

Intake targets for Pre-registration Nursing & Midwifery: 2023-24 to 2025-26



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Summary:	Announcement of university intake targets for the controlled subject of Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery for the period AY 2023-24 to 2025-26.
FAO:	Principals / Chairs of Scotland's universities.
Further Information:	CONTACT: Duncan Condie JOB TITLE: Senior Funding Policy Officer DIRECTORATE: Finance TEL: 0131 313 6671 EMAIL: dcondie@sfc.ac.uk

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Purpose

1. I am writing to announce the intake targets for the controlled subject of Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education in universities for the period Academic Year (AY) 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Background

2. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) receives annual guidance from the Scottish Government's Chief Nursing Officer's (CNO) Directorate, providing recommended intakes for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education. The CNO Directorate's guidance for AY 2023-24 is provided in Annex A.
3. From 2015-16, the guidance from the Scottish Government has provided SFC with university intake targets for all Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Education. This includes the 'three year' courses which are funded through a Scottish Government ring-fenced grant, Honours Nursing provision (referred to as 'four years honours'), and courses offered through the Open University in Scotland (OUiS).
4. For the first time the CNO Directorate has set a three-year intake target, covering the period AY 2023-24, AY 2024-25 and AY 2025-26. Although this is the first of a three-year plan, Ministers reserve the right to review and adjust intake targets should this be required.

Intake targets for AY 2023-24

5. The overall intake target for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery in AY 2023-24, as recommended by the CNO Directorate, is **4,837** students; which is unchanged from AY 2022-23. As indicated above, the figures will hold, subject to annual review, for a multi-year period of three years.
6. There is a small change in the breakdown of intakes to two of the fields of practice. The intake target for 'Mental Health' has been reduced by 28 students, with 'Adult' increasing by 28 students. In addition, there has been a redistribution of the intake target between universities, with the OUiS receiving a significantly increased intake target.
7. The intake target includes students with 'home fee' status, students from the rest of the UK (rUK), and students from the Republic of Ireland (RoI). Included in the target are **461** students that have been allocated to the seven universities delivering four year honours provision.

8. We have split out the intake targets for AY 2023-24 according to field of practice, as set out in the CNO's guidance to SFC. Universities should give regard to the split of intakes between the four Nursing fields of practice and Midwifery when recruiting for AY 2023-24.
9. In AY 2021-22, SFC took over the funding of Pre-Registration Nursing and Midwifery at the OUIs from the Scottish Government. This will continue in AY 2023-24, with the Scottish Government providing the associated transfer of resource to SFC and SFC allocating this funding directly to the OUIs.

European Union students

10. 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 2023-24, are not eligible for SFC funding. RoI students will also be ineligible for funding but will have access to a tuition fee loan via Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) of up to £9,250 each year. Continuing EU students (who commenced their studies prior to AY 2021-22) will continue to receive SFC funding.

Indexing of Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery students

11. In addition to SFC's data collections, universities are also required to index Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery students with NHS Education for Scotland (NES).
12. In response to concerns regarding the consistency of data submitted to NES and SFC, a 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) document is attached at Annex B. This document includes information on intake targets, funded student places, SFC's consolidation number and when students should be indexed with NES.

Tuition fees

13. From AY 2021-22 tuition fees for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery were administered in a similar manner to other programmes and this will continue in AY 2023-24. Students with 'home fee' status should apply to SAAS for their tuition fees, as SFC no longer funds Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery places at the gross teaching price. Students who commenced their Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery studies with no expectation of having to pay tuition fees should not be disadvantaged by this change in policy, and if these students are unable to access tuition fee support through SAAS then universities should claim their tuition fees through SFC's Fee Anomalies grant for AY 2023-24.
14. EU students on the previously commissioned 'three year' courses who commenced their studies prior to the beginning of AY 2021-22 will continue to be funded by SFC for both tuition fees and teaching grant until the completion of their programmes. EU students who commenced their studies prior to the beginning of AY 2021-22 and are on Honours

courses where universities previously invoiced Scottish Government directly, should also have their fees claimed through our Fee Anomalies grant for AY 2023-24.

Previous study

15. In circumstances where students have already received UK or other EU public funds for a higher education course before, and it was not to study Nursing or Midwifery, they may still be eligible to receive full support to study a Nursing or Midwifery course. More information on funding for Nursing and Midwifery students can be found on SAAS's website.

Funded places

16. SFC will contact universities to share our AY 2023-24 funded student places modelling for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery, in advance of the funded places and funding being confirmed in the final funding announcement.

Under-recruitment in AY 2022-23 and AY 2023-24

17. It is SFC's policy to recover funding from universities who under-recruit eligible students in controlled subjects by more than 3% of funded places. Although we would expect universities to make every effort to recruit to target, both Scottish Government and SFC are acutely aware that there was a shortfall against target for funded places in AY 2022-23 and that UCAS figures suggest that recruitment for AY 2023-24 will also be challenging. In response, SFC and Scottish Government will waive the recovery of funding for Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery for AY 2022-23 and AY 2023-24 where universities are able to provide evidence of their efforts to recruit to target.

Further information

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



Richard Maconachie
Director of Finance

Table 1: Pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery Intake Targets for AY 2023-24

Institution	Adult	Children and Young People	Learning Disability	Midwifery	Mental Health	Total	4-Year Honours Degree (Included in total)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Abertay University					78	78	78
Dundee, University of	420	57			112	589	
Edinburgh Napier University	440	101	60	109	134	844	
Edinburgh, University of	64					64	64
Glasgow Caledonian University	518	103	98		110	829	71
Glasgow, University of	55					55	55
Highlands and Islands, University of the	118				20	138	
Open University in Scotland	86	6	8		88	188	
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh	88					88	88
Robert Gordon University	281	55		81	80	497	43
Stirling, University of	285				104	389	62
West of Scotland, University of the	777			111	190	1,078	
Total	3,132	322	166	301	916	4,837	461