



# Students Eligible for Funding 2022-23: Executive Summary



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoineachaidh na h-Alba

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# Students Eligible for Funding 2022-23

## Executive Summary

- The *Students Eligible for Funding* publication reports provisional information on the numbers of students eligible for funding at the 19 higher education institutions (HEIs) funded by the Scottish Funding Council (SFC).
- This publication presents figures from the SFC's Early Statistics Return, which collected data on the number of students eligible for funding at institutions on 1 December 2022 and forecasts of enrolments expected later in the academic year.
- The total full-time equivalent (FTE) number of students eligible for funding in 2022-23 was 144,660. Of this total 128,280 FTE (88.7%) were undergraduates, 9,850 FTE (6.8%) were taught postgraduates, and 6,525 FTE (4.5%) were research postgraduates. 18,435 FTE (12.7%) were part-time students.
- SFC provides an allocation of funded places annually to each institution for taught postgraduate and undergraduate students eligible for funding. The number of students eligible for funding does not equate to the number of funded places provided by SFC. The number of funded places in 2022-23 was 138,830 FTE.
- Between 2021-22 and 2022-23, the total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by 8,575 FTE (-5.6%). One key reason for this is that following the UK's departure from the EU, new EU students starting courses from 2021-22 onwards were no longer eligible for funding.
- The total FTE number of students eligible for funding has decreased by -4,570 (-3.1%) between 2018-19 and 2022-23. Non-continuation rates over this period, and hence changes in students numbers between sessions, are likely to have been affected by restrictions introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Despite the reduction in the total number of students eligible for funding between 2021-22 and 2022-23, a record number of Scottish domiciled applicants aged 18 or under were accepted for a place at a Scottish institution in 2022-23. In 2022-23 17,120 applicants for a place at Scottish institutions, 195 (1.2%) higher than for 2021-22 and 2,230 (15.0%) higher than for 2018-19.
- Between 2018-19 and 2022-23 the enrolments of students eligible for funding in the controlled subject areas of:
  - Nursing and Midwifery Pre-registration increased by 2,475 FTE (+26.3%).
  - Medicine increased by 1,050 FTE (+36.2%).
  - Dentistry remained at a similar level, 495 FTE in 2022-23 compared to 485 FTE in 2018-19.

- Initial Teacher Education (ITE) decreased by -250 FTE (-4.1%).