



**THE CARNEGIE TRUST**  
FOR THE UNIVERSITIES OF SCOTLAND

# Outcome Report 2018-19 UG Tuition Fee Assistance

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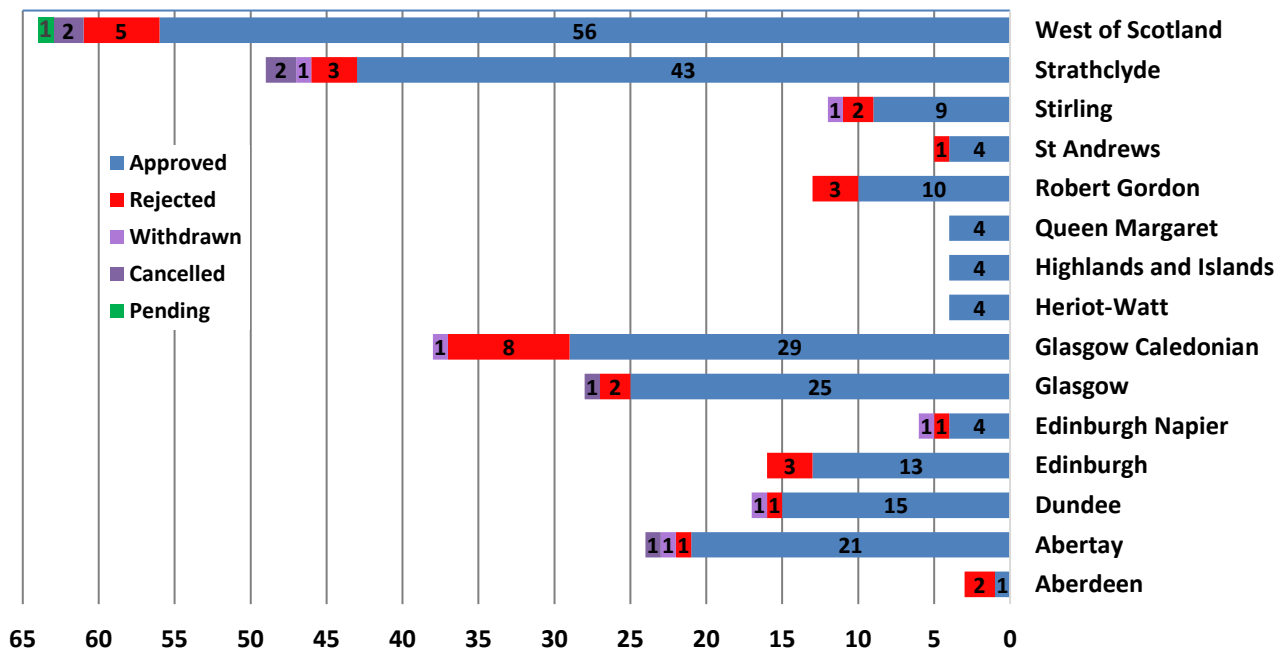
## Undergraduate Tuition Fee Assistance

### 1. Summary data

- In 2018-19, 287 applications were received and 240 awards -- amounting to £412,088 -- have been made to date under the Undergraduate Tuition Fee Assistance scheme.
- In 2018-19 the average household income of award recipients was £13,508, with a median of £8,514.
- 77.7% of students who are receiving support from the Trust declared a household income below the typical Scottish annual full-time income as of April 2018, of £29,274 (gross).<sup>1</sup>
- Withdrawing from a previous course of study or a change of course remains the primary reason for seeking support from the Trust.

### 2. Awards by university

The Trust has so far made 240 awards, amounting to £412,088 under the Undergraduate tuition fee assistance scheme. The outline budget proposed in May 2018 was £365,000, thus the total amount awarded exceeded the Trust’s estimate by £47,088.



Compared to the previous year, the number of applications and consequently awards has significantly increased, from 186 to 287 and from 160 to 242, respectively. This is the direct result of working more closely with staff in the student funding services who have been approaching students and encouraging them to apply. Applications from Dundee, Abertay, Stirling and Strathclyde have approximately doubled compared to 2017-18, with the greatest increase recorded for University of Strathclyde with 43 students funded in 2018-19, in comparison to 25 in the previous academic year. This year also saw the Trust receive the first applications from students at Queen Margaret University since 2015-16. The largest percentage increase in applicants/awardees (excluding QMU) was observed for University of Edinburgh, which saw a 94% increase in applications and a 92% increase in awards.

