Teaching Bursary in Scotland

Report of the Review of the 2024/25 Scheme

Contents

1. Introduction

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) administers the Teaching Bursary in Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The Teaching Bursary is a £20,000 incentive to ease the financial transition for career changers wishing to undertake a one-year PGDE initial teacher education course in Scotland that leads to the award of registered teacher status in Scotland's hardest-to-fill teaching subjects.

SDS works with the Universities who deliver the PGDE courses to administer the scheme.

Opened to new applicants in June 2024, the bursary was available to career changers in the new academic year whilst studying for a PGDE in;
Chemistry, Computing Science, Home Economics, Mathematics, Physics, Technological Education, Modern Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, Spanish) and the following Gaelic teaching subjects:

- Gaelic as a Language/Subject at Secondary School Level
- Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects
- Primary Education in Gaelic Medium.

Modern Languages at secondary level was included in the eligible subjects for the 2024 Teaching Bursary Scheme.

1.1 Summary of Previous Bursary Applications

This section summarises overall successful bursary awards and completions for previous intakes:

- In the 2023/24 academic session 70 bursaries were approved with 47 successfully completing. 12 recipients are still to complete

- In the 2022/23 academic session, 84 bursaries were approved with 63 successfully completing. 1 recipient is still to complete

- In the 2021/22 academic session, 137 bursaries were approved with 107 successfully completing. 1 recipient is still to complete

- In the 2020/21 academic session, 150 bursaries were approved with 120 successfully completing

- In the 2019/20 academic session, 111 bursaries were approved with 94 successfully completing

- In the 2018/19 academic session, 107 bursaries were approved with 95 successfully completing.

1.2 Updates to Teaching Bursary for 2024/25 Intake

The following changes were made to the eligibility criteria for 2024/25:

- Modern Languages was added to the eligible subjects list
- Applicants ordinarily need to have been out of full-time education since 30th September 2021.

In the 2024/25 academic session, 124 applications were received, of which, 79 were approved.

2. Eligibility Criteria for 2024/25 Intake

1. Applicants need to have been in paid employment for at least 36 months out of the last 84 months (including career breaks and any periods of furlough). Applicants who can evidence they have been in receipt of Carer's Allowance for 36 months out of the last 84 will also be deemed to meet the employment eligibility criteria.
2. Applicants need to hold a 2.1 degree or meet the minimum Initial Teacher Education (ITE) entry requirement with a relevant masters qualification, the content of which would make them suitable to teach Maths, Computing Science, Technological Education, Physics, Chemistry, Home Economics, Modern Languages, Primary Education in Gaelic Medium, Gaelic as a Language/Subject as Secondary School Level or Gaelic Medium across all Secondary Subjects.
3. Normal entry requirements for PGDE ITE also apply. Including exceptions, applicants ordinarily need to have been out of full-time education since 30th September 2021.
4. Applicants must have an offer of a place on a PGDE ITE programme at a Scottish university before applying.
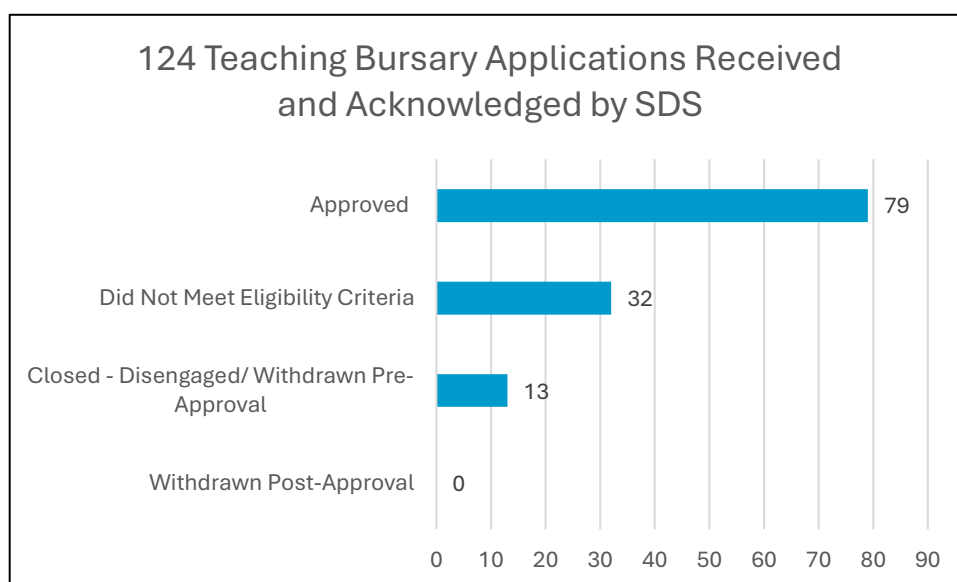
3. Summary of 2024/25 Applications and Awards

This section summarises overall bursary applications and successful bursary awards as well as a breakdown of bursary recipients by ITE institution and subject.

