Item 24
For Information

Colleges Scotland

Keyfacts 2023

Main sources are statistical returns by colleges to the Scottish Funding Council. Figures are for academic year 2021/22 where available.

Thanks to the colleges who provided images for this publication.

Colleges Scotland

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Introduction

Colleges give hundreds of thousands of students education and training each year. This provides a vital pipeline of future talent which delivers a skilled workforce to meet the needs of industry and the economy.

Across the country from our rural Highlands and Islands to our towns and cities, Scotland's 24 colleges are anchors in their local communities. They provide important hubs for people locally, help to mitigate poverty, and provide life-changing opportunities. They also work across their regions to support businesses including SMEs and contribute to the wider economy.

Colleges are essential to Scotland's future, producing the skilled graduates that so many industries rely on and will be key to training and upskilling the future workforce in emerging industries and key growth sectors such as renewable energy, creative industries, AI, tourism, and digital health and care. Colleges are great places to learn, no matter what age or stage of life you are in.

When colleges thrive, Scotland thrives.

Response to the Climate Emergency

Colleges have a key role in tackling the climate emergency and delivering Scotland's ambitions to achieve net-zero.

All colleges have signed up to a Statement of Commitment on the Climate Emergency which supports Scotland's efforts to achieve net-zero climate emissions by 2045, with Scotland's colleges aiming to achieve net-zero by 2040 or earlier.

Working in partnership with employers, colleges are training people in everything from offshore windfarms to electric vehicles. The college sector delivers the world-class skills, upskilling and reskilling that we need now, and that will be needed in the future, as access to lifelong learning becomes an absolute requirement for every worker.

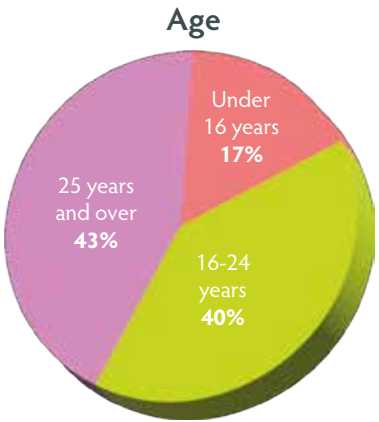
Scotland needs skilled workers to construct and maintain onshore energy facilities, install domestic heat pumps and solar systems, and improve Scotland's transport network. College graduates are meeting the dramatic changes brought about by emerging technologies from machine learning to artificial intelligence.

As well as delivering training for key renewable sectors, colleges are embedding sustainability into mainstream courses through, for example, providing sustainability elements as part of hair, beauty, and hospitality courses.

Our Students

There are **236,730** college students

The median age of a college student is **21**



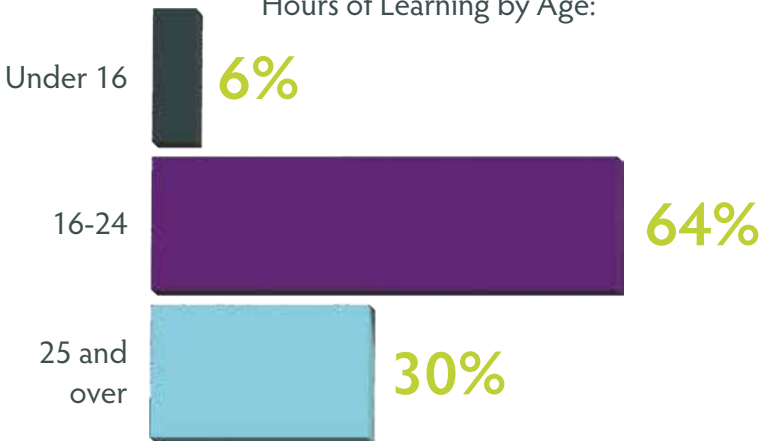
1 in 5 (20%)
of Scotland's 18-19 year-olds attend college full-time

Men: **47%** Women: **51%** Other/prefer not to say: **2%**

Hours of Learning

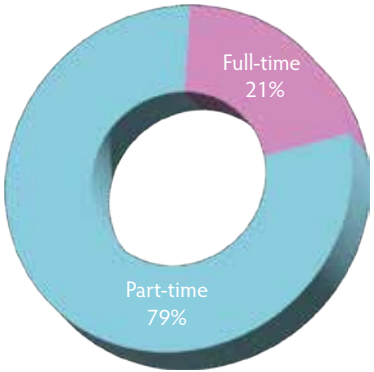
Colleges delivered around **71 million** hours of learning