<sup>1</sup> *Earnings in Scotland 2018*, Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Financial Scrutiny Unit, November 2018.

### 3. Level of income

All applications received are subject to a financial means test. Applicants are asked to provide evidence of their personal earnings, and of the income of the whole households for a) students up to 25 years of age; or b) students living with a partner or spouse. Student loans and social benefits are not taken into account when calculating household income.

Factors taken into account when determining the level of support for the student include; the number of other dependents in the household, the family's geographic location (rural versus urban area), where the student would be living during the academic year, the distance travelled to university and whether the applicant contributes financially to the household costs.

The following table displays the number and percentage of students in receipt of tuition fee awards according to their annual household income before tax.

Income Bracket	Number of Recipients	% of Recipients
£0	66	27.3%
£1-5,000	23	9.5%
£5,001-10,000	50	20.7%
£10,001-15,000	23	9.5%
£15,001-20,000	19	7.9%
£20,001-25,000	15	6.2%
£25,001-30,000	12	5.0%
£30,001-35,000	11	4.5%
£35,001-40,000	10	4.1%
£40,001-45,000	1	0.4%
£45,001-50,000	2	0.8%
£50,001-55,000	1	0.4%
£55,001-60,000	0	0.0%
Over 60,000	2	0.8%
No data*	7	2.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>242</b>	

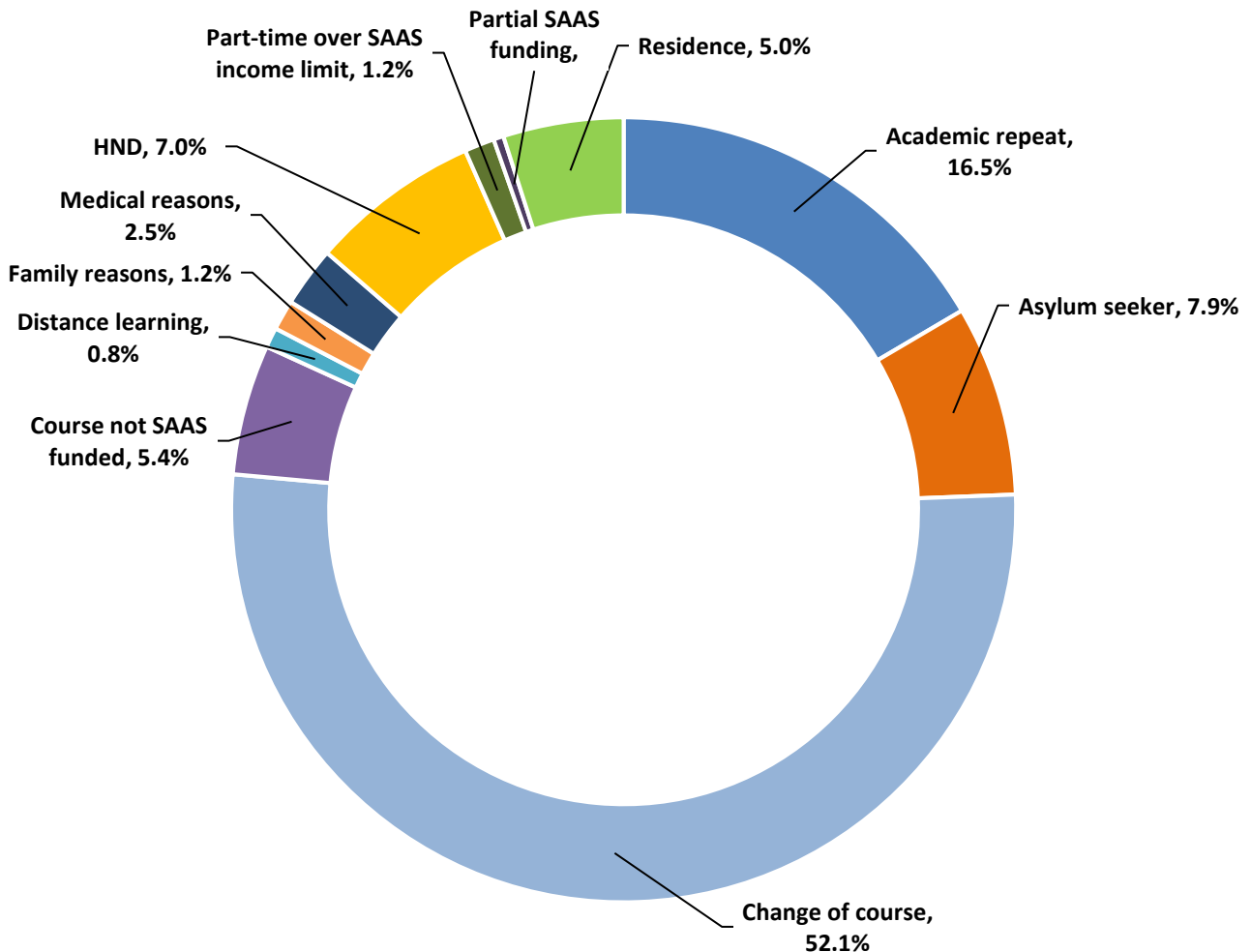
\* The seven applicants for whom we have no income data are asylum seekers who applied through arrangements in place with the Universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow.