It should be noted that the number of individuals accepting a place on the PGDE course this year is lower than the previous year.

3.1 Total Applications and Reasons for Non-Award of Bursaries

In total, 124 applications to the Teaching Bursary Scheme were received via online application at www.teachingbursaryinscotland.co.uk, with 79 of these approved as meeting the eligibility criteria and accepting the bursary award. This chart summarises the reasons for the 45 unsuccessful applications.

The most common reasons for not meeting the eligibility criteria were being in recent full-time education (47%), not having the relevant qualification (22%) and being ineligible for SAAS tuition fee support (12.5%).

124 Teaching Bursary Applications Received and Acknowledged by SDS

Category	Value
Approved	79
Did Not Meet Eligibility Criteria	32
Closed - Disengaged/ Withdrawn Pre-Approval	13
Withdrawn Post-Approval	0

Source: Skills Development Scotland

3.2   Successful Bursary Recipients by Initial Teacher Education Institution

	University	Total offers
1	Edinburgh Napier University	6
2	Queen Margaret University	5
3	University of Aberdeen	2
4	University of Dundee	1
5	University of Edinburgh	11
6	University of Glasgow	10
7	University of Strathclyde	36
8	University of the Highlands and Islands	7
9	University of the West of Scotland	1
	Grand Summary:	79

Source: Skills Development Scotland

3.3 Recipients by Subject and Initial Teacher Education Institution

The distribution of bursary recipients by subject and Initial Teacher Education Institution is shown below:

University/ Subject	Aberdeen University	Dundee University	Edinburgh University	Edinburgh Napier University	Glasgow University	Queen Margaret University	Strathclyde University	University of the Highlands and Island	University of the West of Scotland	Total Recipients by Subject
Chemistry		1	1	1	2		6	1		12
Dual Chemistry and Biology			1							1
Computing Science							3	1		4
Dual Computing Science and Psychology							1			1
Gaelic Language (Secondary)							1			1
Gaelic Medium Geography (Secondary)							1			1

University/ Subject	Aberdeen University	Dundee University	Edinburgh University	Edinburgh Napier University	Glasgow University	Queen Margaret University	Strathclyde University	University of the Highlands and Islands	University of the West of Scotland	Total Recipients by Subject
Gaelic Medium (Primary)							1			<u>1</u>
Home Economics						5	5	1		<u>11</u>
Maths	2		1	4	3		9	1	1	<u>21</u>
Dual Maths and Psychology							1			<u>1</u>
Modern Languages French			2		2					<u>4</u>
Modern Languages Spanish							2			<u>2</u>
Modern Languages dual French and Spanish					2		2			<u>4</u>

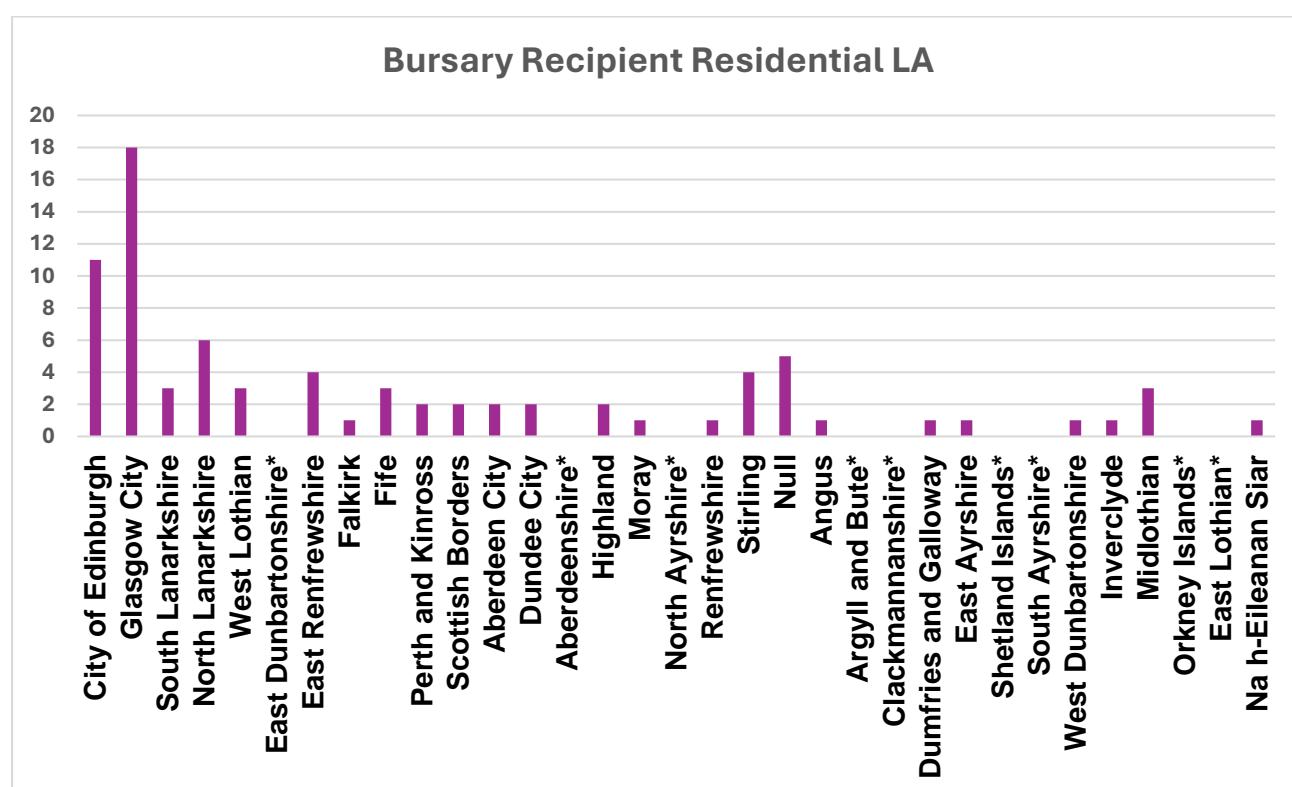| University/ Subject	Aberdeen University	Dundee University	Edinburgh University	Edinburgh Napier University	Glasgow University	Queen Margaret University	Strathclyde University	University of the Highlands and Islands	University of the West of Scotland	Total Recipients by Subject
Modern Languages dual French and German			2							2
Physics				1			2	1		4
Dual Physics and Maths			1		1					2
Technological Education			3				2	2		7

