



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

Accounts direction for Scotland's universities 2020-21

SFC Guidance

Issue Date: 3 June 2021

Accounts direction for Scotland's universities 2020-21: Detailed notes for guidance on completion of 2020-21 financial statements

Introduction

1. These guidance notes are designed to supplement the Council's Accounts Direction.
2. The guidance has been prepared with a view to improving the quality and consistency of financial reporting throughout the university sector.
3. This guidance covers key disclosures in the financial statements, including model disclosure notes.

General

4. The Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting for Further and Higher Education (SORP) was issued in October 2018 and is effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019. A copy of the SORP and supporting materials can be found on the [Universities UK website](#).
5. Model financial statements are available on the [BUFDG website](#)
6. As noted in the SORP, institutions must apply all requirements under FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', relevant legislation and accounts direction from Funding Bodies applicable to the institution.

SFC funding

7. The note analysing Funding Council grants should provide sufficient information to allow the reader to understand the major types of grant received from SFC. Annex A contains a model note which institutions should adopt as far as possible.
8. Any significant one-off or ring-fenced grants, including non-recurring COVID-19 support, should be identified on a separate line. Whilst smaller grants may be grouped together under the heading "other", this should not represent a significant portion of the total grants received.

Tuition fees and education contracts

9. Institutions should analyse tuition fees and education contracts in accordance with the model notes given in Annex B.

Other income

10. Funding received from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme should be shown as a government grant in other income and not offset against staff costs in the financial statements. The income should not be shown as part of SFC funding. Institutions are also encouraged to disclose the number of staff furloughed during the year.

Student support funds

11. Paragraph 16.9 of the SORP states that “Where the institution disburses funds it has received as paying agent on behalf of a funding body or other body, and has no beneficial interest or risks related to the receipt and subsequent disbursement of the funds, these funds should be excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income of the institution.”
12. What constitutes an agency arrangement will depend upon each individual fund and its own individual characteristics. However, the following can be considered to be agency arrangements:
 - Higher education childcare funds.
 - Higher education discretionary funds.
13. Accordingly, these should be excluded from the Statement of Comprehensive Income and the movements disclosed in a note to the accounts.
14. The funds that institutions receive to offset the administration costs of operating HE student support funds should be included within the institution’s own Statement of Comprehensive Income.
15. Any in year re-distributions agreed by the Council should also be reflected in the notes. Amounts to be clawed back should be identified as repayable to Funding Council or other body in the student support fund note. An example note is included at Annex C.
16. Institutions should have in place systems which minimise incorrect payments of student support funds. However, where there has been overpayment for any reason and funds are recovered these should be credited to the fund balance at the time of recovery. The administrative costs of recovering these overpayments, in line with other administrative costs relating to student support fund payments, should be met from core funds.

17. For consistency and clarity, the headings shown in the staff costs note should be analysed as shown in Annex D. As in previous years, agency staff costs should be included as a separate line under 'Other operating expenses'.

Staff costs

18. As highlighted in paragraph 10, funding received from the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme should not be offset against staff costs in the financial statements.

Model note: SFC income

| | 2020-21 £'000 | 2019-20 £'000 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| General Fund – Teaching | | |
| General Fund – Research and Innovation | | |
| Capital grants received in year | | |
| Deferred capital grants | | |
| Strategic funding | | |
| Capital maintenance grants | | |
| Grants for FE provision | | |
| Ring-fenced grants funded by Scottish Government | | |
| Total | | |

Model note: Tuition fees and education contracts

| | 2020-21 £'000 | 2019-20 £'000 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Scotland home domicile fees | | |
| EU domicile fees | | |
| RUK domicile fees | | |
| Non-EU domicile fees | | |
| Non-credit bearing course fees | | |
| Education contracts | | |
| Other contracts | | |
| Total | | |

Model note: HE student support funds

| | 2020-21 | 2020-21 | 2020-21 | 2020-21 | 2019-20 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | HE Childcare £'000 | HE Discretionary £'000 | Other £'000 | Total £'000 | Total £'000 |
| Balance b/fwd | | | | | |
| Allocation received in year | | | | | |
| Expenditure | | | | | |
| Repaid as clawback | | | | | |
| Contribution to funds | | | | | |
| Balance c/fwd | | | | | |
| Repayable as clawback | | | | | |
| Retained by institution for students | | | | | |

Model note: Staff numbers and staff costs**Staff numbers**

| | Year ended 31 July 2021 Number | Year ended 31 July 2020 Number |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Academic / Teaching departments | | |
| Academic / Teaching support services | | |
| Research grants and contracts | | |
| Administration and central services | | |
| Premises | | |
| Other income generating activities | | |
| Other expenditure | | |
| Catering and residences | | |
| Total | | |

Staff costs

| | Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000 | Year ended 31 July 2020 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Academic / Teaching departments | | |
| Academic / Teaching support services | | |
| Research grants and contracts | | |
| Administration and central services | | |
| Premises | | |
| Other income generating activities | | |
| Other expenditure | | |
| Catering and residences | | |
| Movement on pension provision | | |
| Sub-total | | |
| Exceptional restructuring costs | | |
| Total | | |

Staff costs (continued)

Annex D

| | Year ended 31 July 2021 £'000 | Year ended 31 July 2020 £'000 |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Salaries | | |
| Social security costs | | |
| Pension contributions paid | | |
| Pension net service cost | | |
| Movement on USS provision | | |
| Sub-total | | |
| Exceptional restructuring costs | | |
| Total staff costs | | |