

GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

Learning and Teaching Committee – 28 February 2024

2023-24 Student Withdrawal Update Report

Report by Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement Manager

1. Introduction

This report provides an update on student withdrawal levels over August to December 2023.

2. 2023-24 Early Withdrawal Update Report

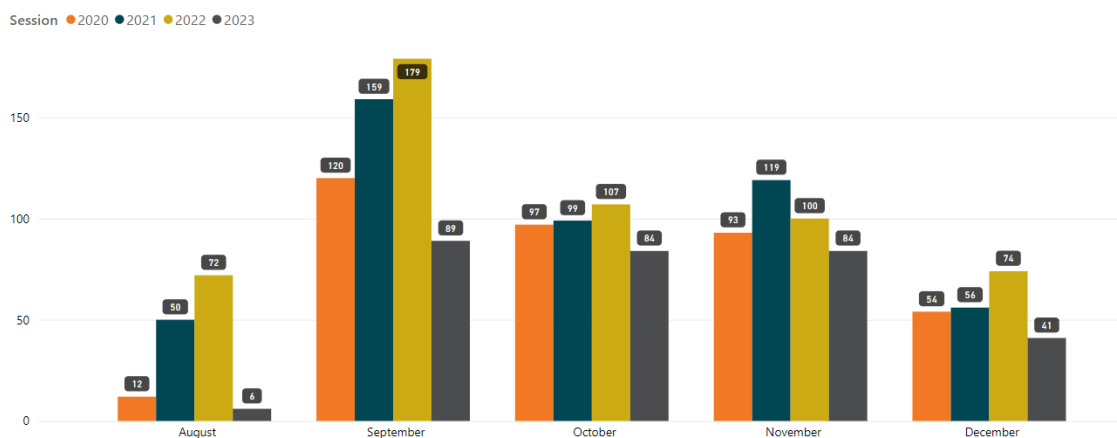
Over recent years, early withdrawals have had a significant impact on the College's performance indicators, particularly for full-time programmes. During Covid, early withdrawal rates increased substantially and a number of measures have been introduced with the aim of improving early retention.

The charts provided below compare historical actual withdrawal rates from 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 against a current estimate of withdrawal in 2023-24 within a similar timeframe.

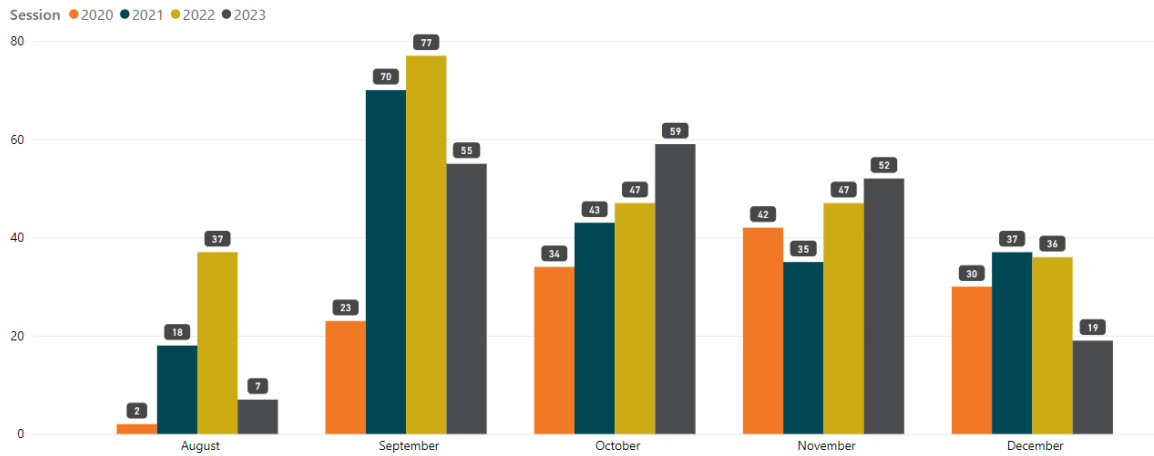
These charts highlight improvements overall in student withdrawal levels, with particularly significant reductions in the full-time withdrawal rates. Across the four mode/level categories, there are only a few months within the Part-Time data which show a poorer position compared to previous years' data. However, over the four-month reporting period total withdrawal numbers are still below the overall historical levels.

This mid-year data therefore provides evidence of potential improvements in outcomes for students across all four mode/level categories should these positive trends continue.