27.3% of award recipients declared as having no income. A further 30.2% declared an income of £10,000 or less. In 2018-19, the **average household income** of recipients was **£13,508** and the **median income £8,514**. This income was primarily derived from casual labour or seasonal work.

The majority of students (77.7%) who receive support from the Trust come from households with an income below the typical Scottish annual full-time income of £29,274 (gross), compared to 85.4% in 2017-18.

#### 4. Reason for seeking support

While the majority of award recipients (52.1%) remain students who have studied previously but not graduated (and consequently are not eligible for SAAS support until later in their course), this represents a decrease of almost 7% when compared to the 2017-18 award figures.



The number of awards made on the basis of an applicant’s course not being SAAS funded has increased from 0% in 2017-18 to 5.4% in 2018-19, due to a number of applications being received for second degrees in skills shortage areas such as medicine and social work. The number of recipients receiving awards due to academic repeats has also nearly doubled, increasing by 7.6% compared to the previous academic year, from 8.9% to 16.5%. The proportion of asylum seekers receiving awards has also increased from 5.7% in 2017-18, to 8.3% in 2018-19.

The proportion of students awarded on the basis of family reasons, studying part-time and being over the SAAS income limit, receiving partial SAAS funding or failing to meet SAAS residence requirements have remained largely static compared to 2017-18.

Compared to previous years there has been a significant increase in the number of applications for support and consequently awards made. To date the Trust has issued 82 additional awards for the 2018-19 academic year (242) compared to 2017-18 (160) an increase of 35%. This increase may appear to potentially represent a return to the level of awards made by the Trust in the years prior to the changes in SAAS funding made in 2013-14.

