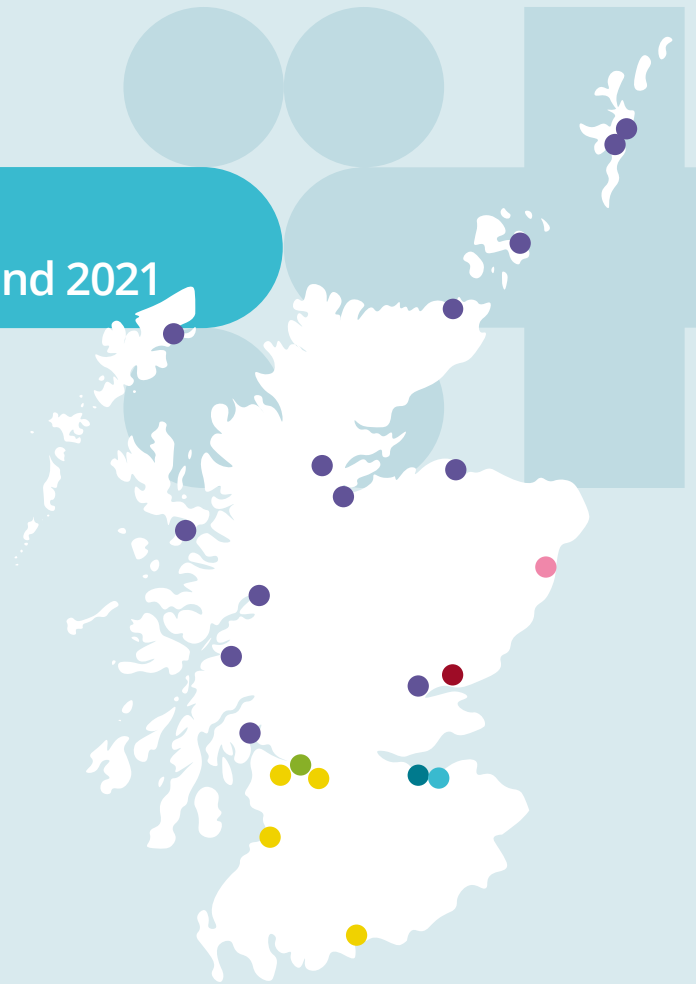




Facts and stats: modern universities in Scotland 2021

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

The seven modern universities¹ are a vital component of the higher education landscape in Scotland and their reach is wide in every sense of the word.²



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 **56%** of full-time students from the most disadvantaged backgrounds and **66%** of full-time mature students.³
- Students articulating from college to university has widened access and progression within higher education. **41%** of first-degree students from the most deprived parts of Scotland come through the HNC/HND college-to-university pathway.⁴
- 7 out of every 10 students (**70%**) articulating into university moved into modern universities.⁵
- **42%** of all care-experienced students were studying at a modern university in Scotland.⁶
- The reach of Scotland's modern universities extends internationally with **58%** 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

91%



of those
studying nutrition

72%



of nursing
students

82%



of paramedic science
students

67%



of those studying
subjects allied
to medicine

60%



of undergraduate
social work students



Business partners and economic drivers

- Modern universities account for a **third** of all Scottish graduate startups and **35%** of all social enterprises in higher education.
- **58%** of all graduate apprenticeships in Scotland are done at a modern university.⁷
- Modern universities provided consultancy to more than **700** businesses in 2019–20, around **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 modern universities contribute over **£2bn** to their regional economies per annum and are responsible for over **30,000** jobs.⁸
- Modern universities are responsible for **56%** of Knowledge Transfer Partnerships being delivered by Scottish universities.⁹





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.
- The UK video games market was valued at **£7bn** in 2020, one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy.¹¹
- Modern universities educate:

98%



of games
students

72%



of software
engineering students

44%



of computer
science students

- The creative industries contribute **£5bn** to the Scottish economy, employing over **70,000** people.¹⁰
- Modern universities educate:

54%



of drama
students

44%



of music
students

39%



of cinematography and
photography students

33%



of design
studies students



Research and innovation with impact and reach

- **57%** 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.¹³
- **52%** of research that takes place at modern universities is judged to be world-leading or internationally excellent.¹²
- Modern universities provided contract research to over **400** organisations in 2019–20.

¹ The term "modern" is used to describe any institution that acquired university title after 1992.

² University of West of Scotland and Glasgow Caledonian University both also have a campus in London.

³ Scottish Funding Council, Report on Widening Access 2019-20, most deprived parts here is defined as the SIMD20 or most disadvantaged quintile.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Scottish Funding Council Statistical Publication (2020), Articulation from Scottish Colleges to Universities 2018–19.

⁶ Scottish Funding Council data on care experienced students (2020).

⁷ Skills Development Scotland, Graduate Apprenticeships Early Activity and Progress 2019–20.

⁸ UCU/Hatch Regeneris study on economic impact of universities (2020).

⁹ Innovate UK, Knowledge Transfer Partnership Database.

¹⁰ Scottish Government website.

¹¹ The Association for UK Interactive Entertainment (2020).

¹² Research Excellence Framework 2014 results.

¹³ Ibid.