SRUC 2021–22 Performance Indicators for Further Education Level Provision

The Scottish Funding Council (SFC) reports on an annual basis on each college’s learner performance across Scotland. SRUC is a designated Higher Education Institution providing both Further Education and Higher Education. This report focuses only on our Further Education provision which is up, to but not including the Higher National Certificate level or all courses up to SCQF level 6.

The information provided by the SFC enables us to review our academic success on an annual basis and allows us to benchmark ourselves nationally against the rest of the Scottish College sector.

In 2021–22, COVID 19 continued to have an impact on both staff and students but to a lesser degree than in the previous two academic years. Although there were no lockdowns, national testing was still in place and the health advice of self-isolation continued to cause disruption to the academic year. We are extremely proud of the way colleagues continued to respond to the disruption and moved to proactively implement SRUC’s Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy 2020–2025, which focuses on delivering programmes in a blended manner that is best suited to the level of the students and the nature of the subject area, combining face to face delivery with online learning, technologies and teaching approaches.

Against a challenging economic background and with students still impacted by the effects of COVID, we remain behind our pre-pandemic performance in terms of success and retention, despite implementing a range of measures to support our students to achieve. As an institution that delivers predominantly vocational programmes, our students are eminently employable, and we are finding that some are leaving us early to take up positions within the industries we serve.

It is within this context that we are now in a position to publish our 2021–22 data on our website in the form of various charts. To aid your reading of the results the highlights can be summarised as follows:

1) Outcomes for FE on recognised qualifications (full-time)
As noted above, SRUC has seen a decline in success rates for its learners at the Further Education Level with 58.7% of full-time students who enrolled with us successfully achieving their qualification. This is a reduction of 6.6% from 65.3% in 2020/21. This is significantly below SRUC’s previous high of 70.1% in 2018/19 (the last pre-covid year). While our aspiration is clearly to see success rates return to and improve on previous levels, it is clear that some students are still being impacted by COVID and we will continue to support them as much as possible.

Outcome totals for FE on recognised qualifications (part-time)

Part time success rates for learners on recognised qualifications, reduced slightly from 89.1% in 2020/21 to 86.8% in 2021/22. While this outcome is lower than previous years, we are pleased that the vast majority of our part time students successfully achieve their programmes.

2) Enrolments by key group on courses lasting 160 hours or more

- a) 56.7% of students who came to us from the 20% most deprived data zone areas successfully achieved their qualification as compared to 60.8% in 2020/21.
- b) 64.1% of students with a recognised disability successfully passed their qualification as compared to 65.1% in 2020/21.

SRUC’s outcomes in this area cannot be compared to sector benchmark as the sector data includes both FE and HE students in these measures, whereas SRUC data is restricted to FE students.
SRUC as the National Land-based College for Scotland is committed to providing high quality education and training at its five campuses to ensure our further education provision is accessible to all and can provide an important stepping stone both into employment and onto Higher Education.

These performance indicators for Further Education courses provide us with important outcomes for us to measure our success and improve our performance where appropriate year-on-year. To enable us to do so we will be analysing the data in detail both against sector averages and where relevant on a course by course basis to ensure we continually strive to enhance and improve the quality of our learning and teaching.

Further details about College Performance Indicators can be accessed via the Scottish Funding Council website.