

Report on student numbers, enrolments and associated risks – February 2023

This paper relates directly to two of the key risks – failing to achieve allocated HE student number targets and/or not meeting allocated FE credit targets.

Student Enrolment Figures

		01/02/23	28/1/22	Total AY enrolment figures				
				2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
FE	Full time (FT)	52	72	72	76	90	94	89
	Part time (PT)	1486	1430	2585	2235	2197	3348	3584
HE	Full time (FT)	138	131	128	163	117	112	117
	Part time (PT)	196	232	273	255	254	278	220

Shetland UHI enrolments at 01/02/2023 (data extracted from Metis)

We are currently showing a 226% increase in part time applications compared to 2021/22, which we plan to translate as far as possible to increased enrolments. FE part time applications across UHI are also outperforming the same period last year by approximately 20%.

HE numbers across UHI continue to be very concerning, with taught FTEs down by 578 on the same time last year, and it now being likely that UHI will be very significantly under the original 2022/23 target. This has serious implications for potential clawback and loss of future funding. However, uniquely, we have increased our HE headcount, and have an increase of 20 FTEs compared to last year, meaning that we have already achieved over our target.

Credits across the partnership (from APC paper) – Our credit target for AY 2022-23 is 4335.

22/23 At 03-Jan-2023							
PARTNER	2022/23 TARGET	2022/23 FT	2022/23 PT	2022/23 TOTAL	%AGE OF TARGET	21-22 At 20-Dec-2021	CHANGE TO PREV YEAR
Argyll	7,000	1,799	3,448	5,248	75.0%	5,714	-466
Inverness	29,882	17,165	9,127	26,292	88.0%	22,473	3,819
Moray	19,000	10,431	7,190	17,622	92.7%	14,348	3,273
NHC	12,400	7,066	3,222	10,289	83.0%	10,324	-36
Orkney	3,950	1,424	1,946	3,370	85.3%	3,052	318
Outer Hebrides	4,760	1,726	1,690	3,415	71.8%	3,407	9
Perth	25,000	18,673	5,238	23,911	95.6%	21,067	2,845
Shetland	4,335	801	1,800	2,601	60.0%	2,290	311
WHC	7,600	2,162	3,712	5,874	77.3%	6,233	-359
Total	113,927	61,248	37,373	98,621	86.6%	88,908	9,713

The current UHI wide position for FE credits is over 9,700 credits more than at the same time last year, driven by significant widespread part time growth, and is continuing to demonstrate strong signs of FE credit recovery. The positive position illustrated for UHI Shetland should be considered with caution as it comes partially from more effective reporting of credits into the UHI system than last year.

01/02/23	Total credit figures			
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
2924	4383	4337	4276	4572

Shetland UHI credits at 01/02/2023 (data extracted from Metis)

It will undoubtedly be significant challenge to reach our credit target this year for UHI Shetland, and we are relying heavily on completion of modern apprentices and part time courses at the end of the academic year.

In considering the two related risks for this AY, at present the risk of not meeting our allocated FE credit target can be considered amber, but the risk of falling short of our HE student number targets can be considered as green.

Following the UCAS applications deadline in January, we have more evidence on which to base our HE projections for 2023/24.

Non-controlled funded full time undergraduate programmes

- Applications across UHI are similar to last year.
- Individual partners seeing substantial changes, such as Inverness with a 15% decrease, and Moray with a 30% increase.
- We have a 14% decrease on last year, with full time applications down from 29 to 25.
- Overall demand for first degrees across the partnership has declined by 6%
- Applications to HN programmes across UHI have increased by 5%.

Non-controlled funded part time undergraduate programmes

- Year on Year applications have declined by almost 17% across UHI.
- UHI applications at lowest level for 5 years for these programmes.
- These numbers are much smaller than for full time, which is usual for this time of year.

Applications for PGDE are down by 17%.

There is a particular trend of decline within the Applied Life Studies subject network across UHI.

We are meeting over the coming weeks with UHI representatives to firm up both FE and HE targets for AY 2023-24.