



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Funding for additional MSc Physiotherapy students AY 2021-22

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 13 April 2022

Funding for additional university MSc Physiotherapy students in AY 2021-22

Issue date: 13 April 2022

Reference: SFC/AN/10/2022

Summary: Announcement of additional funding for Academic Year (AY) 2021-22 to allow universities to recruit additional pre-registration MSc Physiotherapy students.

FAO: Principals / Finance Directors of Scotland's universities

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Funding for additional university MSc Physiotherapy students in AY 2021-22

Summary

1. I am writing to announce funding for additional university pre-registration MSc Physiotherapy students recruited through both September and January intakes in Academic Year (AY) 2021-22.

Background

2. The Scottish Government (SG) has committed to fund 225 additional Advanced Musculo-Skeletal (MSK) practitioners in Primary Care. Following discussions between SG, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and universities, four providers have recruited additional students in AY 2021-22. SFC will administer the funding associated with the additional recruitment and monitor student numbers for an initial period of three years (until AY 2023-24), although it may continue for a further period (until AY 2025-26) given the pressures on placements caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding for AY 2021-22

3. A total of 37 additional students have been recruited in AY 2021-22. In discussions between the Scottish Government (SG), NHS Education for Scotland (NES), and the relevant universities, it was agreed that students would be funded on the basis of each university's existing postgraduate fees rather than at SFC's teaching price. As a result of this funding arrangement, the additional MSc physiotherapy funding will sit outside SFC's Main Teaching Grant model and no funded places will be allocated for this additional provision.
4. A total of **£299,380** will be allocated in AY 2021-22. The table below sets out the Year 1 funding for each university.

University	Additional students recruited	Postgraduate fee (Year 1)	AY 2021-22 funding
Edinburgh Napier	9	£7,810	£70,290
Glasgow Caledonian	15	£7,000	£105,000
Queen Margaret	6	£9,400	£56,400
Robert Gordon	7	£9,670	£67,690
Total	37		£299,380

5. It is a condition of grant that universities should not charge additional pre-registration MSc Physiotherapy students a tuition fee in addition to the funding provided through this allocation.

Future years funding and monitoring

6. SFC will explore with universities whether the funding for additional MSc Physiotherapy students could be allocated through the Main Teaching Grant model in future years. If this is not possible then funding will continue to be distributed in a similar manner to that outlined above.
7. In future years, universities will be required to return their additional MSc Physiotherapy students through their annual Early Statistics Return. SFC will contact universities to determine the basis upon which these returns should be made.

Further information

8. If you have any queries or require any further information, please contact Duncan Condie, Senior Funding Policy Officer: dcondie@sfc.ac.uk.



Chris Brown
Interim Director of Finance