**Funding**

The public financing of adult education aims principally to promote and facilitate lifelong learning for everyone living in Scotland. It aims to enable them to adapt to and meet the requirements of the range of work opportunities they are likely to encounter in adult life and to benefit personally from education and so contribute to society as effective citizens.

The financing of adult education differs according to whether it is classed as vocational training, further education, or community learning and development. In the case of training, funding is used to provide particular courses. Whereas in further education, a major function of funding is to support the colleges that provide further education courses. The [Scottish Funding Council](https://www.gov.scot) (SFC) funds the colleges, using money made available by the Scottish Government. The financing of community learning and development is primarily via the annual grant to local authorities from the Scottish Government.

**Training**

Financing for training of 16- to 24-year-olds is the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills. Funding is provided through Scottish Enterprise (SE) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to Local Enterprise Companies (LEC), which are independent of the education system but buy in training from it.

**Further Education**

The Scottish Government provides funding for the [25 colleges](https://www.gov.scot) through the SFC. All the colleges also receive fees for the particular courses their students take (these fees are paid by the government through the SFC) and from organisations and firms for which they supply education and training.

The Scottish Government also funds the organisation [Colleges Scotland](https://www.gov.scot). This supports key developments and innovations, teaching and learning, the application of information technology, and organisational, professional and management development in the further education sector.

**Community Learning and Development (CLD)**

The [32 local authorities](https://www.gov.scot) receive a block grant from the Scottish Government which allows councils greater flexibility in their spending decisions to direct resources. Resources include those for CLD, Adult Literacy and Numeracy (ALN) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - where they can be most effective to deliver national and local priorities.

Some voluntary organisations contributing to CLD and ALN receive funding from the Scottish Government, local authorities and such bodies as the National Lottery.
Fees Paid by Learners

Fees vary for training courses provided, for example, by colleges or other agencies according to the nature and length of the courses. Students participation is funded through Scottish Enterprise (SE), Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Local Enterprise Companies (LEC).

The fee for a full time college non-advanced further education course is currently £1,008. This fee is paid to the college by the Scottish Government, through the Scottish Funding Council, for all Scottish-domiciled and EU students. Further education courses are therefore in effect free.

There are courses in the Community Learning and Development area which charge participants fees, but a good deal of provision is funded centrally or by local authorities.

Financial Support for Adult Learners

Training, Further Education and Community Learning and Development

The payment by the Scottish Government of full-time further education tuition fees for students living in Scotland and EU students is a direct contribution to student support. Some part-time students on a low income who receive means tested benefits or are disabled may also be eligible for free tuition.

The colleges can provide financial assistance for students on further education courses, which, subject to means testing, may provide support towards maintenance costs, travel and study expenses. Local authorities also have discretionary powers to offer assistance to individuals ordinarily resident in their areas who are not attending one of the incorporated colleges or who are attending a college outwith Scotland.

Education Maintenance Allowances for 16 to 19 year olds from low-income households in full-time education support students in either training or further education courses.

Government-funded Individual Learning Accounts (ILA) for part-time students can help pay for a wide range of learning with a variety of approved providers in colleges, universities, the community, and private organisations. People aged 16 or over living in Scotland who are not in full-time education and earn £22,000 a year or less can apply for an ILA that provides up to £200 a year towards the cost of learning in a wide range of courses or in workplace training.

Support for Students in Distant Locations

To provide for further education students in areas remote from a college, there have been considerable advances in the use of distance learning techniques. The rural colleges also receive additions to their grant allocations to take account of their location.

Community learning and development provision is primarily community-based: services, resources and programmes are provided at the local level (for example in villages and neighbourhoods). Because of resource constraints and priorities, particular attention is given to ensuring appropriate staffing in disadvantaged communities.

There is a widespread infrastructure of community education centres and village halls across Scotland used for community learning and development. There has been an increase in the use of ICT in recent years in rural communities, to complement outreach activities provided by colleges and others.
Private and Grant-Aided Education

Private educational organisations offering training or other types of adult education exist. These are entirely responsible for their own funding (usually through fees), staffing, resourcing and financial accountability. However, they constitute only a small proportion of the adult education provision in the country.

There is no grant-aided adult education sector.

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