

Student Finance and Wellbeing Study



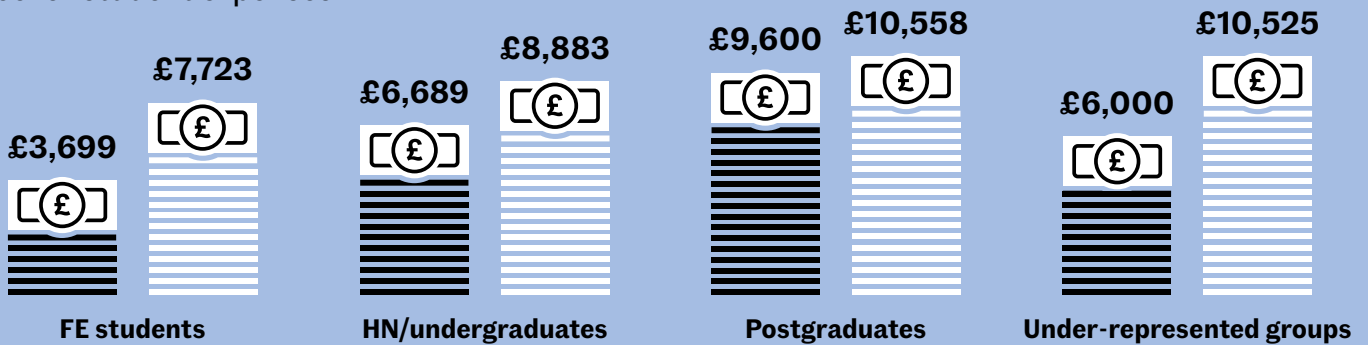
Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot

Scotland academic year 2023–2024

Income and expenditure

Across all student groups, education related income on its own was not enough to cover student expenses.

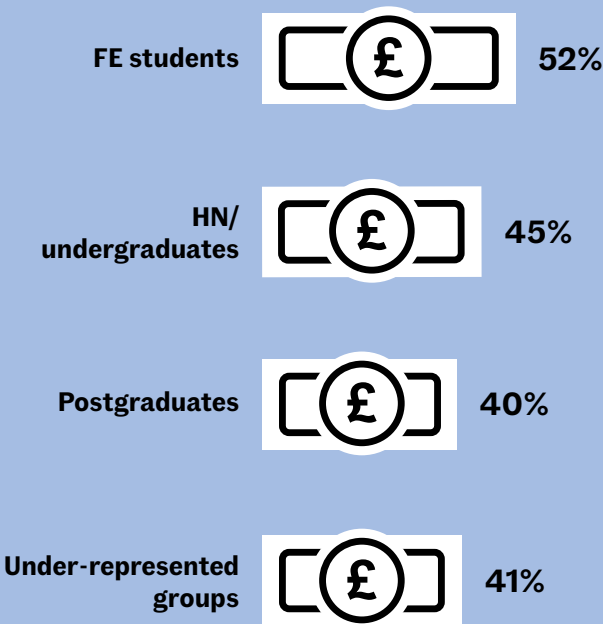
● Median education-related income
● Median expenditure



Adequacy of education-related income

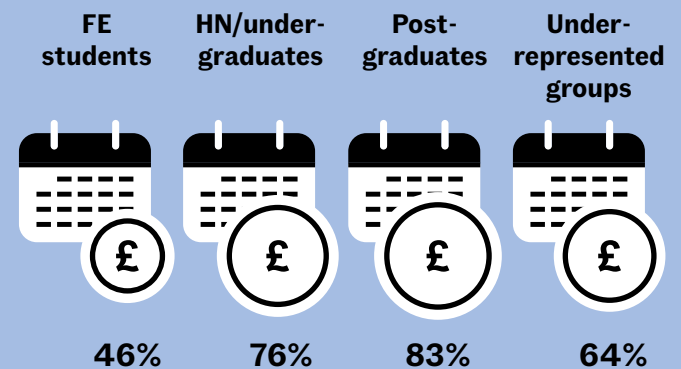
FE students were the most likely to report that the financial support available to them was sufficient.

Less than half of HN/undergraduates, postgraduates and students from under-represented groups reported that the financial support available was sufficient.

