



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

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# Outcome Report 2019-20 UG Tuition Fee Assistance

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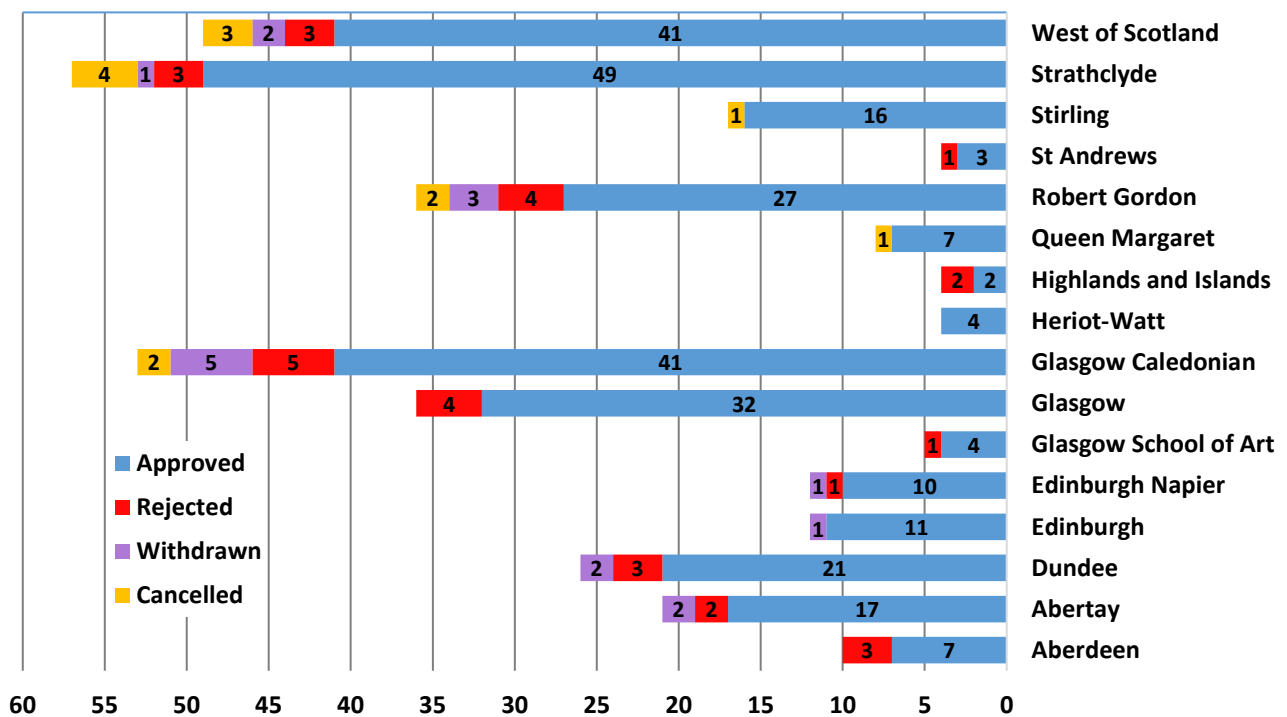
## Undergraduate Tuition Fee Assistance

### 1. Summary data

- In 2019-20, 354 applications were received with 292 awards taken up - equating to £520,181 - under the Undergraduate Tuition Fee Assistance scheme.
- In 2019-20 the average household income of award recipients was £10,747, with a median of £7,479.
- 83.9% of students who are receiving support from the Trust declared a household income below that of the median gross Scottish annual full-time income (as of April 2019) of £24,486.<sup>1</sup>
- Withdrawing from a previous course of study or a change of course remains the principal reason for seeking support from the Trust, accounting for 49.7% of awards made.

### 2. Awards by university

The Trust has to date made 292 awards, amounting to £520,181 under the Undergraduate tuition fee assistance scheme. This exceeded the outline budget of £450,000 (proposed in May 2019) by £70,181.



