



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

## **Expansion of Early Years Education: University childcare places in 2020-21**

**SFC Announcement**

Issue Date: 5 October 2020

## Expansion of Early Years Education: University childcare places in AY 2020-21

Issue date: 5 October 2020

Reference: SFC/AN/19/2020

Summary: Allocation of additional funded places and teaching grant to universities for childcare in Academic Year 2020-21.

FAO: Principals/Chairs of Scotland's universities

Further information: **Contact:** Lorna MacDonald  
**Job title:** Director of Finance  
**Department:** Finance  
**Tel:** 0131 313 6690  
**Email:** [lornamacdonald@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:lornamacdonald@sfc.ac.uk)



Scottish Funding Council  
Comhairle Maoinachaidh na h-Alba

Scottish Funding Council  
Apex 2  
97 Haymarket Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 5HD  
T 0131 313 6500  
F 0131 313 6501  
[www.sfc.ac.uk](http://www.sfc.ac.uk)

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## **Expansion of Early Years Education: University childcare places for AY 2020-21**

### **Purpose**

1. The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) announced decisions on [7 April 2020](#) on the allocation of outcome agreement funding to universities for the forthcoming Academic Year (AY) 2020-21, with updated position announced on [9 June 2020](#).
2. SFC was unable to include in those announcements the numbers of additional funded student places for childcare in AY 2020-21, as the volume had yet to be finalised with the Scottish Government Early Years Education Division. That volume has now been finalised and details are set out in this announcement. SFC apologises for the late announcement of these additional places and we acknowledge the potential difficulties it may pose for universities.

### **Expansion of Early Years Education**

3. In support of the Scottish Government's plans to increase entitlement to free childcare, SFC is continuing to allocate additional funded places in AY 2020-21 for additional part-time/work-based BA Childhood Practice students. The Scottish Government is continuing to meet the costs of this activity through an additional ring-fenced grant to SFC.

### **University childcare places for AY 2020-21**

4. The total number of additional funded places being allocated for BA Childhood Practice students in AY 2020-21 is circa 413 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) places. This equates to additional teaching grant of £2.57 million. A breakdown of the distribution of places is shown in the Annex to this document.

### ***Calculation of funded places***

5. SFC has allocated additional funded student places for BA Childcare Practice annually since AY 2017-18. In subsequent years (AY 2018-19 and AY 2019-20) the allocations of additional funded places were based on rolling forward additional allocations from previous years. Therefore last year's allocation of additional funded places was made up of the allocation of additional funded places for entrants in AYs 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 combined. No adjustments have ever been made for either non-continuation rates or for how successful universities have been in filling previous allocations of additional funded places.
6. For AY 2020-21, SFC has taken account of the number of additional places associated with entrants that universities have filled when calculating numbers for continuing students that started in AYs 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

7. Since AY 2017-18 additional funded places have been allocated to universities to increase their output from Childhood Practice courses to train additional students (at 'managerial' level). These additional funded places are specifically to meet the increased volume in the childcare workforce associated with the Scottish Government's commitments on the increased entitlement to free childcare. To ascertain the increase to intakes requires the establishment of a reasonable baseline position in order to estimate how many of the entrants to these courses should be regarded as being additional to the universities' normal intakes.
8. SFC has established that baseline by using each university's five-year average number of entrants for the AY's 2012-13 to 2016-17, i.e. the five academic sessions immediately before the start of the additional funded places first being allocated in AY 2017-18.
9. Using HESA student data and Early Statistics returns, the five-year average FTE number of entrants has been removed from the actual entrants for each academic session from 2017-18 to 2019-20 to estimate how much additional intake there has been<sup>1</sup>. This additional intake has then been compared to the allocations of additional funded places associated with entrants, to estimate the use of these additional places.
10. The additional funded places that have been allocated for **continuing** students in AY 2020-21 is based on the estimated numbers of filled places for entrants in AYs 2017-18 to 2019-20 carried forward, based on a cohort being funded for four years. In total this amounts to c.346 FTE places, which equates to teaching grant of £2.15 million.
11. An additional 67 places for **new entrants** in AY 2020-21 has been distributed to universities in proportion to the distribution of additional places allocated for new entrants in AY 2019-20. This equates to £0.42 million of teaching grant.

### Further information

12. Should any university believe that they will not be able to fill their additional AY 2020-21 entrant places, they should contact SFC as soon as possible. For this, and any other queries, please contact Gavin Bruce, Assistant Director, Funding, tel: 0131 313 6585, email: [gbruce@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:gbruce@sfc.ac.uk) or Gordon Anderson, Senior Policy/Analysis Officer, Policy, Insight & Analytics, tel: 0131 313 6551, email: [ganderson@sfc.ac.uk](mailto:ganderson@sfc.ac.uk).

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<sup>1</sup> For AYs 2017-18 and 2018-19 the actual numbers of entrants were derived from HESA Student returns. For AY 2019-20 they were taken from Early Statistics returns.

L. MacDonald

**Lorna MacDonald**  
Director of Finance