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4. Profile of 2024/25 Teaching Bursary Recipients

This section looks at bursary recipients by their residence at time of application, preferred destination(s) for future employment, gender, ethnicity, disability, and age.

4.1   Bursary Recipients by Local Authority

The distribution of bursary recipients by the local authority area in which they reside.

Please note that "Null" refers to those recipients who reside in Scotland, but their Local Authority was not disclosed.

Bursary Recipient Residential LA

*No bursary recipients 2024/25

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.2 Bursary Recipients by Scottish Parliamentary Constituency

The number of bursary recipients by the Scottish parliamentary constituency in which they were resident at the time of their application.

Please note that "Null" refers to those recipients who reside in Scotland, but their Scottish Parliamentary Constituency was not disclosed.

Scottish Parliamentary Constituency	Bursary Recipients
Clydebank and Milngavie	0
Clydesdale	0
Glasgow Kelvin	2
Linlithgow	1
Edinburgh Central	6
Uddingston and Bellshill	1
Eastwood	3
Edinburgh Northern and Leith	0
Edinburgh Southern	3
Falkirk East	1
Hamilton, Larkhall and Stonehouse	0
Midlothian South, Tweeddale & Lauderdale	2
Perthshire South and Kinross-shire	1
Renfrewshire South	1
Aberdeen South and North Kincardine	0
Coatbridge and Chryston	2
Cumbernauld and Kilsyth	3
Dundee City East	0
East Kilbride	2
Falkirk West	0
Glasgow Anniesland	2
Glasgow Southside	4
Kirkcaldy	1
Moray	0
Stirling	2
Null	5
Aberdeen Central	1
Aberdeenshire East	0
Airdrie and Shotts	1
Almond Valley	2
Angus North and Mearns	1
Ayr	0
Banffshire and Buchan Coast	1
Caithness, Sutherland and Ross	0
Clackmannanshire and Dunblane	2
Cowdenbeath	0
Cunninghame North	0
Cunninghame South	0
Dumbarton	1
Dundee City West	2
Edinburgh Eastern	0
Edinburgh Pentlands	0
Edinburgh Western	2

Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire	1
Galloway and West Dumfries	0
Glasgow Cathcart	0
Glasgow Maryhill and Springburn	0
Glasgow Pollok	2
Kilmarnock and Irvine Valley	1
Motherwell and Wishaw	0
North East Fife	0
Paisley	0
Perthshire North	1
Rutherglen	0
Shetland Islands	0
Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch	1
Strathkelvin and Bearsden	0
Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley	0
Dumfriesshire	1
Dunfermline	1
Greenock and Inverclyde	1
Mid Fife and Glenrothes	1
Midlothian North and Musselburgh	2
Orkney Islands	0
Glasgow Shettleston	3
Inverness and Nairn	1
Renfrewshire North and West	1
Aberdeen Donside	1
Aberdeenshire West	0
Angus South	0
Argyll and Bute	0
East Lothian	0
Glasgow Provan	5
Na h-Eileanan Siar	1

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.3   Preferred Destination for Future Employment by Local Authority

During the application process applicants were asked, on a voluntary basis, to indicate which local authority area(s) they would consider seeking employment in on successful completion of their ITE course.