Hours of Learning by Age:

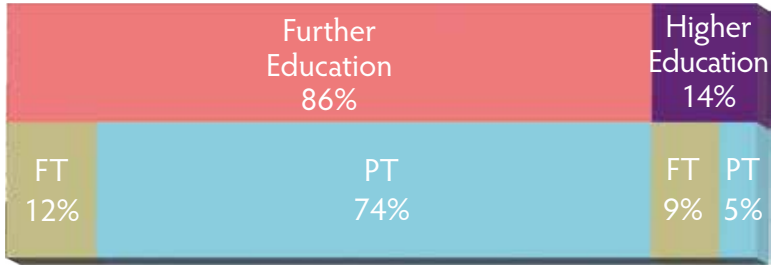


94% of all learning hours lead to a recognised qualification

Mode of Attendance



Level of Study



Colleges delivered around **13%** of all higher education in Scotland

There were **45,135** entrants to higher education in colleges

65% of higher education entrants in colleges are on HNC or HND programmes

42% of all full-time college activity is in higher education

24% of entrants to higher education courses in colleges are from the 20% most deprived areas of Scotland

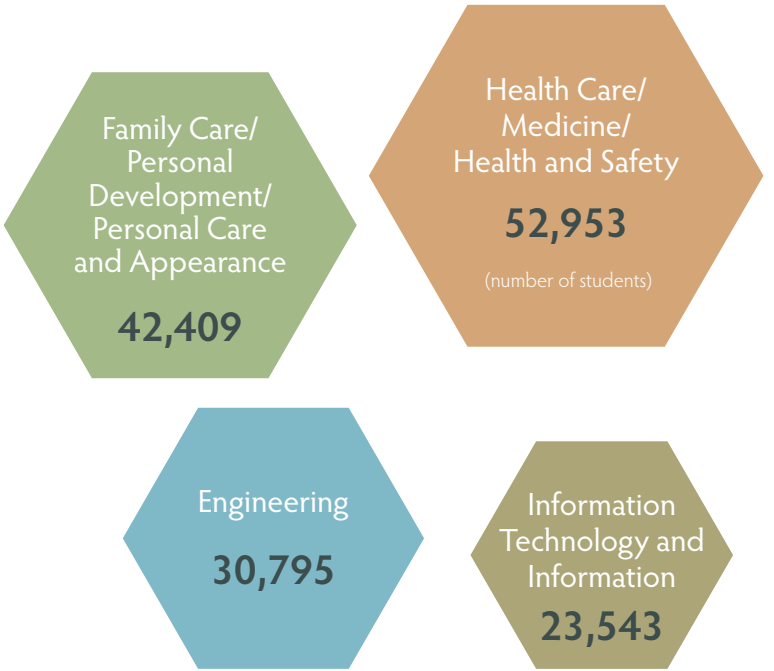
46% of full-time first-degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas progressed to university after graduating from college

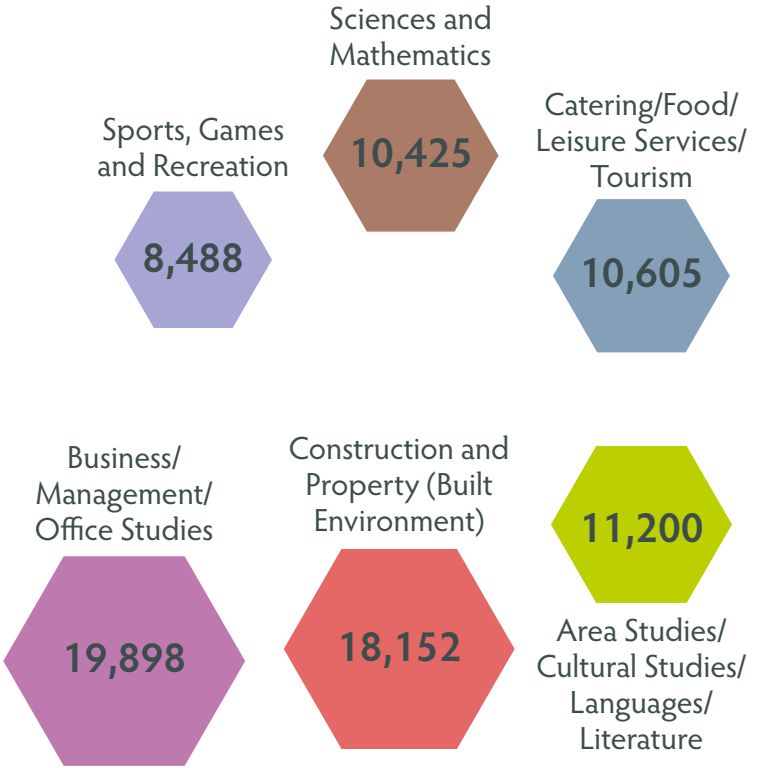
8,690 students with an HNC/D progressed from college to university:

54% entered into year 2 or 3 at university,

and **24%** of those were from the 20% most deprived backgrounds

Top 10 Subject Areas





Overseas Students

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Europe (including EU)	505	503	769	267	305	238
International (outwith Europe)	607	616	867	709	1,012	759
Rest of UK	914	843	1,376	1,253	1,800	1,794

217 nationalities are represented in colleges

Student Funding

Bursary: **£93.3m**

Discretionary: **£16.1m**

Childcare: **£8.8m**

Supporting Communities

26% of school leavers went into further education – a 3% increase

College is the most popular destination for those from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds with **36%** of school leavers from SIMD20 moving into further education

50% of school leavers from S4 went to college

8% of full-time enrolments were by minority ethnic groups

24% of students have a disability

17% of students have a mental health condition

1,743 students are on HNC Childcare courses

Supporting Economic Recovery

Colleges are the biggest delivery agent of Modern Apprenticeships, supporting **13,109** students

25% of pupils who achieved a Foundation Apprenticeship in S4 and S5 went to college

Colleges supported the delivery of Foundation Apprenticeships for **4,122** senior phase school pupils across every region in **12** industry sectors with **212** employers

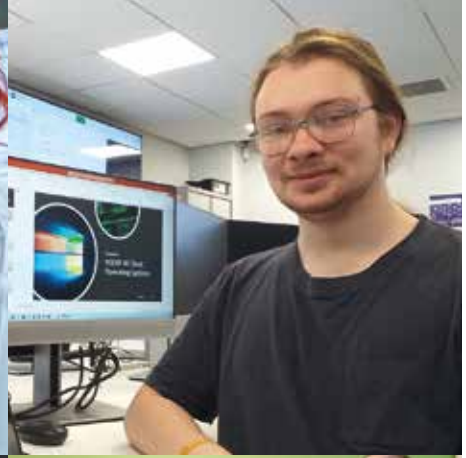
24% of students are enrolled in STEM subjects in colleges

9 colleges are STEM Assured, accredited through the STEM Foundation

23,486 people are on **Flexible Workforce Development Fund** programmes

The **£10m** fund allows employers to access training and development opportunities in colleges to fill identified skills gaps, upskill, and retrain their workforce

29% of all learning activity took place in health and care related subjects (the largest share of any subject group)



111,459 college enrolments are linked to industry

Care has the highest number of enrolments linked to industry

92,093 students are studying as part of their occupation

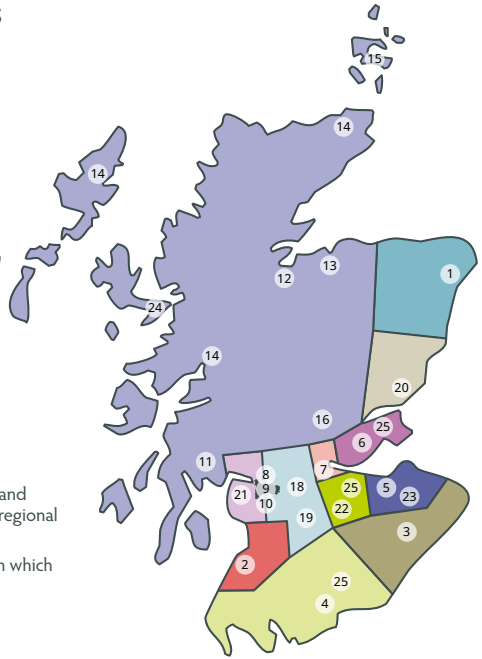
23,850 students are studying digital skills – **13%** at HE level

53,354 students are studying health and social care course – **15%** at HE level

Colleges continue to support the Young Person's Guarantee to help young people into training and jobs

Our Colleges

Scotland's 24 colleges operate in 13 regions across the country, allowing them to plan locally, regionally, and nationally for the benefit of individuals, communities, the economy, and wider society.



