



Scottish Funding Council
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

SFC STATISTICS

Report on Widening Access 2018-19
Issue Date: 7 April 2020

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Summary: This report presents data relating to the Commission on Widening Access targets, and on Scottish-domiciled entrants to higher and further education in Scotland by socio-economic deprivation, gender, ethnicity, disability, care experience and age.

FAO: Principals and Chairs of Scotland's colleges and universities, Scottish Government, Protected Characteristic Governance Groups, students, parents, guardians and the general public.

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Executive Summary

This is the fourth *SFC Report on Widening Access*, the successor to *SFC's Learning for All* publication and discusses data relating to the Scottish Government access targets, further access data that reflects SFC Outcome Agreement measures and the evidence base used in *SFC's Gender Action Plan (GAP)* work and *GAP Progression* report, with a focus on socio-economic status and protected characteristics such as gender, disability and ethnicity. The key points from this report are:

- In 2018-19, 15.9% of Scottish-domiciled FTFD entrants (4,900) to Scottish universities were from the 20% most deprived areas (SIMD0-20) in Scotland¹, up from 15.6% (4,650 entrants) in 2017-18.
- There were 8,960 SDUE at college from the 20% SIMD0-20 areas in Scotland in 2018-19, representing 24.8% of all SDUEs at college and up from 24.3% in 2017-18.
- In 2018-19 there were 320 Care-experienced entrants to FTFD level study compared to 255 in 2017-18.
- 91.1% of Scottish-domiciled FTFD entrants completed year 1 and remained in higher education in 2018-19 compared to a retention rate of 92.5% in 2017-18.
- 86.8% of Scottish-domiciled FTFD entrants were retained in higher education in 2018-19 from the 20% most deprived areas, compared to 89.4% in 2017-18.
- 13.9% of Scottish-domiciled FTFD qualifiers were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland in 2018-19, up from 13.4% in 2017-18.
- In 2018-19, 21.9% of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate qualifiers from college were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, down from 24.0% in 2017-18.

Key Definitions

Scottish Domiciled Undergraduate Entrant (SDUE)

A new entrant domiciled in Scotland prior to study and studying a First Degree or HNC/HND/Diploma/Certificate of Higher Education in a Scottish university or college. This can be on a full or part-time basis.

Scottish Domiciled Full-time First Degree Entrant (FTFD)

A new entrant domiciled in Scotland prior to study and studying a First Degree course on a full-time basis.

Higher Education (HE) in the College Sector

This is defined as a course at [SCQF](#) level 7 or above (with the exception of Advanced Highers) Can be undertaken on a part time (PTHE) or full-time (FTHE) basis.

Further Education (FE) in the College Sector

This is defined as a course at [SCQF](#) level 6 or below. Can be undertaken on a part time (PT) or full-time (FT) basis.

Care-experience

SFC defines 'care-experienced' as anyone who has been or is currently in care or from a looked-after background at any stage of their life, no matter how short, including adopted children who were previously looked-after. More information [here](#).

Articulation with Advanced Standing

Articulation is defined here as a student gaining entry to second year of a degree with a Higher National Certificate (HNC) gained at College in the previous 3 years, or into third year with a Higher National Diploma (HND) gained at College in the previous 3 years. Further information [here](#).

¹ The Commission on Widening Access Recommendation 32 states that, by 2030, students from the 20% most deprived areas should represent 20% of entrants to higher education.

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Entrants

15.9%

of Scottish-domiciled first degree** entrants (4,900) to Scottish universities were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland***

↑ 0.2pp* on 2017-18



24.8%

of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants (8,960) to Scottish colleges were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland***

↑ 0.5pp* on 2017-18



320

care-experienced entrants to first degree** level study in 2018-19.

Compared to 255 on 2017-18



Retention

91.9%

of Scottish-domiciled first degree** entrants completed year 1 and remained in higher education in 2018-19.



↓ 1.4pp* on 2017-18

86.8%

of Scottish-domiciled first degree** entrants from 20% most deprived areas completed year 1 and remained in higher education in 2018-19



↓ 2.7pp* on 2017-18

Qualifiers

13.9%

of Scottish-domiciled first degree** qualifiers were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland in 2018-19.



↑ 0.5pp* on 2017-18

21.9%

of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate higher education qualifiers from college were from the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland.



↓ 2.1pp* on 2017-18

* Percentage points.

** All first degree figures here refer to full-time student.

*** CoWA Recommendation 32: By 2030, students from the 20% most deprived backgrounds should represent 20% of entrants to higher education.