



Colleges  
Scotland



# Keyfacts 2024



Main sources are statistical returns by colleges to the Scottish Funding Council. Figures are for academic year 2022/23 where available.

Thanks to the colleges who provided images for this publication.

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# Introduction

Each year, colleges equip hundreds of thousands of students with education and training, creating a crucial pipeline of future talent and a skilled workforce that meets industry demands.

Throughout Scotland, from our towns and cities to the rural Highlands and Islands, the 24 colleges act as civic anchors within their local communities. They serve as important hubs, helping to mitigate poverty and offering life-changing opportunities. Additionally, they collaborate with businesses within their regions, including SMEs, and contribute to the broader economy.



Colleges are crucial to Scotland's future, producing the skilled graduates that the economy depends on. They will play a key role in training and upskilling the future workforce in emerging technologies and key growth sectors such as AI, renewable energy, creative industries, tourism, and digital health and care. Colleges offer excellent learning opportunities for people of all ages and stages of life.

**When colleges thrive, Scotland thrives.**

# Our Students

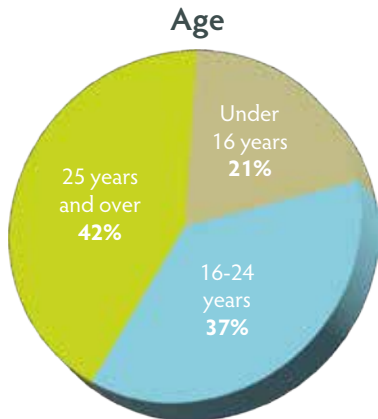
There are **248,907** college students

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

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

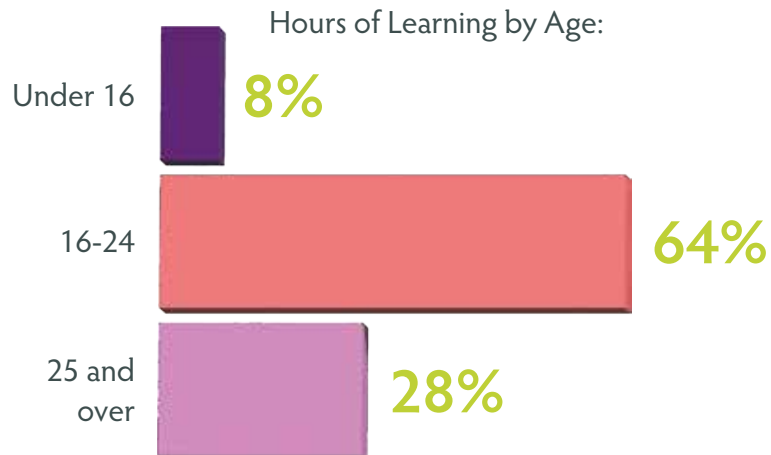
## Gender

Men: **47%** Women: **50%** Other/prefer not to say: **3%**



## Hours of Learning

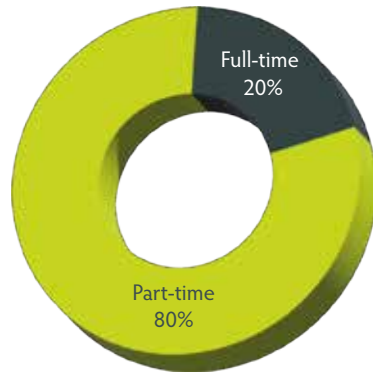
Colleges delivered around **68 million** hours of learning



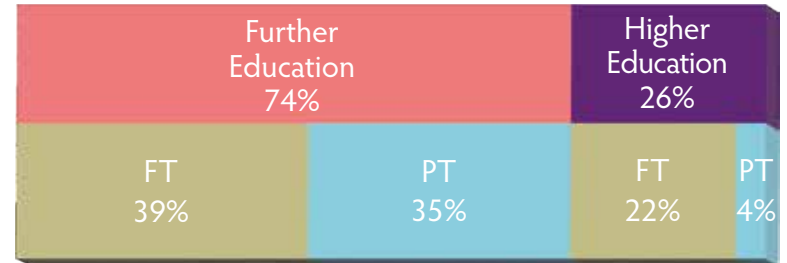
**92%** of all learning hours lead to a recognised qualification



## Mode of Attendance



## Level of Study



Colleges deliver 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:

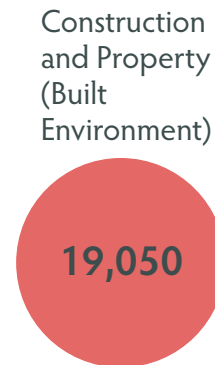
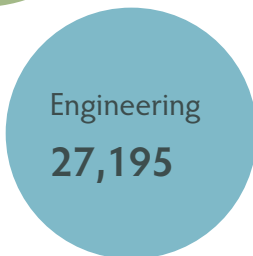
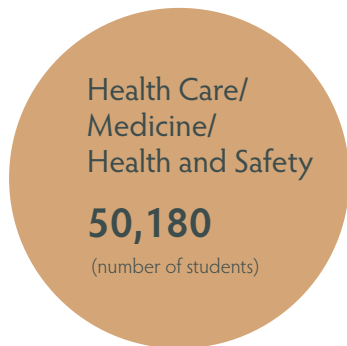
**54%** entered into year 2 or 3 at university,

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

\*please note the figures on this page are for 2021/22

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# Top 10 Subject Areas



# Overseas Students

|                                | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Europe (including EU)          | 503     | 769     | 267     | 305     | 238     | 410     |
| International (outwith Europe) | 616     | 867     | 709     | 1,012   | 759     | 1,140   |
| Rest of UK                     | 843     | 1,376   | 1,253   | 1,800   | 1,794   | 2,060   |

**215** nationalities are represented in colleges



# Student Funding

Bursary: **£87.4m**

Discretionary: **£21.4m**

Childcare: **£8.6m**

# Supporting Communities

**27%** of school leavers go into further education  
– a 1% increase

College is the most popular destination for those from the lowest socio-economic backgrounds with **37%** of school leavers from SIMD20 moving into further education

The most popular destination for school leavers is college with over half (**52%**) from S4 and **37%** from S5



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

**24%** students have a recorded disability

**17%** of students have a mental health condition

\*please note the figures on this page are for 2021/22



**1,320** students are on HNC  
Childcare courses

**50,605** students are  
studying health and social care  
courses, **14%** at HE level

**33%** of all learning activity  
took place in Care related  
subjects (the largest share of any  
subject group)



# Supporting Economic Recovery

Colleges are the biggest delivery agent of Modern Apprenticeships, supporting **14,830** students

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

\*these figures are for 2021/22



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

\*figure is for 2021/22

**24%** of students are enrolled in STEM subjects in colleges



**8** colleges are STEM Assured, accredited through the STEM Foundation

**23,640** people studied on Flexible Workforce Development Fund programmes



**114,725** enrolments are linked to industry

Care has the highest number of enrolments linked to industry **(27,205)**

**96,305** students are studying as part of their employment

**21,885** students are studying digital skills – **14%** at HE level



# Response to the Climate Emergency

Colleges are playing a key role in addressing the climate emergency and helping Scotland achieve its net-zero ambitions.

Scotland requires skilled workers to build and maintain onshore and offshore wind farms, service electric vehicles, install domestic and industrial heat pumps and solar systems, and adapt to the significant changes brought by emerging technologies like machine learning and artificial intelligence.

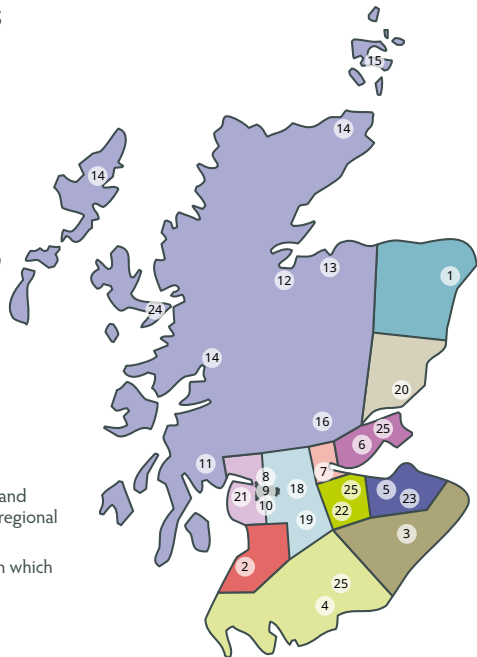
The college sector is working closely with employers to provide the world-class skills, upskilling, and reskilling necessary now and in the future, as lifelong learning becomes essential for every citizen. Colleges are training individuals in fields ranging from offshore wind farms to electric vehicles and ensuring that sustainability is embedded into mainstream courses through providing environmental awareness elements.



