

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

RESOURCES

- **LMI:** [Economy, People & Skills](#) March edition has a 2-page 'Spotlight' reviewing trends around increasing number of full-time students in paid work (page 10-11).
- **SDS:** [New Sectoral Skills Assessments \(SSA\): digital practitioners](#), highlighting the technical and professional digital roles that span all sectors. See [1min Video overview](#);
New [Scottish Apprenticeships Working for Scotland \(PDF\)](#) highlighting key data; plus [Apprentice Voice](#) report published with accompanying [practitioners & adviser webinar](#)
- **Policy:** [Review of apprenticeship funding confirmed](#), with [terms of reference](#) published
- **Ezine / infographics:** [#EqualityMatters](#) (1-page) on Gender Inequality;
[Open Outlook March](#), includes OU in Scotland Annual Review & [OU Winter Olympian](#) video
- **To listen:** Fraser of Allander Institute - [No One Left Behind: Employability in Scotland](#) (30min) & [article](#); [Cyber & AI Roles in the Economy](#) (45min); [Edinburgh & AI Opportunity](#) (50min)
- **To watch:** [Career Stories](#): episode 14 (Joinery & social media); episode 15 (British Army). Also see New UniTasters Days (UK) subject guide video: [Studying Aviation](#)
- **To use:** [Overview of Upcoming Scottish University Events](#), auto-download (*takes a minute*) Excel list with open day dates, times, target audience, and institute from HELOA Scotland
- **To Read:** Liane Hambly, Careers Coach, exploring ['What do we mean when we say 'career'?'](#) and WonkHE shares [3 ways prospective students are using AI to inform decision-making](#)
- **Research:** [Close the Gap webinar](#) on occupational segregation; [Women in the Scottish STEM Landscape](#) Equate; [The Lovelace Report](#) on women in Tech (UK); and SHERU [Inequalities Landscape Report 2025](#) for issues faced by young men in Scotland.

SCHOOLS

[AI Guidance for Schools](#) published to support teachers, pupils and those working in schools to use Artificial Intelligence in a fair, safe and ethical way. See ['AI guidelines & guardrails'](#)

Also published: [Supporting Transgender Pupils in Schools](#); [Strengthening Additional Support for Learning \(ASL\)](#) recommendations; [Improving Attendance in Schools](#) with updated [stats](#)

PARENTS & CARERS

[Families at risk of poverty will receive additional support to train](#), enter stable work and progress in their careers through three funds: Raising Income through Skills & Education (RISE) Fund; Training Access Fund; and a new Flexible Workforce Development Fund. There will also be [£4.2m for NHS Scotland's parental employability programme](#) with linked job placements.

Also see: [Latest poverty statistics](#) & Fraser of Allander [Understanding the latest poverty statistics](#)

YOUTH

The Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) will be rolling out [80 new Youth Hubs](#) across the UK, including 10 Scottish Local Authorities – West Dunbartonshire; North & South Ayrshire; North & South Lanarkshire; Clackmannanshire; Dundee City; Fife; Falkirk; West Lothian.

Also see: £150,000 to 10 youth work organisations to [supporting better behavior in schools](#)

COLLEGES

[£2 million for college campuses of the future](#) to allow nine colleges to create detailed plans in order to apply for funding to build. Colleges are: Ayrshire; Borders; Dundee & Angus; Dumfries & Galloway; Forth Valley; North East Scotland; UHI Moray; UHI Inverness; and West College Scotland.

Also see: [Over £4m to Sabhal Mor Ostaigs Fas](#) new Centre for Gaelic Creativity

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

[Scottish Funding Council \(SFC\) announced its indicative funding allocation](#) for the next academic year, with increased investment of 8% to colleges, 3.3% to universities, and 8% for research.

Future planning College: [Future workstream launched](#) with collaborative workshops planned

Future planning University: [Framework for Sustainability & Success of Scotland's Universities](#)

UNIVERSITIES

[Higher Education Students and Qualifiers at Scottish Institutions 2024-25](#) was published by SFC. There were increased numbers of students completing HNC/D and Research Postgrads courses. The number of First Degrees qualifiers decreased overall, but increased in colleges (720 degree graduates).

INVESTMENT IN SKILLS

- [Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2026-2040](#) includes commitment to [workforce & skills building](#), opportunity areas include: wind; carbon capture; hydrogen; & energy-intensive industry
Also see: [£7m package](#) to help communities tackle climate change at a local level.
- [£36 million Regeneration Capital Grant Fund](#) will go to 32 projects, generating 1,200 jobs
- [Just Transition Fund \(JTF\) reopens for the North East and Moray](#) alongside wider [investing in energy infrastructure](#) for offshore wind in the Inner Moray Firth & Stornoway.
- Targeted funding for [Grangemouth](#) and [Mossmorran](#) (Fife) will support workers transitions.

EVENTS

- [Free Easter Study Support webinars](#) for senior-phase school pupils starting 6 April 2026 – [registration via ESgoil](#). Also see ESgoil [BGE Live timetable January to May 2026](#)
- [CDN Essentials Skills Network Launch Event 2026](#), Wednesday 29 April, 9.30-11.30am Teams
- [Educating the AI generation](#), free WonkHE online event Thursday 30 April, 12-1pm. Also see: [Trained to stop learning?](#) students experience of assessment and learning in an age of AI.
- [Mental Health Awareness Week 11-17 May](#) Also see: [Neurological Alliance of Scotland Toolkit](#)