



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

Intake Targets for Paramedic Education AY 2021-22

SFC Announcement

Issue Date: 6 April 2021

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Summary: Announcement of university intake targets for the Paramedic Education programme for Academic Year (AY) 2021-22.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's Universities

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University intake targets for Paramedic Education in AY 2021-22

Purpose

1. I am writing to announce the intake targets for BSc Paramedic Education programmes in universities for Academic Year (AY) 2021-22.

Background

2. This is the second year of SFC issuing guidance on university intake targets for the BSc Paramedic Education programme. SFC will confirm the funded places and funding associated with this programme in the final funding announcement for AY 2021-22. The five Scottish universities that were previously awarded contracts to deliver Paramedic Education will continue to deliver this programme in AY 2021-22.
3. In setting the intake targets for the second cohort of BSc Paramedic Education programme in AY 2021-22, SFC received guidance from the Scottish Government's Chief Nursing Officer's (CNO) Directorate. The CNO Directorate's guidance for AY 2021-22 is provided as Annex A and the recommended intake targets for each university are provided as Annex B with this announcement.

Intake targets for AY 2021-22

4. The overall intake target for Paramedic Education in AY 2021-22, as recommended by the CNO Directorate, is **300** students with 'Home Fee' status; an increase of **5.6%** to the overall intake target from AY 2020-21. This equates to an additional 16 students. The AY 2021-22 intake targets for each of the five universities are set out in Table 1 below.
5. Funded places will be provided in the final funding announcement for AY 2021-22. SFC will liaise with universities on the allocation of places prior to their announcement.
6. Funded places allocated by SFC for students on year 1 of the programme should be similar to the intake target for each university, with funded places for year 2 to be based on projections of continuing students. Paramedic Education places will continue to be funded at SFC Teaching Subject Price Group 4.
7. We recognise that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, AY 2020-21 was an extremely challenging year and that this was reflected in student recruitment to Paramedic Education. In AY 2021-22 however, it is our expectation that universities should make every effort to recruit to the intake targets in this letter.

Rest of UK and international students

8. The intake targets, below, are for students with 'Home Fee' status. Universities can recruit rest of UK (rUK) and international students, but should discuss any such recruitment with the Scottish Ambulance Service and placement providers before doing so. RUK and international students cannot be counted against the intake targets.

European Union students

9. As a result of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union (EU) and the transitional period ending in January 2021, EU students, without 'Home Fee' status starting their courses in AY 2021-22 are not eligible for funding by SFC and will be treated as international students. Republic of Ireland (RoI) students will also not be eligible for funding but will have access to a tuition fee loan via Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS). Continuing EU students will continue to receive SFC funding. More information on residency conditions can be found at [SAAS: Brexit guidance](#).

Monitoring

10. Universities should return information on students on their Paramedic Education programmes to SFC through their annual Early Statistics and Final Figures Returns. Details of the information required will be published in the annual Early Statistics Return Notes of Guidance on the SFC website.
11. Any monitoring requirements set out in the original contract between NHS Education for Scotland and the universities will remain in place.

Under-recruitment policy

12. SFC will operate an under-recruitment policy for the Paramedic Education programme in AY 2021-22. We may recover funding if universities under-recruit against their funded places subject to a tolerance of 3%. Specific allocations of funded places will be provided in the final funding announcement. This is subject to consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by the university.
13. If a university recruits below the tolerance threshold then SFC will write to them to set out the potential funding to be recovered and to request details of any mitigating circumstances before a final decision is made on whether funding is to be recovered. If it is agreed that recovery should go ahead then we will recover Main Teaching Grant equivalent to that associated with the recruitment below the tolerance threshold.

Over-recruitment policy

14. SFC will continue to operate an over-recruitment ('consolidation') policy for Paramedic Education in AY 2021-22. Universities may be liable for a financial penalty if they exceed their 'consolidation number' by more than 10%. This is subject to consideration of any mitigating evidence presented by the university.
15. If a university recruits above the tolerance threshold then SFC will write to them to set out the potential financial penalty to be applied and to request details of any mitigating circumstances before a final decision is made. If it is agreed that a financial penalty should be applied, the penalty will reflect the additional tuition fee income associated with those students recruited above the tolerance threshold.

Further information

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



Lorna MacDonald
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Table 1: Breakdown of university intake targets for Paramedic Education in AY 2021-22

University	Intake target for AY 2021-22 (students)
Glasgow Caledonian University	60
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	60
Robert Gordon University	60
University of Stirling	60
University of the West of Scotland	60
Total	300