Compared to 2018-19, an increase of over 18% has been observed for both applications (287 to 354) and awards (239 to 292). This is the direct result of the Trust working closely with university student funding services to increase awareness of the scheme in both students and university staff. The number of applications from Dundee, Aberdeen, Edinburgh Napier, Glasgow, GCU, Robert Gordon, and Stirling have all increased on 2018-19, with the most marked difference recorded for Robert Gordon University with 27 students funded in 2019-20, compared to only 8 in the previous academic year. The University of the West of Scotland dropped to third place in the rankings for total applications received (from first in 2018-19) with the University of Strathclyde in first place followed by GCU. This year also saw the Trust receive its first applications from students studying at the Glasgow School of Art, however no applications were received from applicants enrolled at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

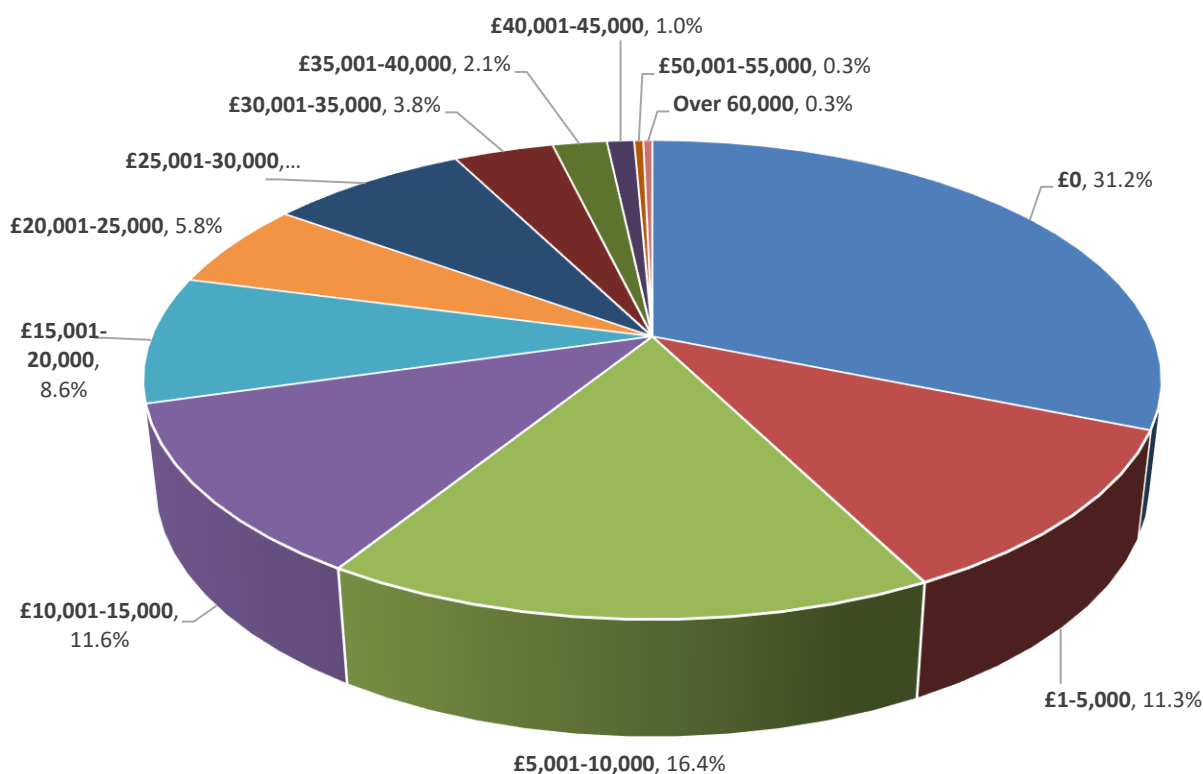
<sup>1</sup> *Earnings in Scotland 2019*, Scottish Parliament Information Centre, Financial Scrutiny Unit, January 2020.

### 3. Level of income

All applications received are subject to a financial means test. Applicants are requested to provide a figure for their personal earnings, as well as the income of the household for those under the age of 25, or those cohabiting 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 a student include the number of other dependents within the household, the family’s geographic location (rural versus urban areas), where the student will reside during the academic year, the distance travelled to university and whether the applicant contributes financially to the household costs.

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



31.2% of award recipients declared no income (included within this figure are those asylum seeker applicants who applied through arrangements in place with the Universities of Strathclyde and Glasgow). A further 27.7% declared an income of £10,000 or less. For 2019-20, the average household income of grant recipients was £10,747 with a median income of £7,479. Based on anecdotal evidence this income is primarily derived from casual labour and/or seasonal work.