*includes Newbattle Abbey College and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig which sit outwith regional arrangements.

SRUC is a higher education institution which delivers further education provision.

Region	College
Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire	1. North East Scotland College
Ayrshire	2. Ayrshire College
Borders	3. Borders College
Dumfries and Galloway	4. Dumfries & Galloway College
Edinburgh and Lothians	5. Edinburgh College
Fife	6. Fife College
Forth Valley	7. Forth Valley College
Glasgow	8. City of Glasgow College
	9. Glasgow Clyde College
	10. Glasgow Kelvin College
Highlands and Islands	11. UHI Argyll
	12. UHI Inverness
	13. UHI Moray
	14. UHI North, West and Hebrides
	15. UHI Orkney
	16. UHI Perth
	17. UHI Shetland
Lanarkshire	18. New College Lanarkshire
	19. South Lanarkshire College
Tayside	20. Dundee & Angus College
West	21. West College Scotland
West Lothian	22. West Lothian College
Sit outwith regional arrangements	23. Newbattle Abbey College
	24. Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
	25. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

College Funding 2023/24

Total Revenue Funding	£658.6m
including	
Student Support	£137.0m
Total Capital Funding	£82.4m
including	
Estates Maintenance	£35.9m
Digital Poverty (for colleges, universities, and CLD)	£5.0m

Colleges will also benefit from:

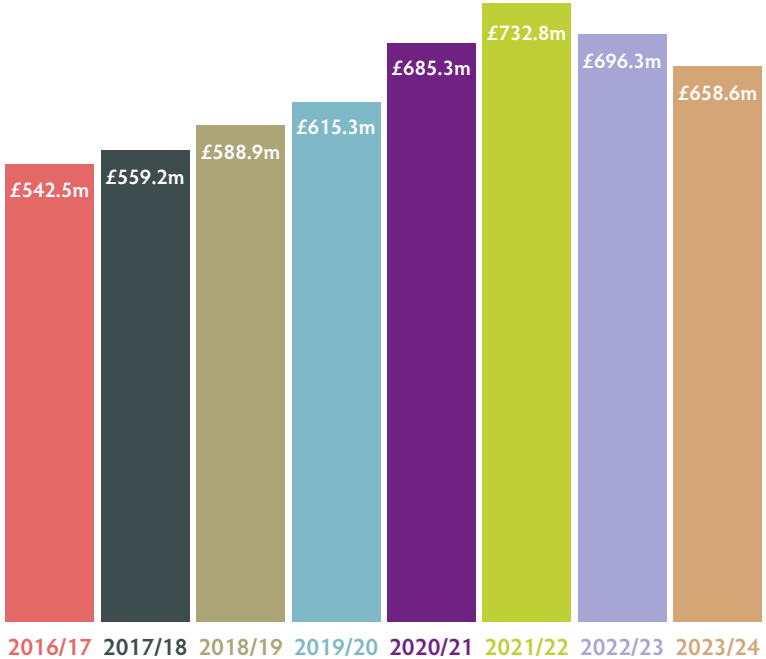
Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Transition Fund of **£3.21m** (for colleges and universities)

Active Campus Network funding of **£1.45m**

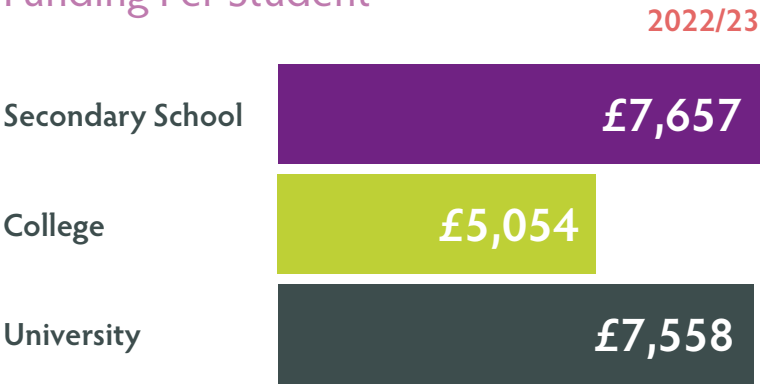
At least **70%** of college budgets go towards staffing costs

Around **20%** of colleges' income does not come directly from the Scottish Funding Council

College Revenue Funding Trend



Funding Per Student



College Estates

In 2023/24, the sector received **£82.4m** in Capital funding, with **£35.9m** of that allocated for estates maintenance.

