

Report on enrolments and associated risks

As previously noted, analysis of our current position in relation to student numbers relates directly to two of the key risks on our risk register – failing to achieve allocated HE student number targets and/or not meeting allocated FE credit targets. Each of these risks have potentially very significant financial implications with potential clawback and possible reduction in future grants.

		4/11/22	28/1/22	Total AY enrolment figures				
				2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
FE	Full time (FT)	51	72	72	76	90	94	89
	Part time (PT)	910	1430	2585	2235	2197	3348	3584
HE	Full time (FT)	137	131	128	163	117	112	117
	Part time (PT)	162	232	273	255	254	278	220

Shetland UHI enrolments at 4/11/2022 (data extracted from Metis)

We expect these figures to change as part time students join courses later in the academic year.

Full time figures have now stabilised leaving us in a positive position for HE, but unfortunately still with very low FE enrolments. The wider UHI partnership is experiencing low numbers across both FE and HE full time enrolments. At the UHI Partnership Planning Forum meeting it was outlined that the overall UHI headcount for HE students is down by 400 compared to 2021/22, and the partnership is experiencing a year on year reduction in FTE of 9%. This impacts upon our wider context particularly in relation to networked delivery. There is an extraordinary meeting being held at partnership level on 11th November to explore actions that can be taken to increase HE enrolments through the remainder of the academic year.

Across the partnership there is a greater reliance on part time numbers this year, this is however, more in line with our usual model of delivery. It will be interesting to see how the numbers look with the recalculating subject to the November cut off date.

Our credit target for AY 2022-23 is 4335. This is consistent with the credit totals achieved over the last two years.

4/11/22	12/10/21	Total credit figures			
		2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
2392	2763	4383	4337	4276	4572

Shetland UHI credits at 4/11/2022 (data extracted from Metis)

Our current credit forecast puts us below last year, and this is to be expected due to the reduction in full time FE enrolments. However, last year's numbers were also gathered on the basis of internal calculations rather than metis which will create some of the disparity.

It will undoubtedly be a challenge to reach our targets this year, both locally and at UHI partnership level, with disappointing semester 1 enrolments across the region. In considering our risk register, at present the two risks outlined of not meeting our allocated FE credit target and of falling short of our HE student number targets can be considered as amber.