

STEM Bursary Advisory group

Friday 2 November 2018

Note of meeting

Attendees

Stephanie Walsh	Head of Education Workforce Unit, Scottish Government (Chair)
Angela Felvus	Senior Policy Officer, Education Workforce Unit, (Secretariat)
Frank Creamer	STEM Team leader, Scottish Government
Ken Edwards	Education Programme Lead, Skills Development Scotland
Lynda McShane	STEM Programme Executive, Skills Development Scotland
Diane Hill	Transition Training Fund Manager, Skills Development Scotland
Ian Rivers	Scottish Council of Deans of Education
Helen Gorman	Team Leader Skills and Youth Employment, Stirling Council
Lisa Dawson	Director of Student Systems and Administration
Jennifer Brown	Student Funding Finance Manager

Apologies

Nicola Dickie	Chief Officer – Children and Young People, Cosla
Stuart Robb	Unit Head, Education Workforce Unit

Note

1. Group remit (paper 01/1)

The remit of the group was accepted.

2. STEM Bursary report (paper 01/2)

This report provided a summary of the intake figures for the 2018/19 scheme. The following challenges were encountered under the current eligibility criteria:

Level of qualification

- The criteria of obtaining a 2:1 or higher. Applicants have stated that although they do not hold a 2:1 they have a lower degree but with many years of experience within their subject matter.

Employment

Applicants that did not meet the employment criteria included:

- Not being in employment at the time point of application.
- Skills Development Scotland (SDS) advisors feel that a clear definition on the term “employment” would be useful. For example, not being able to provide appropriate documentation to support employment criteria.

3. Discussion on the criteria for 2019/20 scheme

Level of qualification

To address the issue of the 2.1 criteria, the discussion included whether a lower classification of degree with a relevant masters degree be included as part of the eligibility criteria. If so, we would need to be mindful that each university has different criteria for masters study. A clear justification would need to be required for the inclusion of a masters degree and the university would need to satisfy itself that the masters qualification is appropriate for their Post Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) course.

The inclusion of a lower classification of degree along with a relevant Master's degree may require some sort of selection and appeals exercise.

Employment

Further consideration was needed on what on the term "employment" for example,

It was agreed that further information and consideration was required before any decisions were made on the criteria for the 2019/20 scheme. A further meeting would be scheduled for the end of November to discuss the criteria going forward.

Additional subjects

There was a discussion on whether Home Economics should be included as an additional subject to the scheme. At present Home Economics is one of the STEM subjects that has the greatest demand for teachers.

The group therefore agreed that Home Economics would be added as an additional subject.

Actions:

- SDS to send Scottish Government (SG) a breakdown by gender for each subject. SG to circulate to members.
- Seek advice from the Scottish Council of Deans of Education on the implications of including a lower classification degree with relevant masters – **Ian Rivers**
- Universities to provide numbers of students with a 2.2 and Masters – **Lisa Dawson**
- SDS to consider the employment criteria.
- SG to provide doodle poll for next meeting.

Date of next meeting

To be arranged for end of November.