

# MillionPlus

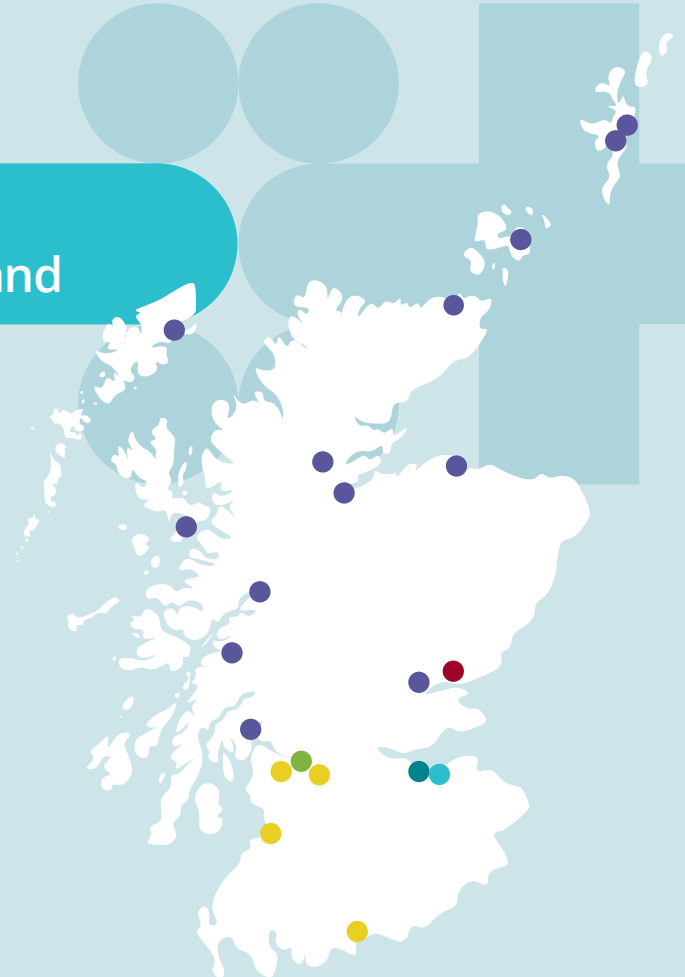
The Association for  
Modern Universities



## Facts and stats: modern universities in Scotland

- Abertay University
- Edinburgh Napier University
- Glasgow Caledonian University
- Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh
- University of the Highlands and Islands
- University of the West of Scotland

The six MillionPlus-affiliated modern universities educate more than one in four students studying in Scotland, making them a vital component of the higher education landscape in Scotland; their reach is wide in every sense of the word.<sup>2</sup>





## Research and innovation with impact and reach

- 57% of research that takes place at modern universities is judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent.<sup>3</sup>
- 56% of the research that takes place at modern universities is judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent in respect of its impact in the real world.<sup>4</sup>
- Modern universities provided contract research to over 668 organisations in 2021–22.
- Percentage of Scottish modern university research found to be world leading or internationally excellent in REF2021:

**62%**



Overall in terms  
of impact

**75%**



in Architecture,  
Built Environment  
and Planning

**70%**



in Allied Health  
Professions, Dentistry,  
Nursing and Pharmacy

**67%**



in Art and Design:  
History, Practice  
and Theory

**63%**



in Communication, Cultural  
and Media Studies, Library and  
Information Management

**61%**



in Social Work  
and Social Policy

**60%**



in Engineering



## Increasing opportunity and driving social justice

Modern universities have a fundamental role in all local communities in Scotland, making higher education an option for people for whom it was previously out of reach.

- A **third** of Scottish Universities are modern, and they account for **55%** of undergraduate entrants from the most disadvantaged backgrounds and **67%** of full-time mature students.<sup>5</sup>
- Students articulating from college to university has widened access and progression within higher education. **46%** of first-degree students from the most deprived parts of Scotland come through the HNC/HND college-to-university pathway.<sup>6</sup>
- **52%** of all care-experienced students were studying at a modern university in Scotland.<sup>7</sup>
- The reach of Scotland's modern universities extends internationally with **53%** of undergraduate transnational education delivered by modern universities.





## Strengthening and enhancing public services in Scotland

- Modern universities are fundamental to the success of public services, with high numbers of students in education that leads to a position as a public services key worker.
- Modern universities have partnerships with all NHS Boards in Scotland and educate:

100%



of those studying  
medical technology

100%



of midwifery students

87%



of those  
studying nutrition

71%



of nursing  
students

77%



of counselling,  
psychotherapy and  
occupational therapy  
students

67%



of those studying  
subjects allied  
to medicine

60%



of undergraduate  
social work students

36%



of healthcare  
science (including  
paramedic science)



## Business partners and economic drivers

- Modern universities account for 48% of all Scottish graduate startups and 35% of all social enterprises in higher education.
- 59% of all graduate apprenticeships in Scotland are done at a modern university.<sup>8</sup>
- Modern universities provided consultancy to more than 554 businesses in 2020–21, over half of which were SMEs.
- All modern universities provide entrepreneurship training and seed corn investment to support startups either on campus or through a partnership.
- It is estimated that, just based on their expenditure, Scottish modern universities contribute over £1.2bn to their regional economies per annum and are responsible for over 9,000 jobs.<sup>9</sup>
- Modern universities are responsible for 53% of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships being delivered by Scottish universities.<sup>10</sup>





## Educating students for the industries of tomorrow

- Modern universities offer a broad portfolio, blending traditional subjects such as engineering, science, healthcare, but also pioneering the offer of new and emerging subjects.
- Technology sector businesses contribute £21.6bn to the Scottish economy, employing over 83,610 people.
- In 2021, the creative industries contributed £4.6bn to the Scottish economy, employing over 90,000, one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.<sup>11</sup>
- Modern universities educate:

**95%**  of games students

**43%**  of design studies students

**36%**  of computer science students

**57%**  of drama students

**65%**  of software engineering students

**45%**  of music students

**44%**  of cinematics and photography students

- <sup>1</sup> The term “modern” is used to describe any institution that acquired university title after 1992.
- <sup>2</sup> University of the West of Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University both also have a campus in London.
- <sup>3</sup> Research Excellence Framework 2021 results.
- <sup>4</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>5</sup> Scottish Funding Council, Report on Widening Access 2020–21, most deprived parts here is defined as the SIMD20 or most disadvantaged quintile.
- <sup>6</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>7</sup> Scottish Funding Council data on care experienced students (2020).
- <sup>8</sup> Skills Development Scotland, Graduate Apprenticeships Early Activity and Progress 2020–21.
- <sup>9</sup> MillionPlus Universities as Placemakers (2022)
- <sup>10</sup> Innovate UK, Knowledge Transfer Partnership Database.
- <sup>11</sup> Scottish Government website.

All statistics are generated using data available on [www.hesa.co.uk](http://www.hesa.co.uk) and refer to 2021–22 data unless otherwise stated.



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