The majority of students (83.9%) who are in receipt of tuition fee support from the Trust come from households with an income below the 2019 median gross Scottish annual full-time income of £24,486.

#### 4. Reason for seeking support

Half of award recipients (49.7%) remain students who have studied previously but not graduated and consequently are not eligible for SAAS support until later in their current course. A 2.9% decrease on 2018-19.

Reason for seeking support	No of awards	% of awards
Academic repeat	37	13.3%
Asylum seeker	22	7.5%
Change of course	146	49.7%
Course not SAAS funded	32	10.9%
Distance learning	5	1.7%
Distance learning (over SAAS income limit)	2	0.7%
Medical reasons	4	1.4%
HND	25	8.5%
Part-time over SAAS income limit	3	1.0%
Partial SAAS funding	1	0.3%
Residence	15	5.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>292</b>	

The proportion of awards made on the basis of an applicant's course not being SAAS funded has almost doubled from 5.7% in 2018-19 to 10.9% in 2019-20. This has been due to an increase in the number of inquiries and subsequent applications excepted from individuals undertaking second degrees and who have either self-funded a portion of their course and/or will become eligible for SAAS support at a later point in their studies. The percentage of recipients receiving awards due to academic repeats has decreased by 2.4% compared to the previous academic year, from 15.7% to 13.3%. The proportion of awards made to asylum seekers has also dropped slightly from 8.3% in 2018-19, to 7.6% in 2019-20. There have been small comparative increases however in those receiving support for distance learning and due to previous HND study, while the proportions of students awarded on the basis of 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.

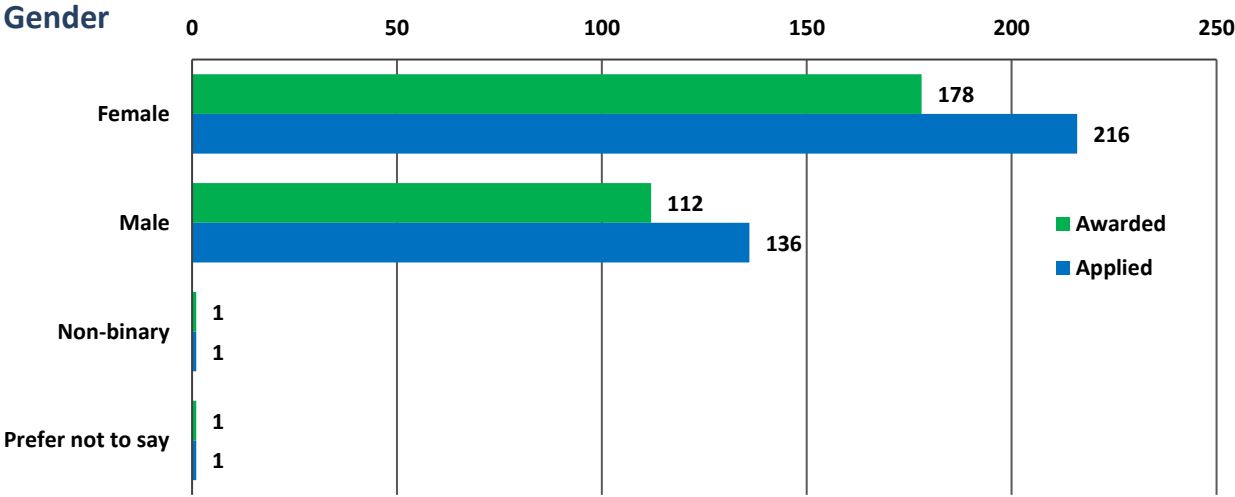
Compared to previous years there has been a significant increase in the number of applications for support and consequently awards made. The Trust has issued 53 additional awards for the 2019-20 academic year (292) compared to 2018-19 (239) an increase of 18.2%.