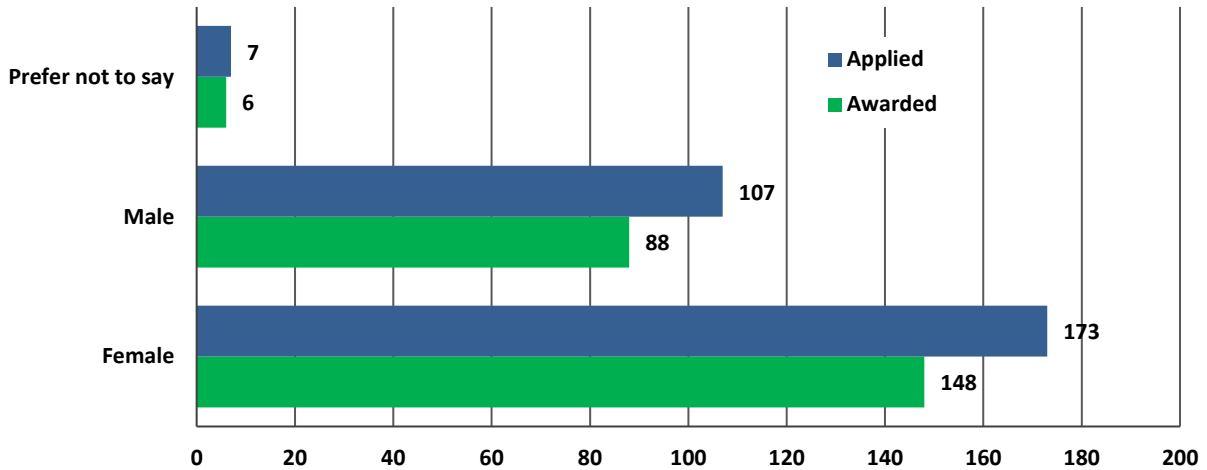
### 5. Rejected applications

In 2018-19, 32 applications have been rejected, an increase of 22 over the previous year. Among these, 13 applications were rejected on the basis of the applicant’s household income being above the threshold for support, 8 applicants failed to meet the Trust’s eligibility criteria, 5 applicants were studying ineligible courses, with a further 4 studying for a second degree in a non-skills shortage area. Reasons for refusal are presented in the table to the right:

Reason	Number of applications
Eligible for support from SFE-NI	1
Ineligible applicant	8
Ineligible course	5
High income	13
Repeat application	1
Second degree	4
Cancelled	6
Withdrawn	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>

