

The Update

Covering 9 July to 19 August 2026

Skills Supply Essential Reading – developments in education, qualification & skills

RESOURCES

- **LMI:** [Economy, People & Skills](#) July edition. Includes a regular overview of job postings in Scotland, or see [Exploring Scottish job information](#) for Local Authority job posting data
For UK online job posting patterns try **Indeed Hiring Lab** [Mid-Year Jobs & Hiring Trends](#)
- **SDS:** [Publication](#) included [PACE Facing Redundancy National Guide](#) along with [PACE Inner Moray Firth](#) (2-pages), plus [SDS Opportunities for Falkirk](#) useful links snapshot
- **To watch:** [Career Stories](#): episode 21: Mairi McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education
[JP Morgan Chase video](#) (2min25) highlights Graduate Apprenticeships, the video is part of Scottish Development International (SDI) Financial Services & FinTech industry pages
- **To use:** [Shaping Futures](#) website now houses a copy of **The Update** and the **Higher Education (HE) Entry Guide 2026-27**, now accessible to both SDS staff and partners
[DYW Live / ESgoil work & career-related learning programme is back for 2026/27](#) view and book upcoming events or watch older recordings. Also see: [Online Courses 2026/27](#)
UniTasterDays [The Parents Guide to University 2026 \(UK\)](#) 115-page PDF, has a UK focus but includes 'The benefits of studying in Scotland' on page 48. Also see: [subject guide videos](#)
- **Research:** Prospects Luminate published career guidance in higher education research on [Integrating AI & human careers guidance](#), from the University of Aberdeen, and [Empowering careers professionals in enterprise & entrepreneurship](#)
WonkHE article and research shows [employability is relational, not informational](#)

APPRENTICESHIPS

[Foundation Apprenticeship Report Cohort 8 AY 2023-24](#) was published in July. Over 4,500 pupils enrolled on Foundation Apprenticeships in 2023-24. Supplementary tables include Local Authority data. Also available on: [Scottish Funding Council \(SFC\) website](#) with guidance for colleges

SCHOOLS

Closing Wednesday 26 August - [Application to the Sutton Trust Online \(STO\)](#) helping young people apply to and prepare for higher education. Open to S5 pupils and student in first 3-weeks of S6.
[Sutton Trust 2026/27 Pathways Programmes](#) will open to application September-November

Other school news: [Gaelic Medium Education in Secondary Schools 2025-26 statistics published](#)

QUALIFICATIONS

[Exam passes up at all levels](#) - more than 148,000 learners received their results on 4 August 2026:

- Overall attainment rates at A-C increased at all levels of National Qualifications
- The poverty-related attainment gap narrowed at all levels
- Total number of vocational & technical (skills-based) awards increased to over 120,000

See Qualifications Scotland [headline figures](#) or access all results data at [Attainment Statistics](#)

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Qualifications Scotland Appeals Service - priority appeals service will close **Thursday 20 August**. All other appeals must be submitted via the Qualifications Scotland website by **Tuesday 25 August** or if submitted via school, college or training providers, by **Friday 28 August**.

SCQF

News & Blogs highlighted: **Swimming Teaching Qualification** and the **Certificate in Outdoor & Adventure Therapy** (both SCQF level 7) as well as two articles covering the Glasgow Clyde College **NQ Football Performance & Coaching** (SCQF level 6) and unit in **Applied Performance Analysis in Football**. For LMI Context: **Growing Jobs in UK Football**

UCAS

UCAS Discovery 2026 events will run across Scotland from **27 August** until **29 September**

2026 Key Dates: **24 September** is the final date for 2026 entry applicants.

2027 Key Dates: Conservatoire applications opened **9 July 2026**

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS from **1 September 2026**

Record numbers of young people in Scotland gained a place at college or university. UCAS results day data showing almost 18,000 young people aged 18 or under accepted onto courses and over 32,300 Scotland-based students of all ages were accepted. Also see: **Daily Clearing analysis**

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

More students from Scotland's most deprived areas are entering Higher Education and retention rates continue to recover. Both entry and retention rates reached record levels for care experienced students, according to the latest **Report on Widening Access 2024-25** (published annually)

Other FE / HE news:

- Open University Scotland will expand its 'Catalyst Centre' **skills partnerships with 5 colleges**
- **7 University Transformation Frameworks (UTF) projects approved**
- **Contextual admissions: seeing potential more clearly** Sutton Trust - **Contextual Offer Tool**

INVESTMENT IN SKILLS

- **New Bike Innovation Scotland** website and Carlee Mills Bike Campus & Trail Lab, predicted to support more than 225 jobs across South of Scotland in the next 10-years, to open summer 2027
- **Two Offshore wind farms approved** in the Moray Firth and Shetland gets backing for **Clean Energy Hub** one of several island developments - see **Boost for islands**
- TIGA downloadable **Guide to Funding Support in UK Video Games Industry** (Scotland p19-20)

EVENTS

- **Maths Week Scotland** 2026 will take place 19 to 27 September. This is the 10th anniversary
- First ever **Scottish Employability Day**, Thursday 10 September 2026
- **Scottish Climate Week 2026**, 28 September to 4 October
- **Erasmus Days Celebrations**, 12-17 October 2026, organise events and/or participate in events, watch **Recorded Erasmus+ summer 2026 events** to find out more about their programmes