time FTEs (all funding sources) have declined by 4.1% since 2017-18 whilst part-time FTEs have continued to increase (up 1.6% since 2017-18). At Higher Education (HE) level, full-time FTEs decreased by 2.2% and part-time FTEs have increased by 1.6% since 2017-18. See Figure 2.
- In 2018-19 the total student headcount and number of enrolments increased by 9.2% and 8.5% on the previous year, the largest year-to-year increase in the last 10 years, altering the reduction from 2009-10 to 2012-13 which reflected a change in policy direction at that time. See Figure 3.
- The last three academic years have seen increasingly greater numbers of enrolments on non-recognised qualifications (NRQs). Enrolments on non-recognised qualifications have increased by 13.0% since 2017-18. Enrolments on courses under 10 hours in duration have increased by 26.2% since 2017-18, following a trend of gradual decrease in the



previous years. See Figure 5.

- The participation rate for 18-19 year olds in the Scottish population attending college full-time has continued to decline. In 2018-19, one fifth (20.6%) of 18-19 year olds in the Scottish population attended college full-time, the lowest since 2011-12. Nonetheless studying at college is just one of the options available to 18-19 year olds, with many choosing to go into work or university. The total number of 18-19 year olds in the Scottish population has decreased 9.7% over the last decade and decreased by 2.5% from 2017-18 to 2018-19 alone. See Figure 9.

College Statistics 2018-19

College enrolments



328,889 enrolments

8.5% increase since 2017-18



118,242 FTEs*

1,973 above
target in 2018-19



One in five (**20.6%**)
18 to 19 year olds in the
Scottish population
attended college full-time
in 2018-19

Student headcount



264,858 students

9.2% increase since 2017-18

*Full-time equivalent (FTE), funded through the government purse.