Local Authority	Total Selected
Aberdeen City	15
Aberdeenshire	14
Angus	15
Argyll and Bute	18
City of Edinburgh	34
Clackmannanshire	17
Dumfries and Galloway	14
Dundee City	16
East Ayrshire	19
East Dunbartonshire	22
East Lothian	28
East Renfrewshire	31
Falkirk	27
Fife	23
Glasgow City	44
Highland	20
Inverclyde	20
Midlothian	27
Moray	13
Na h-Eileanan Siar	14
North Ayrshire	18
North Lanarkshire	28
Orkney Islands	13
Perth and Kinross	23
Renfrewshire	31
Scottish Borders	19
Shetland Islands	14
South Ayrshire	15
South Lanarkshire	26
Stirling	30
West Dunbartonshire	23
West Lothian	29

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.4 Initial Teacher Education Subject Choice by Gender

The chart and table below summarise ITE subject choice by gender. Any subject category with fewer than five responses is shown as * to avoid possible identification of individuals.

Teaching Field	Female	Male	Transgender	Did not Disclose	Total
Chemistry	8	*	*	*	13
Computing Science	*	*	*	*	5
Gaelic Secondary (Subject)	*	*	*	*	1
Gaelic Secondary Medium (Geography)	*	*	*	*	1
Home Economics	*	*	*	*	11
Maths	11	11	*	*	23
Modern Languages	*	*	*	*	12
Physics	*	*	*	*	5
Gaelic Primary	*	*	*	*	1
Technological Education	*	*	*	*	7

Source: Skills Development Scotland

Note: The five bursary recipients undertaking dual teaching qualifications have been included within their first subject choice on which the bursary was awarded. Though the majority of this table is redacted for data protection, it should be noted that almost two thirds of the recipients this year are female.

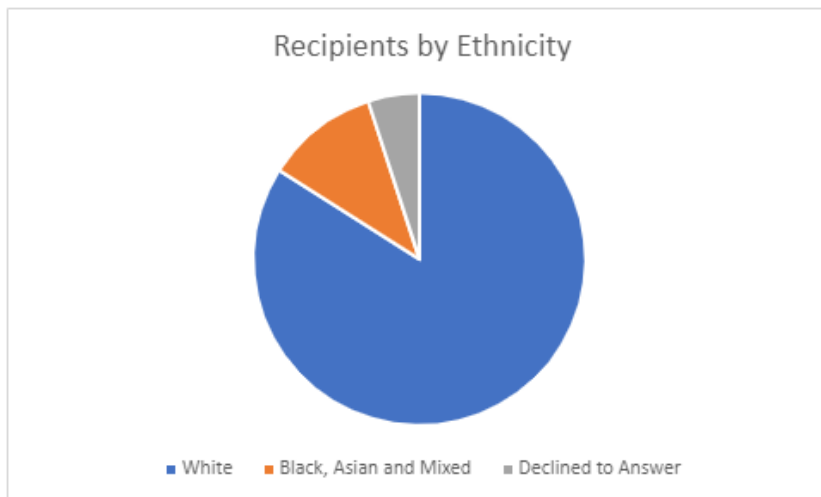## 4.5   Bursary Recipients by Ethnicity

The Table shows the breakdown of bursary recipients by their stated ethnicity. Any ethnic category with fewer than five responses is shown as * to avoid possible identification of individuals.

Ethnicity	% of Bursary Recipients
Asian (Chinese)	*
Asian (Pakistani)	*
Asian (Indian)	*
Black (African)	*
Mixed Background	*
White (English)	6%
White (Northern Irish)	*
White (Other)	9%
White (Scottish)	67%
Declined to Answer	5%

Source: Skills Development Scotland

To provide more clarity on the breakdown of recipients from different ethnic groups, the responses were:

- White (Scottish, English, Irish, Northern Irish, Welsh, Other) = 84%
- Black, Asian and Mixed (Indian, Pakistani, Chinese, African, Mixed Background, Other Ethnic Background) = 11%
- Declined to answer = 5%.

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.6   Bursary Recipients by Disability

The breakdown of bursary recipients by stated disability:

Disability	Total
Yes	8
No	67
Prefer not to say	4
Total	79

Source: Skills Development Scotland

4.7 Bursary Recipients by Age

The age profile of bursary recipients:

Age Band	Total
20 to 24	2
25 to 40	56
41 to 50	16
50+	5
Total	79

Source: Skills Development Scotland