



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC GUIDANCE

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National Policy for FE Bursaries AY 2023-24



National Policy for FE Bursaries: AY 2023-24

Issue Date:	29 June 2023
Reference:	SFC/GD/13/2023
Summary:	Explanation of the conditions of use of SFC Further Education bursary funds allocated to colleges for Academic Year 2023-24.
FAO:	Principals and Finance Directors of Scotland's colleges.
Further Information:	CONTACT: Student Support team DIRECTORATE: Finance (Funding Policy) EMAIL: studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk

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National Policy for FE Bursaries: AY 2023-24

Introduction

1. This policy document stipulates the conditions of use of Further Education (FE) bursary funds allocated to colleges by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and sets out the rates for calculation for Academic Year (AY) 2023-24. This policy continues to support the strategic priorities and outcomes of SFC and the Scottish Government.
2. Student support funds are cash-limited. Students who are eligible for support from this funding are not automatically entitled to this support.

Updates for AY 2023-24

3. The updates to the paragraphs and relevant sections of the guidance are set out in Annex A to this announcement. The main changes are:
 - **Increase in FE bursary maintenance rate**
The annual bursary maintenance rate has been increased by 11.1% to a maximum of £5,398.65. Split over 43 weeks, this provides a new maximum weekly award of £125.55.

COVID-19

4. Colleges are continuing to work through many challenges as we recover from the impact of COVID-19. In AY 2023-24 SFC will continue to work with the sector to support students and staff in this context.
5. SFC is publishing its National Policy for FE Bursaries to provide advice for college student support practitioners. We are aware of, and fully appreciate, the impact which those who work on student support have encountered during the pandemic. We also recognise the impact the pandemic continues to have on students' finances, a situation which is now compounded by cost-of-living pressures.

Status of policy

6. These documents aim to provide a standard foundation upon which student support funding award assessments and decisions can be made by college staff. Where there is a need to provide additional or exceptional guidance, we will continue to circulate this information directly to our established student support sector contacts.

Further information

7. Please contact the Student Support team, email: studentsupport@sfc.ac.uk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Maconachie', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Richard Maconachie

Director of Finance

Annex A

Summary of updates to FE Bursary Guidance for AY 2023-24

Award Assessment document		
Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Eligibility of student: Residency	3	In February 2022 SFC circulated planned updates to the FE Residency Guide for AY 2023-24, covering changes to evacuated or assisted British nationals from Afghanistan and UK nationals who have fled Ukraine as a result of the Russian invasion. The fully updated version for AY 2023-24 will be published later in the summer.
Financial assessment outline	107	Guidance updated to include a new Social Security benefit that will be delivered this year.
FE Student Support Rates AY 2023-24	Annex A	Figures updated to reflect increase in bursary maintenance rates for AY 2023-24.

Advisors' Notes document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Self-supporting students	42	Definition of estranged student updated to align with Scottish Government and Student Award Agency Scotland (SAAS).

Childcare document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Transfer of funds	22	Colleges are not permitted to transfer funding from FE/HE childcare fund to HE Discretionary Fund.

Discretionary Funding document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
College management of Further Education Discretionary Funding (FEDF)	21	Reintroduction of cap on overall discretionary payments to an individual student. This must not exceed £5,000 in a single AY.

Fund Management & Audit Information document

Subject	Paragraph number(s)	Change to policy
Fund Management	18	The overall bursary maintenance rate for AY 2023-24 is now a maximum annual award of £5,398.65 being split over 43

Fund Management & Audit Information document

weeks, giving a new maximum weekly award of £125.55.