



Teaching Bursary in Scotland

Report of the Review of the 2025/26 Scheme

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1. Introduction

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) administers the Teaching Bursary in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The Teaching Bursary is a £15,000 incentive to ease the financial transition for career changers wishing to undertake a one-year PGDE initial teacher education course in Scotland that leads to the award of registered teacher status in Scotland's hardest-to-fill teaching subjects.

SDS works with the Universities who deliver the PGDE courses to administer the scheme.

For academic year 2025/26, the bursary opened in June 2025 for new applications, and was available to career changers applying to study a PGDE in; Chemistry, Computing Science, Home Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Technological Education, Modern Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish) and the following Gaelic teaching subjects:

- Gaelic as a Language/Subject at Secondary School Level
- Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects
- Primary Education in Gaelic Medium.

1.2 Summary of Previous Bursary Applications

This section summarises overall successful bursary awards and completions for previous intakes:

- In the 2024/25 academic session 79 bursaries were approved with 50 successfully completing. 16 recipients are still to complete
- In the 2023/24 academic session 70 bursaries were approved with 51 successfully completing. 3 recipients are still to complete
- In the 2022/23 academic session, 84 bursaries were approved with 63 successfully completing. 1 recipient is still to complete
- In the 2021/22 academic session, 137 bursaries were approved with 107 successfully completing.
- In the 2020/21 academic session, 150 bursaries were approved with 120 successfully completing
- In the 2019/20 academic session, 111 bursaries were approved with 94 successfully completing
- In the 2018/19 academic session, 107 bursaries were approved with 95 successfully completing.

1.3 Updates to Teaching Bursary for 2025/26 Intake

The following changes were made to the eligibility criteria for 2025/26:

- Applicants must hold a minimum of a 2:2 honours degree. Previously, this was a minimum of a 2:1.
- Applicants ordinarily need to have been out of full-time education since 30th September 2022.

In the 2025/26 academic session, 175 applications were received, with 112 approved.

2. Eligibility Criteria for 2025/26 Intake

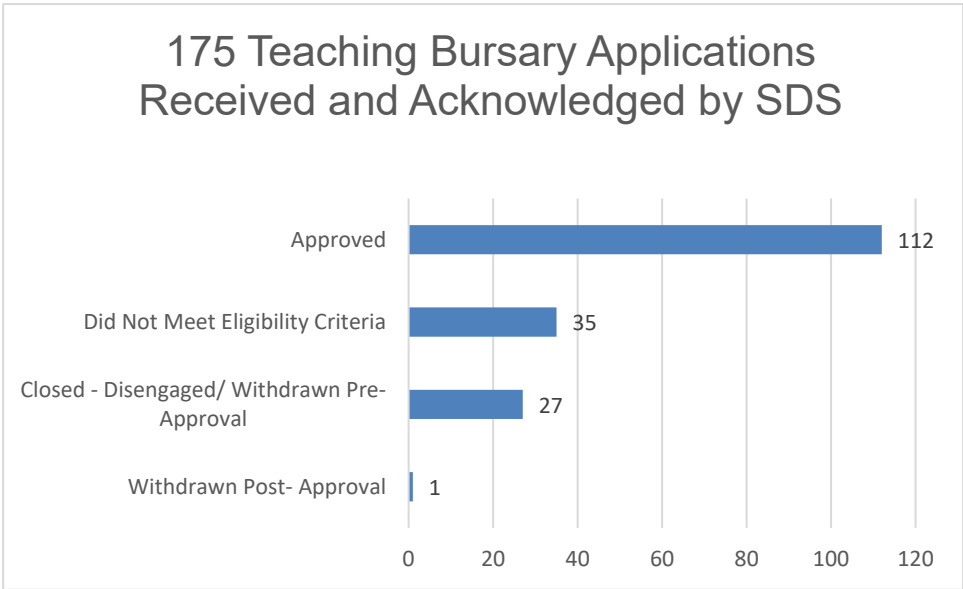
1. Applicants need to have been in paid employment for at least 36 months out of the last 84 months (including career breaks and any periods of furlough). Applicants who can evidence they have been in receipt of Carer Support Payment and/or Carer's Allowance for 36 months out of the last 84 will also be deemed to meet the employment eligibility criteria.
2. Applicants need to hold a 2.2 degree or meet the minimum Initial Teacher Education (ITE) entry requirement with a relevant masters qualification, the content of which would make them suitable to teach Maths, Computing Science, Technological Education, Physics, Chemistry, Home Economics, Modern Languages, Primary Education in Gaelic Medium, Gaelic as a Language/Subject as Secondary School Level or Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects.
3. Normal entry requirements for PGDE ITE also apply. Including exceptions, applicants ordinarily need to have been out of full-time education since 30th September 2022.
4. Applicants must have an offer of a place on a PGDE ITE programme at a Scottish university before applying.