#### 5. Rejected applications

This year, 32 applications were rejected, an increase of just 2 over 2018-19. Among these, 10 applicants failed to meet the Trust's eligibility criteria, 9 applications were rejected on the basis of household income being above the threshold for support indicated by the Trust, 6 applicants were found to be studying ineligible courses with a further 4 rejected as they had opted not to take up their student maintenance loan entitlement. In addition to those rejected a further 17 applications were withdrawn, either at the request of the student or by the Trust as a result of a lack of response from the applicant. Thirteen awards were also subsequently cancelled either as a result of the awardee being informed by SAAS that they were eligible for state tuition support, or the student opting to suspend/defer their studies (for clarity these 13 awards have not been included in the 292 listed, or the preceding metrics). A complete breakdown is provided in the table on the following page.

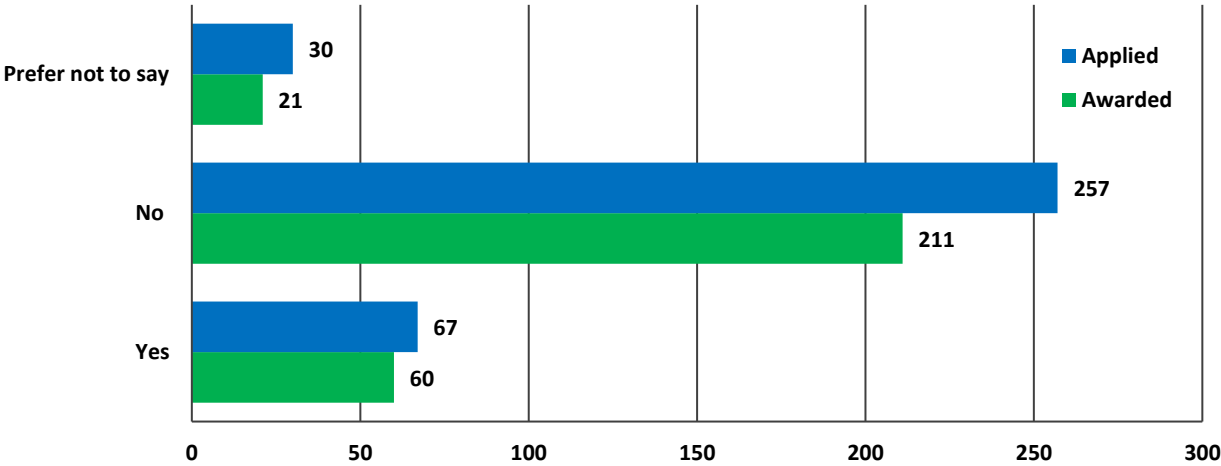
Reason	Number of applications
Ineligible applicant	10
Ineligible course	6
High income	9
Repeat application	1
Not applied for maintenance loan	4
No Scottish ties	1
Second degree	1
Cancelled	13
Withdrawn	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>