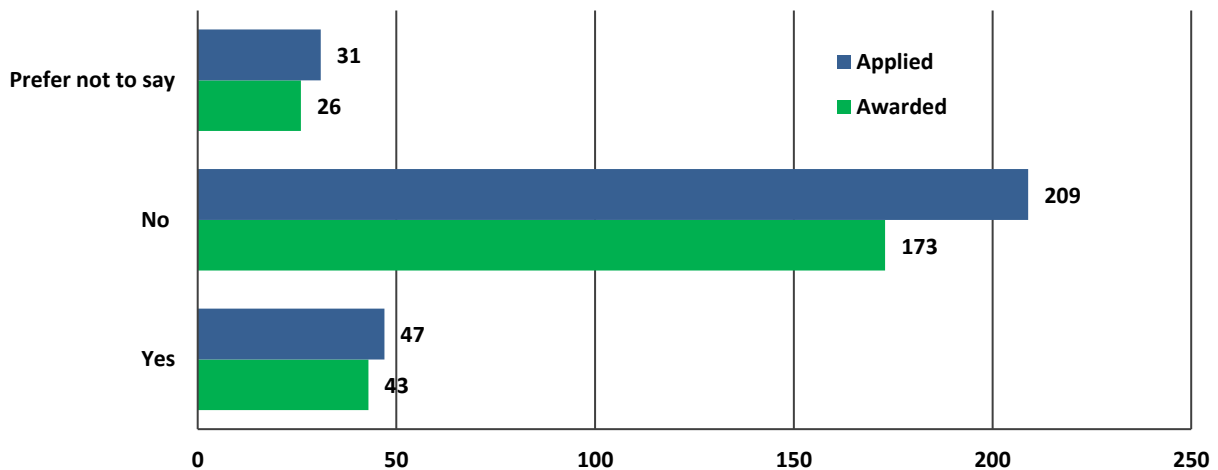
### 6. Equal Opportunities

#### Gender

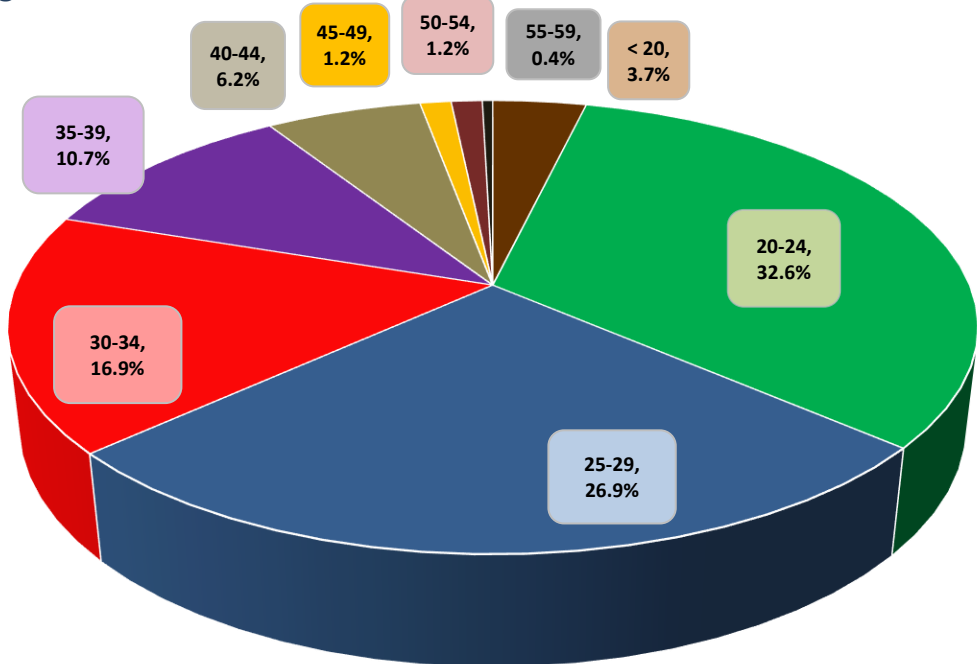


Females comprised the majority of applicants, at 60.6% (up 6.5% on 2017-18) and experienced a slightly higher success rate in comparison with their male counterparts (85.5% versus 82.2%).