3. Summary of 2025/26 Applications and Awards

This section summarises overall bursary applications and successful bursary awards as well as a breakdown of bursary recipients by ITE institution and subject.

3.1 Total Applications and Reasons for Non-Award of Bursaries

In total, 175 applications to the Teaching Bursary Scheme were received via online application at www.teachingbursaryinscotland.co.uk, with 112 of these approved as meeting the eligibility criteria and accepting the bursary award. This chart summarises the reasons for the 63 unsuccessful applications. The main reason for being ineligible was the full-time education eligibility criteria (35%).



Source: Skills Development Scotland

3.2 Successful Bursary Recipients by Initial Teacher Education Institution

	University	Offers Paired with Application
1	Edinburgh Napier University	10
2	Queen Margaret University	3
3	University of Aberdeen	5
4	University of Dundee	3
5	University of Edinburgh	16
6	University of Glasgow	22
7	University of Strathclyde	39
8	University of the Highlands and Islands	9
9	University of the West of Scotland	5
	Grand Summary:	112

Source: Skills Development Scotland

3.3 Recipients by Subject and Initial Teacher Education Institution

The distribution of bursary recipients by subject and Initial Teacher Education Institution is shown below:

University/ Subject	Aberdeen University	Dundee University	Edinburgh University	Edinburgh Napier University	Glasgow University	Queen Margaret University	Strathclyde University	University of the Highlands and Island	University of the West of Scotland	Total Recipients by Subject
Chemistry		2	2	2	6		7	1	1	21
Dual Chemistry and Biology	1		1							2
Computing Science					8		2	1		11
Gaelic Language (Secondary)										
Gaelic Medium (Secondary)							1	2		3
Gaelic Medium (Primary)							2	1		3

University/ Subject	Aberdeen University	Dundee University	Edinburgh University	Edinburgh Napier University	Glasgow University	Queen Margaret University	Strathclyde University	University of the Highlands and Islands	University of the West of Scotland	Total Recipients by Subject
Home Economics						3	2	1		6
Maths	1		3	6	3		9	2	2	26
Dual Modern Languages and Psychology							2			2
Modern Languages	1		3		2		5		2	13
Physics	2	1	3	2	3		3			14
Dual Physics and Maths			1							1
Technological Education			3				6	1		10