### 6. Equal Opportunities

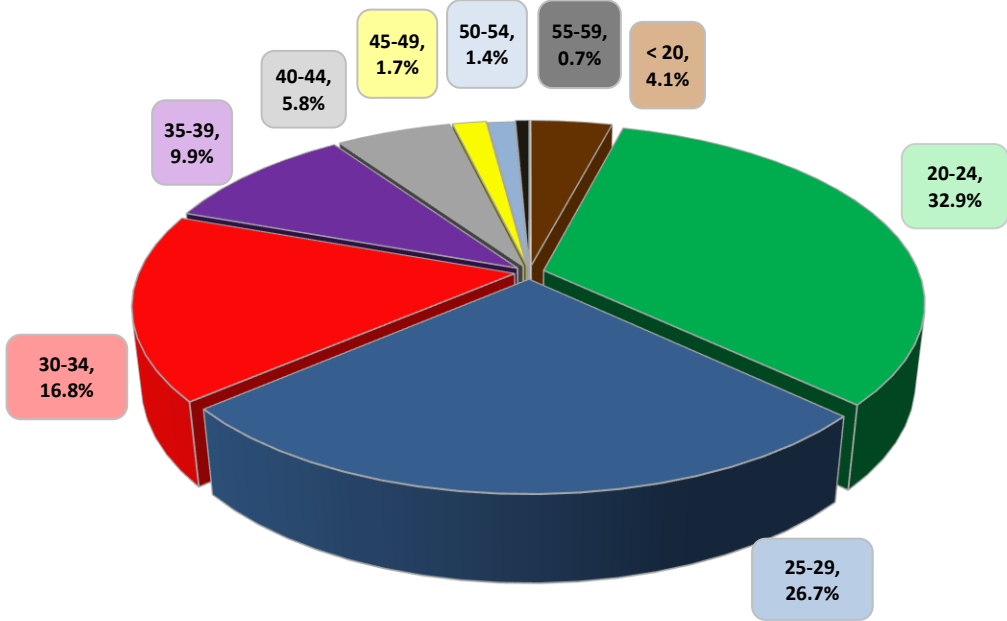


Females comprised the majority of applicants, at 61% (up 1.4% on 2018-19) with both categories exhibited a success rate of 82%.