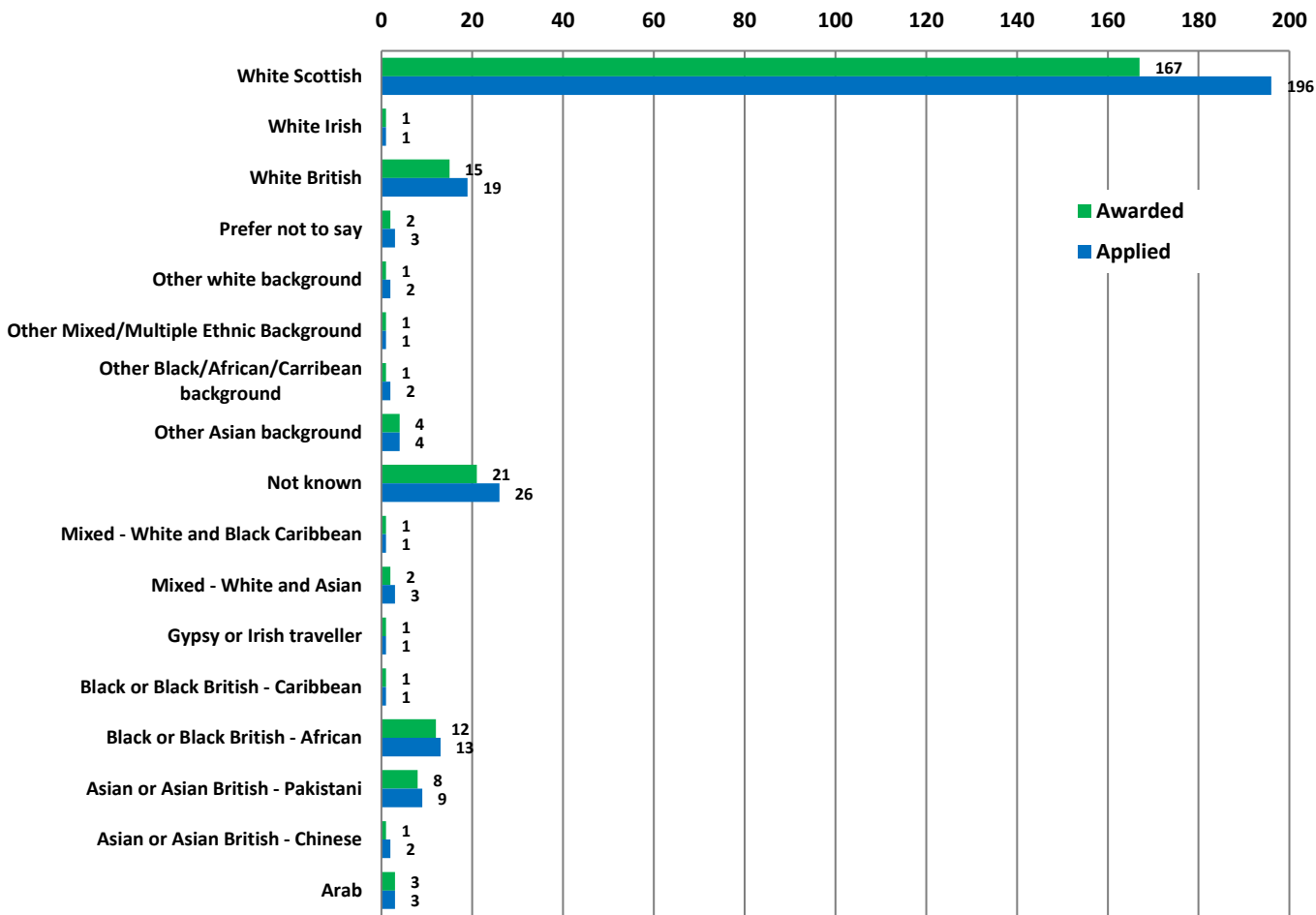
#### Disability



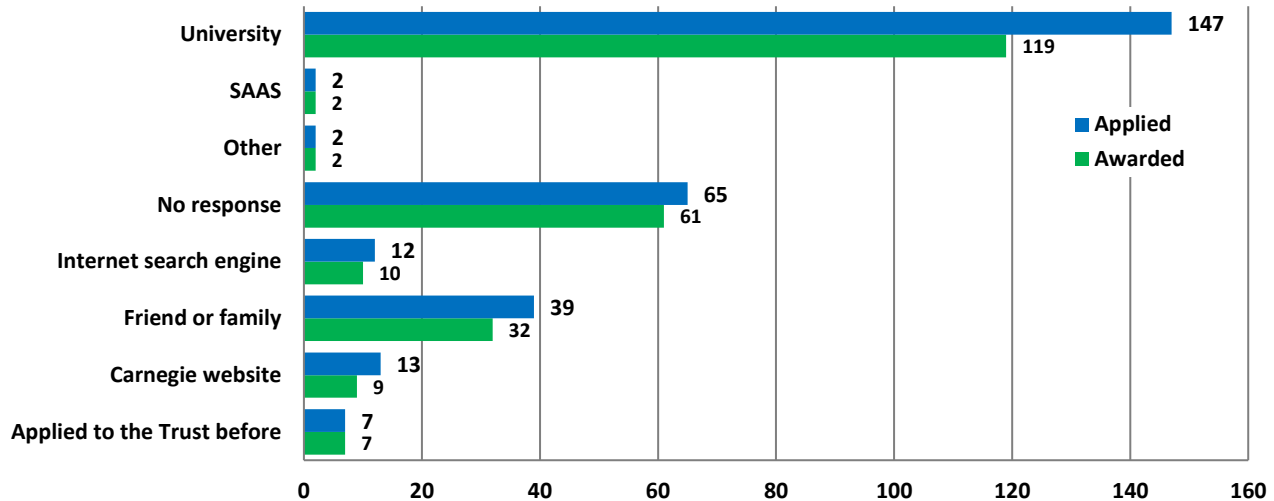
Recipient Age



Ethnicity



## Scheme Source



## 7. Special Supplementary Fund

Each year, a number of students receiving fee assistance from the Trust are invited to apply for the Special Supplementary Fund for assistance with study, travel or living costs. This year, a budget of £50-60,000 was allocated, originating from investments and donations received over the preceding year. A total of 89 students whose household income was lower than £25,000, or who upon review of their personal circumstances appeared to be suffering financial hardship, were invited to apply. The Trust received 63 applications for supplementary funding and subsequently awarded grants varying between £300 and £1,500 depending on individual circumstances. The total amount awarded was £56,400 and the sums awarded, grouped by university, are as follows:

University	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Abertay	4	£3,050.00
Dundee	2	£1,450.00
Edinburgh	2	£2050.00
Edinburgh Napier	1	£300.00
Glasgow	10	£7,400.00
Glasgow Caledonian	8	£7,700.00
Heriot-Watt	1	£1,000.00
Robert Gordon	5	£4,650.00
Stirling	5	£5,400.00
Strathclyde	7	£6,100.00
West of Scotland	17	£17,300.00
<b>Total amount awarded</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>£56,400.00</b>