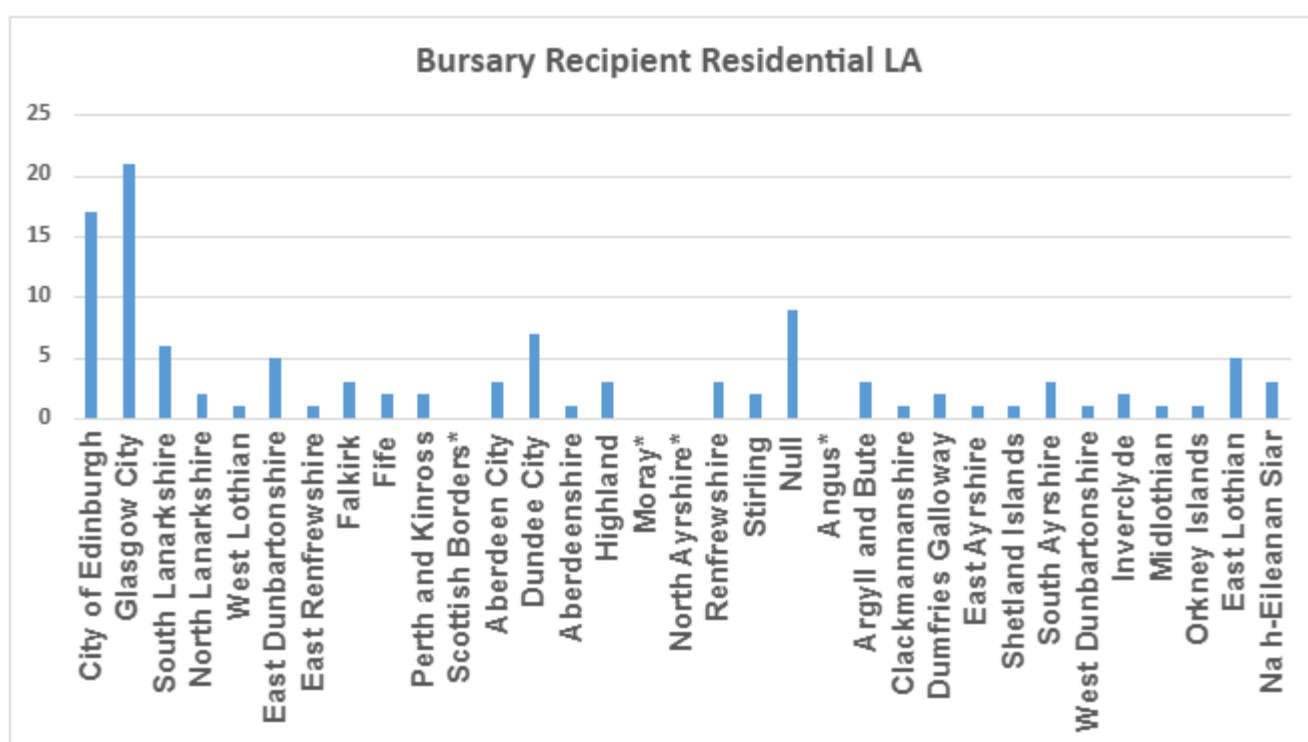
Source: Skills Development Scotland

4. Profile of 2025/26 Teaching Bursary Recipients

This section looks at bursary recipients by their residence at time of application, preferred destination(s) for future employment, gender, ethnicity, disability, and age.

4.1 Bursary Recipients by Local Authority

The distribution of bursary recipients by the local authority area in which they reside. Please note that “Null” refers to those recipients who reside in Scotland, but their Local Authority was not disclosed.



***No bursary recipients 2025/26**

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.2 Bursary Recipients by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency

The number of bursary recipients by the Scottish parliamentary constituency in which they were resident at the time of their application.

Please note that “Null” refers to those recipients who reside in Scotland, but their Scottish Parliamentary Constituency was not disclosed.

Scottish Parliamentary Constituency	Bursary Recipients
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Clydebank and Milngavie	2
Clydesdale	1
Glasgow Kelvin	6
Linlithgow	0
Edinburgh Central	2
Uddingston and Bellshill	0
Eastwood	1
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	6
Edinburgh Southern	3
Falkirk East	1
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	0
Midlothian South, Tweeddale & Lauderdale	0
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	1
Renfrewshire South	0
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	1
Coatbridge and Chryston	1
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	0
Dundee City East	2
East Kilbride	3
Falkirk West	2
Glasgow Anniesland	5
Glasgow Southside	2
Kirkcaldy	0
Moray	0
Stirling	1
Null	9
Aberdeen Central	3
Aberdeenshire East	0
Airdrie and Shotts	0
Almond Valley	1
Angus North and Mearns	0
Ayr	1
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	0
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	0
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	2
Cowdenbeath	2
Cunninghame North	0
Cunninghame South	0
Dumbarton	0
Dundee City West	5
Edinburgh Eastern	2
Edinburgh Pentlands	2
Edinburgh Western	2

Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	0
Galloway and West Dumfries	0
Glasgow Cathcart	4
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	0
Glasgow Pollok	1
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	1
Motherwell and Wishaw	1
North East Fife	0
Paisley	1
Perthshire North	1
Rutherglen	2
Shetland Islands	1
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	2
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	4
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	2
Dumfriesshire	2
Dunfermline	0
Greenock and Inverclyde	2
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	0
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	2
Orkney Islands	1
Glasgow Shettleston	1
Inverness and Nairn	1
Renfrewshire North and West	2
Aberdeen Donside	0
Aberdeenshire West	0
Angus South	0
Argyll and Bute	3
East Lothian	4
Glasgow Provan	2
Na h-Eileanan Siar	3

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.3 Preferred Destination for Future Employment by Local Authority

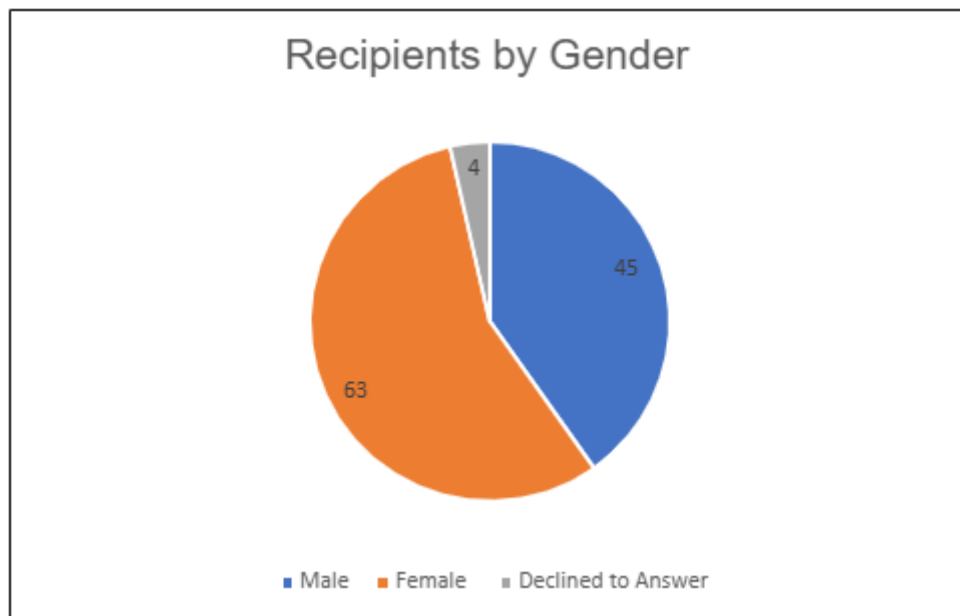
During the application process applicants were asked, on a voluntary basis, to indicate which local authority area(s) they would consider seeking employment in on successful completion of their ITE course.

Local Authority	Total Selected
Aberdeen City	25
Aberdeenshire	23
Angus	30
Argyll and Bute	23
City of Edinburgh	52
Clackmannanshire	22
Dumfries and Galloway	25
Dundee City	29
East Ayrshire	28
East Dunbartonshire	34
East Lothian	42
East Renfrewshire	37
Falkirk	32
Fife	38
Glasgow City	52
Highland	24
Inverclyde	28
Midlothian	41
Moray	21
Na h-Eileanan Siar	23
North Ayrshire	33
North Lanarkshire	44
Orkney Islands	22
Perth and Kinross	32
Renfrewshire	39
Scottish Borders	27
Shetland Islands	21
South Ayrshire	29
South Lanarkshire	38
Stirling	36
West Dunbartonshire	34
West Lothian	41
Null	1

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.4 Initial Teacher Education Subject Choice by Gender

The chart below shows the breakdown of bursary recipients by gender.