While some colleges have benefited from investment in buildings, digital and classroom equipment in recent years, others are urgently in need of repair and upgrading.

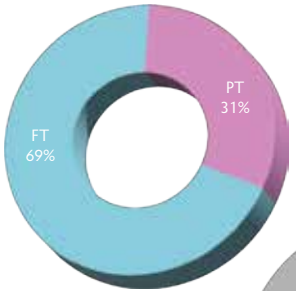
As recognised by Audit Scotland, the estimated backlog maintenance and lifecycle maintenance requirements for the sector's estates was approximately £473m over the last five years to 2022/23, however there has been a shortfall of £321m of the amount required during this period.

Colleges should have great learning and working environments for students and staff, which also help colleges to meet net-zero ambitions as organisations and public sector assets.

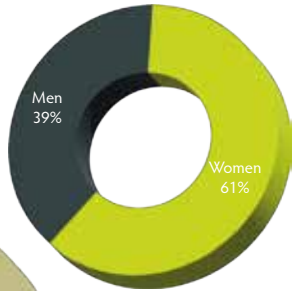
College Staff

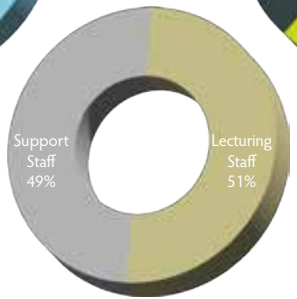
There are **14,321** staff in colleges (11,077 FTE)

Full-time/Part-time



Gender





Lecturing Staff/Support Staff

86% of full-time permanent lecturing staff have a recognised teaching qualification

3% of staff are from minority ethnic groups

8% of staff have a declared disability

47% of staff are aged 51 and over

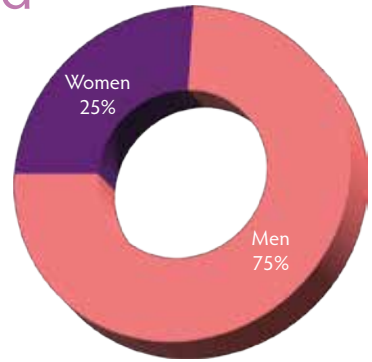
4% of staff are from the EU

- **2%** from overseas outwith the EU

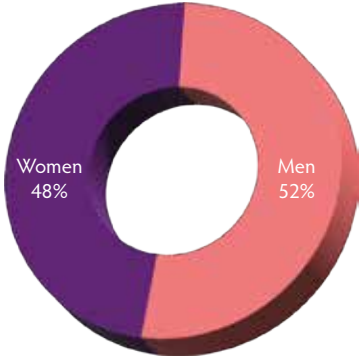
Management and Governance

(as at 1 October 2022)

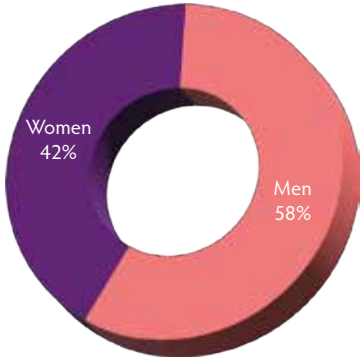
College Chairs



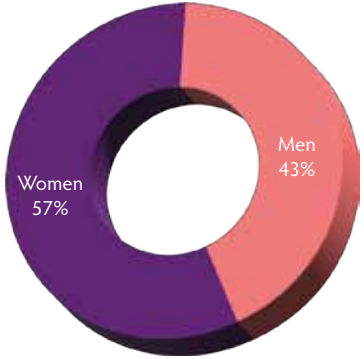
College Boards



College Principals



Senior Management



Colleges Scotland

When Colleges Thrive, Scotland Thrives.

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