

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

RESOURCES

- **SDS:** Plan to [increase the use & learning of Gaelic](#) 2026-29, article available in [Gaidhlig](#). For resources supporting Gaelic learning see [ESgoil Gaidhlig programme page](#)
- **LMI:** [Life & Chemical Sciences Future Skills Needs Report](#) (pdf), outlines skills demand in Scotland (p19-22) and related learning in school, FE/HE and apprenticeships (p22-33)
- **Ezine/infographics:** CDN [#EqualityMatters](#) (1-page) for April on 'Standing up to Racism' and the May edition is on 'Mental Health, Wellbeing & Equity'
- **Watch:** [My World of Work Career Stories](#): 16: Teach with Mrs F; 17: Software engineer / women in STEM; 18: Police Scotland's Retail Crime Taskforce. For launch articles: [SDS News](#)

SDS YouTube [Choosing Your Path After School 2026](#) (3min39), updated to include latest [initial leaver destinations data](#) published 24 February 2026

[SCQF Recognition of Prior Learning \(RPL\) video](#) (5min), how RPL helped council employee Joanne fast-track into year two of a degree

- **Download:** [SCAPP leaflet for teachers & advisers](#) (jpg) updates and information available from Scotland's Community of Access and Participation Practitioners (SCAPP).
Background: SFC [Widening access targets 26/27](#) & [SCAPP Intro to Widening Participation](#)
- [Studying at Oxford or Cambridge Scotland School Tour 2026](#), dates, locations & QR sign up
- **Use:** [ALISS celebrates 15 years](#) of co-production, providing [A Local Information System for Scotland](#) mapping local services & resources, including education & employability options
- **Research:** [UCAS Article - why employers need to engage young people earlier](#), with career decision making insight from their survey of young people planning to start higher education

TEACHING BURSARY

[Teaching Bursary 2026 opened Monday 18th May](#), offering eligible applicants £12,500 towards PGDE in listed STEM, Gaelic or Modern Language subjects. Also see: [Teacher Intake Targets 2026/27](#)

QUALIFICATIONS

[New Land Based Pre Apprenticeship programme](#) launched April 2026, will include industry-specific qualifications, such as tractor driving test and field crop spraying. Application via [Lantra](#)

[SCQF Level 6 Qualifications are expanding](#), this blog describes the changes and challenges, asking are these qualifications recognised by university? Follow up event - [SCAPP Webinar](#) on 28 May, 3pm

UCAS

[Key Dates:](#) **12 May** Undergraduate applications open for 2027 entry. Conservatoires open **9 July**

UCAS Applicant Week 18-24 May see social media: [TikTok](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Threads](#)

UCAS [2027 cycle toolkit](#), has been added to the UCAS website, including Adviser Guide for those supporting UCAS applications. Plus: [10 ways to demonstrate experience in personal statements](#)

UCAS Data: [Latest 2026 cycle insights](#) webinar (27min). For future updates see [data timetable](#)
WonkHE: [Admissions systems shape the university experience, are ours fit for purpose?](#)

COLLEGE / UNIVERSITY

[Language Accessibility Promise](#) launched. Institutions that sign up commit to using clear, simple language in student communications. See: [STEP website](#) for colleges / universities already signed up

[SFC College Leaver Destinations 2023-24](#), published 29 April, over 40,400 full-time qualifiers successfully completed courses. 63% continuing their college studies, 12,565 students (37%) left:

- 85% entered a positive destination, 46% going into jobs
- 7% went from an FE course (SCQF level 1-6) to university
- 32.5% went from an HE course (SCQF level 7-8) to university
- 9% were unemployed and 5% unavailable for work

University intake targets 2026/27 [Optometry](#) & [Medicine](#), published by SFC:

- Optometry - 80 places: 20 at UHI; 60 at GCU
- Gateway to Medicine – 70 places: 30 Aberdeen; 40 Glasgow
- Medicine – 1,417 places: 298 Aberdeen; 220 Dundee; 326 Edinburgh; 346 Glasgow; 157 St Andrews; 70 at [ScotGEM](#) (NHS Education scheme delivered at [Dundee](#) & [St Andrews](#))

Careers Info: [MyWoW Industries Healthcare](#) / [NHS Scotland Your Med Future](#) & [Explore Careers](#)

INVESTMENT IN SKILLS

- [Energy Transition Zone \(ETZ\) Aberdeen: a new hub for the renewable energy sector](#) including 30sec video. Also see: [Decommissioning: The future of offshore energy assets](#)
Related Reports available in [SDS Evidence on Green Skills](#) for Offshore & Hydrogen sectors
- [£20m to develop the Tay Cities Region's thriving CreaTech cluster](#) enabling researchers and businesses to push the boundaries, opening new frontiers in gaming, film, and animation.
Also see: [TIGA Skills, Training & Education in the Games Industry](#), UK survey

EVENTS

- **SAAS online Funding Application Workshops [27 May](#) and [every Tuesday until 30 June](#).** SAAS advises **applying before 30 June 2026** to ensure funding is in place for start of term.
- [Erasmus+ event for UK schools](#), 1-18 of June, series of online events for schools before Erasmus+ opens funding applications in November 2026. See [‘why take part?’](#) by sector
- [Levelling the playing field: Insights from the latest OECD Skills Outlook](#), 4pm, 11 June 2026, OECD publications: [Putting Adult Skills to Work](#) and [Skills Summit 2026 PowerPoints](#)