Source: Skills Development Scotland

To provide more clarity on the breakdown of recipients:

For chemistry, Gaelic medium across all secondary subjects, home economics, maths modern languages and technological education more recipients identified as female than male.

For computing science and physics there were more recipients who identified as male than female.

4.5 Bursary Recipients by Ethnicity

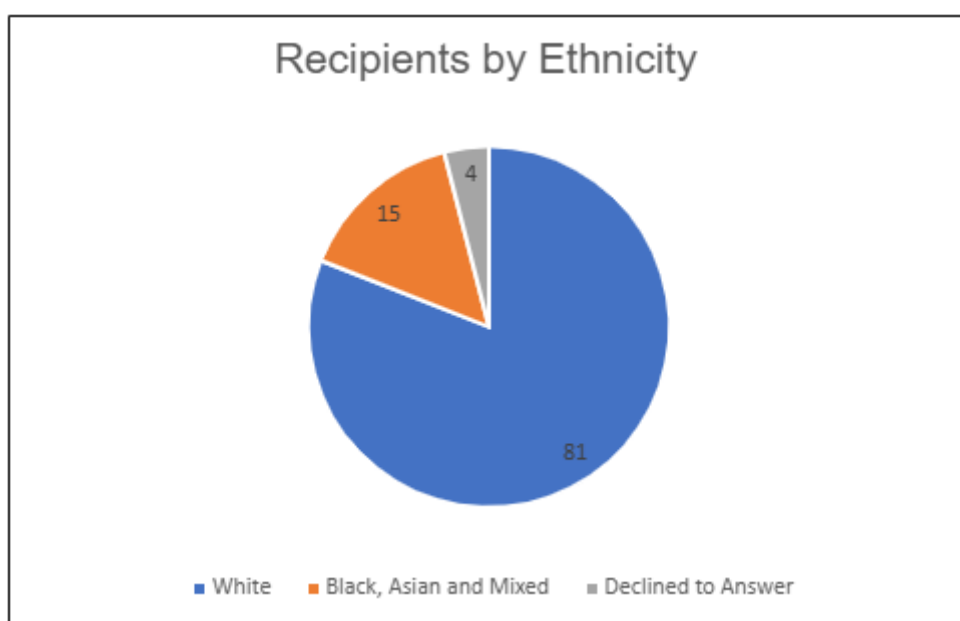
The Table shows the breakdown of bursary recipients by their stated ethnicity. Any ethnic category with fewer than five responses is shown as * to avoid possible identification of individuals.

Ethnicity	% of Bursary Recipients
Asian (Chinese)	*
Asian (Pakistani)	*
Asian (Indian)	*
Black (African)	*
Mixed Background	4%
White (English)	9%
White (Northern Irish)	*
White (Other)	7%
White (Scottish)	59%
Declined to Answer	3.5%

Source: Skills Development Scotland

To provide more clarity on the breakdown of recipients from different ethnic groups, the responses were:

- White (Scottish, English, Irish, Northern Irish, Welsh, Other) = 81%
- Black, Asian and Mixed (Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, African, Mixed Background, Other Ethnic Background) = 15%
- Declined to answer = 4%.



Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.6 Bursary Recipients by Disability

The breakdown of bursary recipients by stated disability:

Disability	Total
Yes	17
No	88
Prefer not to say	7
Total	112

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.7 Bursary Recipients by Age

The age profile of bursary recipients:

Age Band	Total
20 to 24	1
25 to 40	75
41 to 50	26
51+	10
Total	112

Source: Skills Development Scotland