

The Update

Covering 21 May to 8 July 2026

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

RESOURCES

- **LMI:** [Economy, People & Skills](#) May edition has a 2-page 'Spotlight: Population Projections for Scotland' the June edition is also available. Plus: [4min video](#) on current SDS Evidence Suite
- **SDS:** [Explore Scottish job information | My World of Work](#), search by Local Authority or job title, for data on number of jobs advertised, salary range, job locations, and top employers
- **Ezine/infographics:** [Open Outlook June 2026](#), OU news includes Scottish skills shortage insights, in latest OU Business Barometer report, and opening routes for careers in teaching
- **Watch:** [Using LMI to inform curriculum development](#), Bishopbriggs Academy new case study
[My World of Work Career Stories](#): episode 19: legal profession; episode 20: Robyn Love on Paralympic success. For related launch articles see [SDS News](#)
- **To listen:** latest Education Scotland [Curriculum Improvement Cycle podcasts](#) including, focus on [Interdisciplinary Learning](#) and [Opportunities for Personal Achievement](#) insights
- **To use:** [Results Helpline 2026 partner communications toolkit](#) with helpline number and hours: Tuesday 4 / Wednesday 5 August: 8am-8pm. Thursday 6 / Friday 7 August: 9am-5pm
Excel workbook with [Upcoming Scottish University Events](#) shared by [HELOA Scotland](#)
- **Research:** [Young people & work: interim report](#) by Alan Milburn, states 1 in 8 young people in the UK are not in education, work or training, this report looks at why and what can be done
For insight into the views and experiences of young people in Scotland see [Young People's Career Ambitions 2026 \(YPCA\)](#) SDS research and [Young Scot - Truth About Youth 2026](#)

APPRENTICESHIPS

[Modern Apprenticeships end of year report](#) (Quarter 4 2025/26) showed over 24,800 Modern Apprentices starts - 56% of were aged 16-19 and 82.7% started their Apprenticeship at [SCQF level 6](#)

SCHOOLS

[Curriculum improvement plans are underway](#) with early [Draft Samples](#) of the new curriculum materials shared with councils. These will be distributed to schools for start of academic year 2026/27 This is happening alongside [Qualifications Scotland 'Reforming National Courses'](#) & [Engagement](#)

[School leavers follow-up destination 2024-25](#) - 93.5% of leavers were in a positive destination (PD) at 9-months (95.7% at 3-month). 95.9% in an initial PD at 3-months remained in a PD at 9-months Also see: [Education Outcomes for Looked After Children](#) 84.2% in initial PD / 73% at follow-up

[Phone free learning in Scottish schools](#) – legislation is being developed to restrict phone use in schools. A consultation will be launched and [refreshed guidance is being produced](#) encouraging schools to bring in their own restrictions from August in advance of the legislation.

Also see: [Updated Online Harms E-learning](#) and [Growing Up Online](#) insight (ages 12-26)

QUALIFICATIONS

Qualifications Scotland (formerly SQA) **results day is Tuesday 4 August 2026.**

Students will get their certificate via post, those signed up to [My Qualifications Scotland](#) before 15 July will also get their results by text/email. Support resources: [Qualifications Scotland](#) & [SCQF](#)

UCAS

Key Dates: **7 July Clearing 2026** open to applicants. **9 July Conservatoires 2027** applications open.

[Clearing 2025 research](#) showed a third (33%) of those in Clearing had declined an existing offer to access a Clearing option, 29% applied direct to Clearing. Also see: [Confirmation & Clearing Toolkit](#)

New on UCAS:

- [UCAS Budget Calculator launches in the Hub](#)
- [The role of AI in student decision making](#) UCAS report
- [Destinations Programme](#) careers framework for ages 16-18. Read: [Liane Hambly's Blog](#)

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITIES

[Scottish Funding Council \(SFC\)](#)

- [Final FE / HE funding allocations for 2026/27](#) with an 8% increase in funding for teaching in Scottish colleges (£42.5m) and 3.3% increase (£23.6m) towards teaching in universities
- [College Student Outcomes 2024-25](#) shares course completion data for over 64,000 FE / HE students. View data by college in Supporting Documents 'College Region National Tool 2024-25'
- [Intake targets for Pre-registration Nursing & Midwifery 2026-27](#), published by SFC, 'stretch' intake of 4,899 students and, in recognition of recruiting challenges, 'soft' targets of 3,987 (see intake by institution Table 1, p7). [Intake targets for Prosthetics & Orthotics](#) 25 students

[The Higher Education Statistics Agency \(HESA\) latest destination data](#) 15 months after graduation. 88% of graduates with a Scottish address were in work or further study: 58% were in full-time work; 13% part-time; 11% combined work and further study; 5% full-time study. 4% were unemployed

See: [Graduate Outcomes 2023/24 Summary Statistics](#) interactive charts for more Scottish data, for additional insight into the graduate experience try Prospects Luminate [Early Careers Survey 2026](#)

INVESTMENT IN SKILLS

[Oil & Gas Transition Training Fund opens](#), funding is available to help oil & gas workers retrain for key industries. Also see: [SDS Article](#)

Related news: [3 new projects for offshore wind skills development](#)

Research: ISEP Survey [Young Energy Professionals unaware of job opportunities](#) and Environmental & Sustainability [Early Careers Survey Report 2026](#) (UK surveys)

EVENTS

- [Discover OU Virtual Open Day](#), 14 July 7-9pm along with on-demand recorded open days
- [Glasgow 2026 Commonwealth Games](#) 23 July - 2 August. Young people: [Summer of sport](#)
- [Edinburgh Fringe](#) will run from 7 to 31 August 2026. Sector: [Creative Industries Skills Audits](#)