



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

**Intake targets for the controlled
subject of Medicine in universities
for academic year 2020-21**

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 6 April 2020

Intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year 2020-21

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Summary: Announcement of intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year 2020-21.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's universities

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Intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine in universities for academic year 2020-21

Purpose

1. I am writing to announce the academic year (AY) 2020-21 intake targets for the controlled subject of Medicine. This is set out in Table 1 below.

Intake targets

2. SFC has received guidance from the Scottish Government advising that the recommended intake for Medicine for AY 2020-21 will be 1,038 students; an increase of 25 students from AY 2019-20. This increase is a direct result of a new course, HCP-Med for Healthcare Professionals, developed at the [University of Edinburgh from 2020-21](#), to allow experienced healthcare professionals to enter medicine and combine part-time study with their existing job. It is designed to target high calibre candidates who are more likely to be retained and work in NHS Scotland once they have completed their studies. 25 places have been allocated to the University of Edinburgh for this new course.
3. This intake should continue to support the continuing widening access programme (50 places) and the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) course (55 places) which was introduced in AY 2018-19. ScotGEM is run by the universities of St Andrews and Dundee and health boards in Fife and Tayside, in collaboration with NHS Highland, NHS Dumfries and Galloway, and the University of the Highlands and Islands.
4. For the first time the University of Edinburgh will be allocated an intake target of 25 students for its HCP-Med for Healthcare Professionals programme. This programme provides a route for experienced Healthcare Professionals living and working in Scotland to become doctors. In addition we are continuing to allocate an intake of 30 students each to University of Aberdeen and University of Glasgow; these were first introduced in AY 2019-20.
5. Ministers have asked for a widening access review to take place in 2020-21, to measure how medical schools are performing against priorities set out in previous letters of guidance. This will inform the developing proposals for a new medical school and any other future work.
6. SFC will continue to set a minimum intake target for students that are Scottish domiciled and / or from the rest of the European Union (EU), for each university, from within the overall 1,038 students target outlined above. We will continue with the policy first discussed in the [AY 2019-20 medical intake target publication](#). Ministers have requested that by AY 2021-22 there should be an additional 100 Scottish domiciled (Scots-dom)/rest of EU students (rEU) recruited, with a similar reduction in rest of UK (rUK) recruitment.

7. The total intake for AY 2020-21 will include 33 more places to be allocated to Scots-dom/rEU students and rUK places will be decreased by the same number. The additional intake of 33 Scots-dom/rEU students for AY 2019-20 will be split between the medical schools as set out in Stuart Fancey's letter of 14 May 2019.
8. A copy of the guidance from the Scottish Government is provided at Annex A and details of individual university intake targets are set out in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Intake targets for Medicine for AY 2020-21

Intake targets for the Scottish Medical Schools for AY 2020-21

Institution	Core intake target		Additional intake targets			International	Total Intake Target for AY 2020-21
	Scottish domiciled, rest of UK, and rest of EU	Of which a minimum must be Scottish domiciled and rest of EU	Widening Access Places	ScotGEM	Additional intakes from AY 2019-20 and AY 2020-21		
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Aberdeen, University of	152	131	10	-	30	16	208
Dundee, University of	134	119	10	-	-	13	157
Edinburgh, University of	190	131	10	-	25	17	242
Glasgow, University of	210	172	10	-	30	18	268
St Andrews, University of	98	59	10	55	-	-	163
Sector	784	612	50	55	85	64	1,038

Additional Widening Access places

9. SFC has again allocated 50 widening access places equally across the five medical schools. We will monitor the use of these additional places against the criteria outlined in AY 2016-17, as well as monitoring the existing performance of universities in their widening access aspirations for the most deprived 20% under the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD 20). This will serve as part of the evidence base of the wider review of widening access Ministers have requested in 2020-21.
10. SFC intends to review the distribution of these places prior to their planned allocation in AY 2021-22. In reviewing their distribution, we will take into account performance against the existing widening access criteria, success in recruiting SIMD 20 students, and also the outcomes of the Access Data Group which is looking at appropriate measures of deprivation.

Pre-entry medical places

11. The Scottish Government and SFC recognise the positive outcome of the first year of the 'Gateway to Medicine' courses being run by the universities of Aberdeen and Glasgow. In response to this success we will continue to allocate both universities an intake of 25 students for AY 2020-21. The pre-entry medical intake is not included in the intake targets above.

International students

12. The Scottish Government recognises that international students make an important contribution to medical education in Scotland, however given the increase in international students since 2016 Scottish Government will continue to monitor the number of international students in Scottish medical schools. Scottish Government will consider any solution that should be put in place, with regards to international students, as they continue to work on proposals to develop a new medical school.

Funding and funded places

13. We will provide further information with regards to funding and funded student places for the controlled subject of Medicine in due course, with a view to formally publishing these in our Outcome Agreement Funding announcement.

COVID-19

14. I am aware that I am writing to you in a time of great pressure on our universities as you respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. SFC is aware of, and appreciates, the particular efforts which the medical schools are making -including by volunteering equipment, facilities, clinical staff and research expertise to the NHS. Please be assured we will do our best to limit the burden on you during this pandemic as you respond to the intake targets in this letter.

Further information

15. Please contact Duncan Condie, Senior Funding Policy Officer, tel: 0131 313 6671, email: dcondie@sfc.ac.uk.



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