

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

**LMI SURVEY:** [SDS Labour Market Information Survey](#) closing date has been extended to **Friday 6th March**, this is open to all SDS, DYW and education colleagues in delivery and leadership roles.

**PARENTS SUREY:** [SDS Parents Voice 2025/26 Survey](#) is now open, see this [article](#) for more info.

### RESOURCES

- **LMI:** [Economy, People & Skills](#) January edition has a 2-page review of Scottish LMI through 2025 and looking ahead to 2026. Scottish Government updates included: [LMI Insights 2026](#)
- **SDS:** [Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2–6 March 2026](#) includes webinars on ‘Apprentice Voice’ for **parents & carers** [Tuesday 3 March 6.30pm](#) & for **practitioners** [Wednesday 4 March, 4pm](#)
- **Ezine/infographics:** CDN [#EqualityMatters](#) (1-page) March edition on Gender Inequality
- **To watch:** [Career Stories](#): episode 11, Project Management with Scottish Water; episode 12, Careers Adviser Apprenticeship route; episode 13, Joy Dunlop for World Gaelic Week.
- **To listen:** UCAS Parents’ Podcast [Episode 9 – Mythbusting the Apply Cycle](#) (30min)
- **To use:** [SCQF Subject choices: Top 12 questions from parents & carers](#) article & [leaflet Understanding UCAS admissions rules](#) article for teachers and advisers
- **Research:** [Meeting Scotland’s workforce needs for a transition to Net Zero](#), new report looking at Scotland’s green skills needs, population change and migration. See [Report](#)

### POST-SCHOOL POLICY

[Tertiary Education & Training Bill passed to redesign post-16 education and skills funding](#). The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) will become responsible for apprenticeship funding, as well as college and university funds. Promotion of Widening Access to HE as a life-long option is also a priority.

Also see: [Universities Scotland Future Framework](#) and [manifesto 2026](#) (p7 for Apprenticeships)

Context: [Setting the Scene](#) FAI (p34-40) [Where Next for Scottish Universities & Colleges?](#)

### SCHOOLS

[School leaver initial destinations 2024-25 published](#), snapshot of outcomes 3-months after leaving:

- **95.7%** were in a positive initial destination
- **42.3%** of leavers were in **Higher Education** (*highest figure since records began in 2009*)
- **26.0%** of leavers were in **Further Education** (down from 26.4% in 2023-24)
- **21.6%** of leavers were in **Employment** (down from 23.1% in 2023-24)
- **4.0%** of leavers were **Unemployed** (same as 2023-24)

**Other school news:** [Sutton Trust Summer School \(S5\)](#) open to applications until 5 March 2026. Curriculum Improvement Cycle social media ‘focus on...’: [Gaelic Education](#); [Science](#); [Mathematics](#).

### QUALIFICATIONS

[Qualification Scotland](#), formerly SQA, launched their new look website and [early priorities](#)

## UCAS

[2026 Key Dates](#) upcoming: **26 February [Extra](#)** opens, with option to apply to 1 extra course.

[UCAS has expanded its application fee waiver scheme](#), meaning care leavers up to age 26 in the UK will not have to pay to apply via UCAS starting in the 2027 cycle (*apply in 2026 for entry in 2027*).

[UCAS figures](#) show all-time high for Scottish School leavers applying to university. 17.5% of applicants were from Scotland's most deprived areas, up from 17.4% in 2024-25 ([HESA data](#)).

Closing the gap: [Commissioner for Fair Access 2025/26](#) or [SCAPP Intro to Widening Participation](#)

## COLLEGES

[More 14- to 21-years-olds went to college last year](#), mainly driven by 2,500 additional enrolments by 16-year-olds, according to [College Statistics Report 2024-25](#). This follows a strategic move to focus on senior phase students (S4-S6) and offer more vocational learning.

## UNIVERSITIES

University 2026-27 intake numbers for students in controlled subjects:

- [Dentistry](#): **145 places** for 'home' Scotland-based students, Ireland or rest of UK (*by Uni [Table 1](#)*)
- [Paramedic Education](#): **335 places** for 'home' students (*intake by University [Table 1](#)*)
- [Teacher Education](#): **3,818 places** for 'home' student; **Primary**: 762 Undergrad / 720 PGDE; **Secondary**: 336 Undergrad / 2,000 PGDE (*intake by university & priority subject [Annex B](#)*)

## INVESTMENT IN SKILLS

- [The First Minister's Start Up Challenge](#) to help young entrepreneurs aged 18 to 30 from disadvantaged or underrepresented backgrounds to turn their ideas into successful businesses.
- [£5 billion to support climate action](#), expand Scotland's renewable energy sector and create green jobs. You can see these ambitions in [National Island Plan](#) & [Orkney Island Marine Plan](#).
- [£20million boost for towns in Southern Scotland](#) to create jobs and drive growth in nine towns.
- [Investment in the Mossmorran workforce](#) will help workers re-train. Also see: [Pace event](#)

## EVENTS

### [Scottish Apprenticeship Week 2-6 March 2026](#)

- [Centre for Teaching Excellence: The Challenge of 'Rural Deprivation' in the 'Fair Access to Higher Education Policy](#), Monday 2 March 4-5.30pm
- [SCQF for Careers Information & Guidance Staff](#), Tuesday 17 March 10am-12 o'clock
- Closing the Gap webinars (all 1-2pm): [What is Occupational Segregation?](#) 17 March; [Addressing Occupational Segregation](#) 28 April; [Undervaluing women's work](#) 12 May.
- Teacher & Adviser Campus events [Glasgow Caledonian 12 May](#), [University of Glasgow 14 May](#) & [University of the West of Scotland 27 May](#)