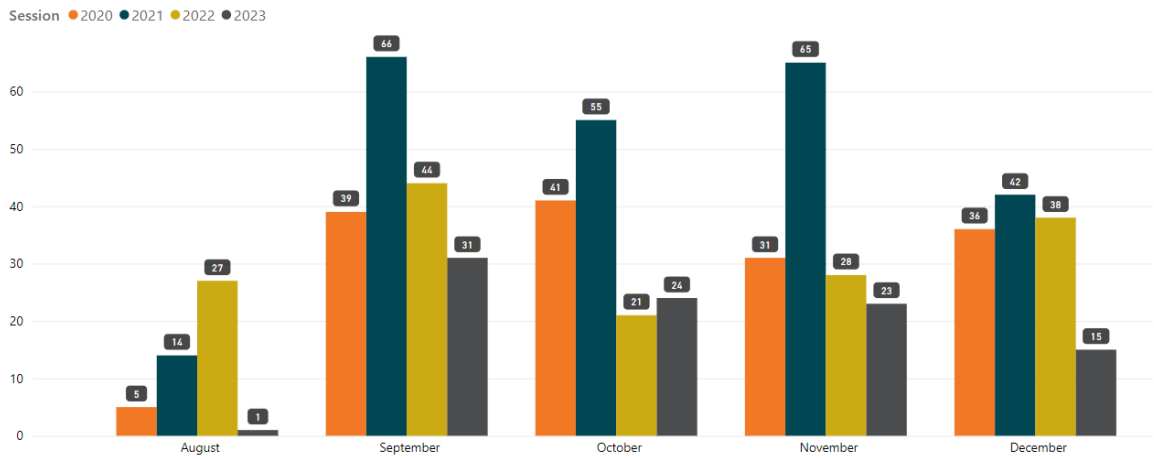
Full-time Further Education Withdrawals August 2023 – December 2023



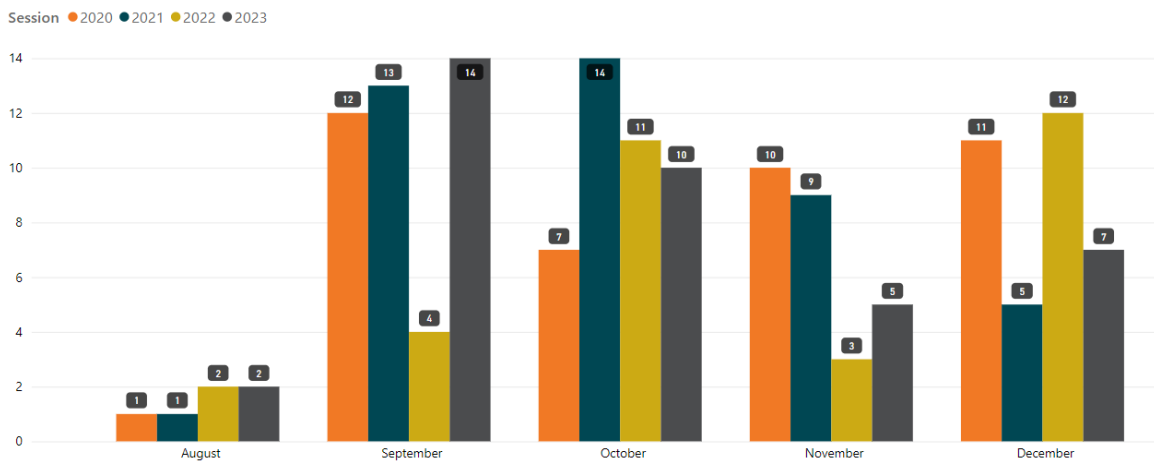
Part-time Further Education Withdrawals August 2023 – December 2023



Full-time Higher Education Withdrawals August 2023 – December 2023



Part-time Higher Education Withdrawals August 2023 – December 2023



Contributory factors to the improvement in withdrawal rates include:

- The significant College priority given to improving retention rates over the past 2 years, with an array of coordinated actions being implemented to improve retention. These have focussed on all elements of the student journey, from initial recruitment engagement through to ongoing course attendance.
- Delivery of a more effective and impactful pre-course keep warm and induction activity, with approximately 2,500 students participating in pre-course activities prior to 2023-24. This included regular contact and engagement opportunities between application and course attendance, a discrete pre-course welcome and freshers week, alongside an initial settling in engagement period prior to the start of teaching activity. A key element of this was establishing strong relationships between students and staff prior to the start of course instruction.
- A heightened focus on student engagement and responding to student feedback, ensuring that our course delivery meets the needs of as many students as possible.
- Restructuring of poorly performing full-time courses into shorter courses more closely matched to student needs and interests. A small number of full-time courses were disproportionately impacting on college success rates and these courses were prioritised for more radical curriculum redesign, with retention on these modified courses improving as a result.
- Strengthening of mental health and well-being support for students, with a range of proactive initiatives across the start of the academic year.

The College will continue to prioritise actions to improve student success rates for 2023-24 and beyond, building on this strong position.

3. Impact on Students

This report provides evidence of a lower proportion of students withdrawing from their course in 2023-24 as compared to previous years.

4. Resource Implications

The College is not funded for any full-time students who leave before the first 5 weeks of their course.

5. Equalities

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

6. Risk and Assurance

A lowering of early withdrawal rates means there is a reduced risk of the College not achieving its Credit target and being exposed to funding clawback.

7. Data Protection

There are no data protection implications arising directly from this report.

8. Environmental and Sustainability

No environmental and sustainability implications are identified.

9. Recommendations

Members of the Committee are requested to:

- i. Note the contents of the report.

10. Further Information

Members can obtain additional information on the contents of this report from John Gallagher, Head of Quality or Robin Ashton, Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality Enhancement.

Glasgow Kelvin College
RA
06/02/24