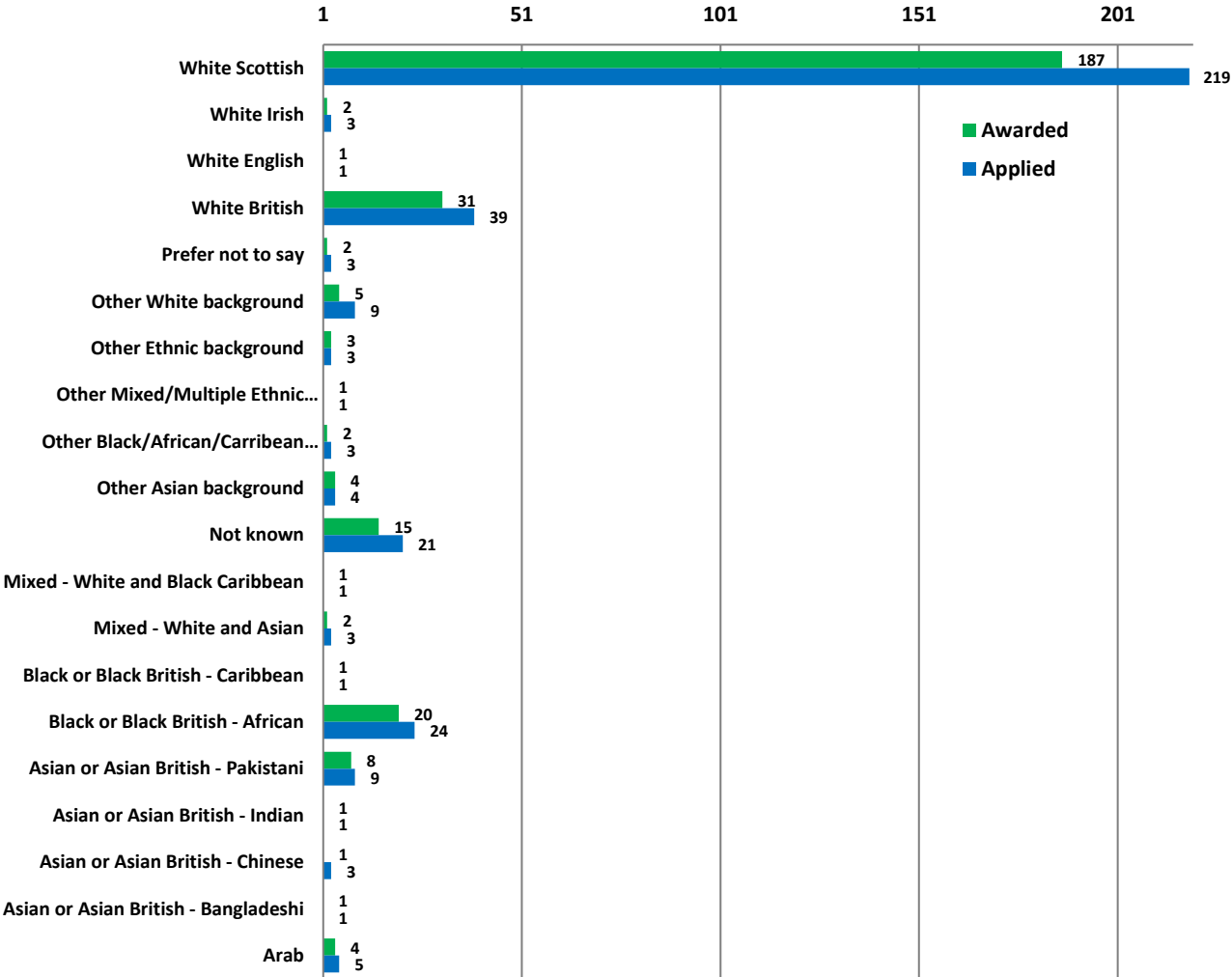
### Disability



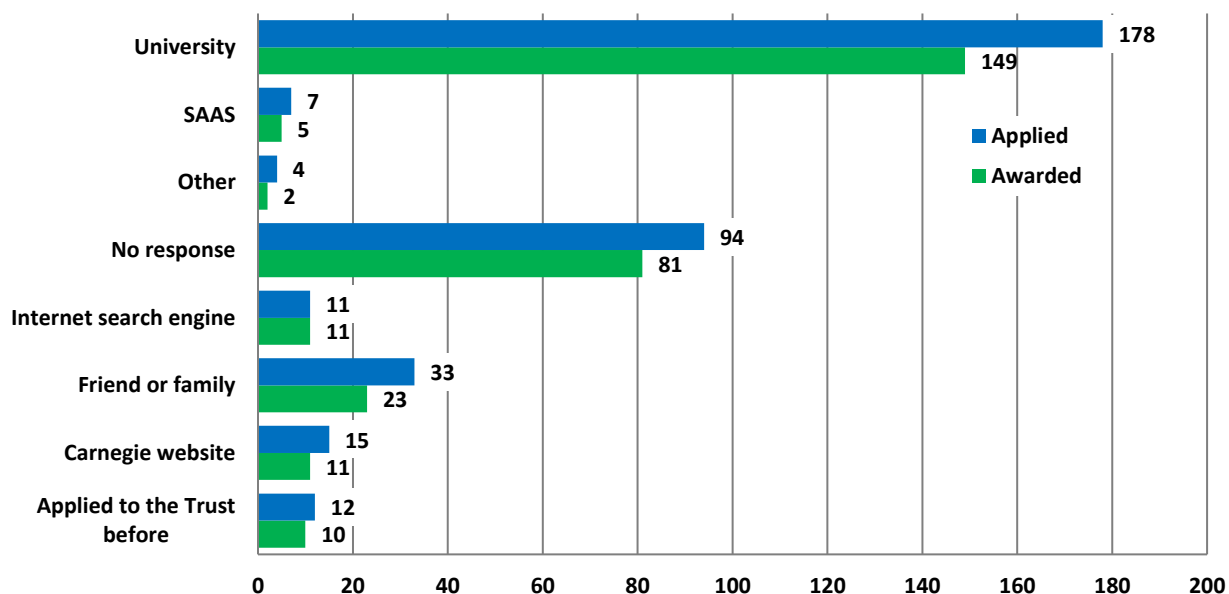
**Recipient Age**



**Ethnicity**



## Scheme Source



## 7. Carnegie Study Support Grants

Due to internal financial restructuring the Special Supplementary Fund has now been superseded by the Carnegie Study Support Grants scheme. As previously however a proportion of students in receipt of a tuition fee grant from the Trust were invited to apply for additional assistance with study, travel and other ancillary costs incurred as a result of their studies. Invitees are selected on the basis of a combination of factors including total household income, number of dependents, caring responsibilities and geographic location. This year, a budget of £70,000 was allocated and a total of 77 invites issued. The Trust subsequently received 61 applications and awarded grants of between £500 and £1,750 depending on individual circumstances. The total amount distributed was £70,400 and the sums awarded, grouped by university, are as follows:

University	Number of Grants	Amount Awarded
Aberdeen	1	£1,400.00
Abertay	3	£2,950.00
Dundee	6	£6,400.00
Edinburgh	2	£1,800.00
Edinburgh Napier	1	£1,000.00
Glasgow	10	£11,500.00
Glasgow Caledonian	12	£13,500.00
Heriot-Watt	2	£1,500.00
Queen Margaret	2	£2,200.00
Robert Gordon	5	£6,400.00
St Andrews	1	£900.00
Stirling	4	£4,950.00
Strathclyde	4	£5,250.00
West of Scotland	8	£10,650.00
<b>Total awarded</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>£70,400.00</b>