# 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 2024/25

Total SFC Revenue Funding **£632.3m**

including

Student Support **£123.0m**

Total SFC Capital Funding **£84.9m**

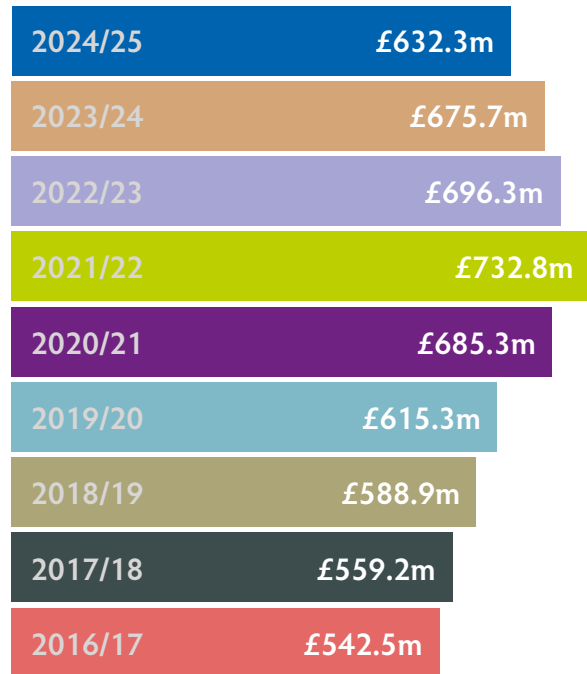
including

Estates Maintenance **£33.0m**

70% of college funding goes towards staffing costs

Approximately a quarter of colleges' income does not come directly from the Scottish Funding Council

## College Revenue Funding Trend



## Funding Per Student



## College Estates

Colleges should have great learning and working environments for students and staff, which foster collaboration, innovation, and success, and help to meet net zero ambitions.

Although some colleges have recently received investments for building improvements, digital tools, and classroom equipment, others urgently require repairs and upgrades, including seven colleges currently addressing issues with RAAC.

For 2024/25, the sector received **£84.9m** in Capital funding, with **£33m** of that allocated for estates maintenance.

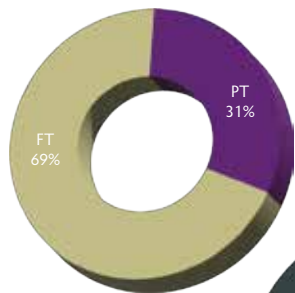


As recognised by Audit Scotland, the estimated backlog maintenance and lifecycle maintenance requirements for the sector's estates was approximately **£473m** over the last five years to 2022/23, however there has been a **shortfall of £321m** of the amount required during this period.

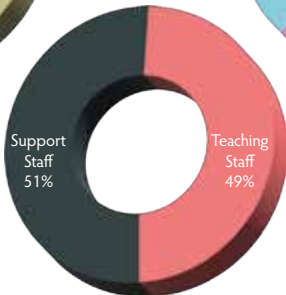
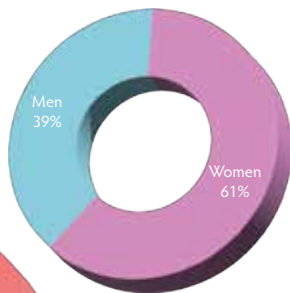
# College Staff

There are **14,147** staff in colleges (10,957 FTEs)

Full-time/Part-time



Gender



Teaching Staff/Support Staff

**88%** of full-time 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

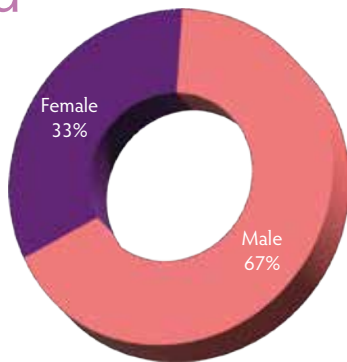
**2%** of staff are from overseas outwith the EU



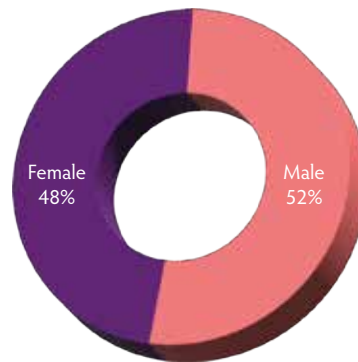
# Management and Governance

(as at 1 October 2023)

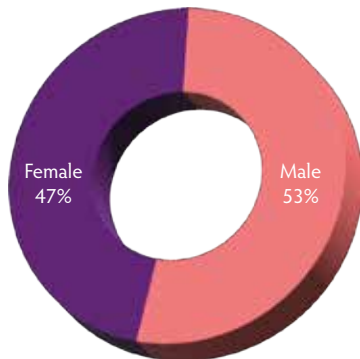
## College Chairs



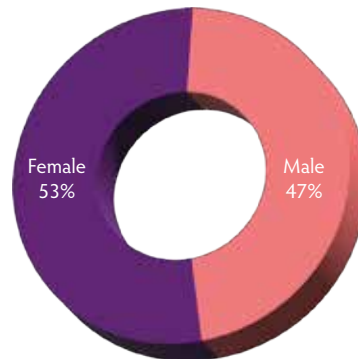
## College Principals



## College Boards



## Senior Management





When Colleges Thrive, Scotland Thrives.

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