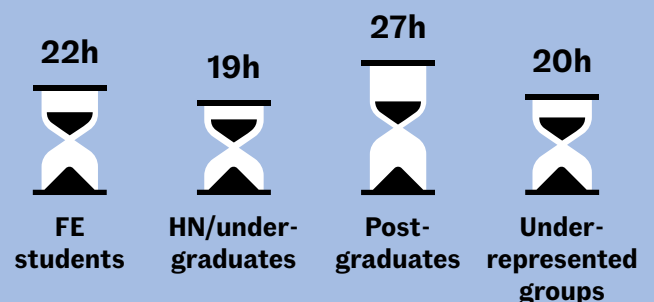


Paid work

The majority of HN/undergraduates, postgraduates and students from under-represented groups had earnings from paid work during the academic year 2023–2024.

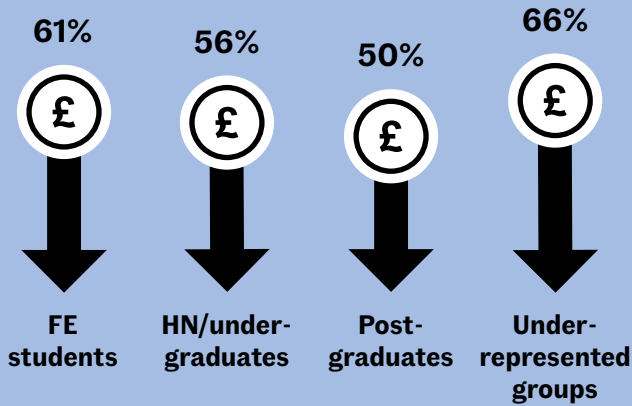


The median number of hours worked in the previous 7 days for all student groups was above the 10–15 hours recommended.

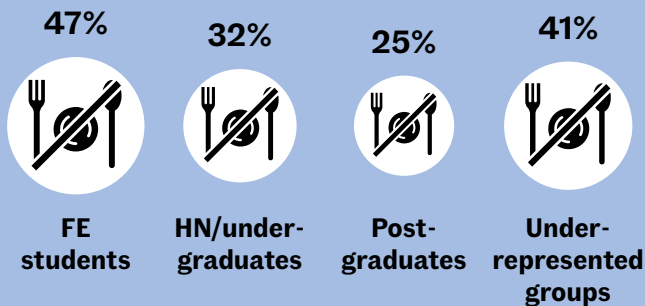


Financial difficulty

Between half and two-thirds of students reported experiencing financial difficulty during the academic year 2023-2024, with FE students and students from under-represented groups more likely to say this.

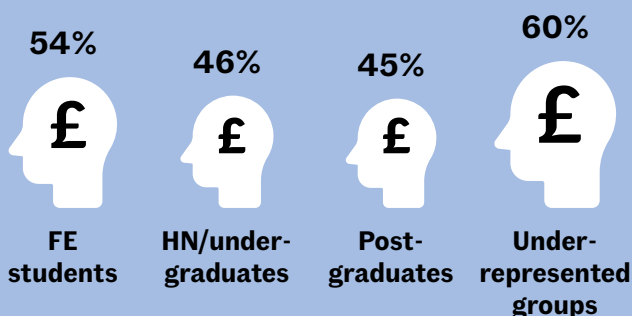


Of students who reported financial difficulty, between a quarter and a half skipped meals. FE students and students from under-represented groups were more likely to say they skipped meals.



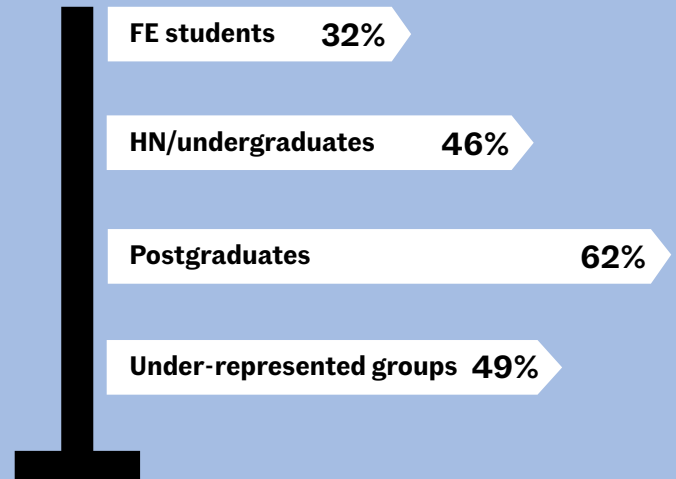
Impact of financial difficulty on mental health

Around half of students said financial difficulties affected their mental health and wellbeing 'a great deal' or 'a fair amount', with students from under-represented groups more likely to say this.

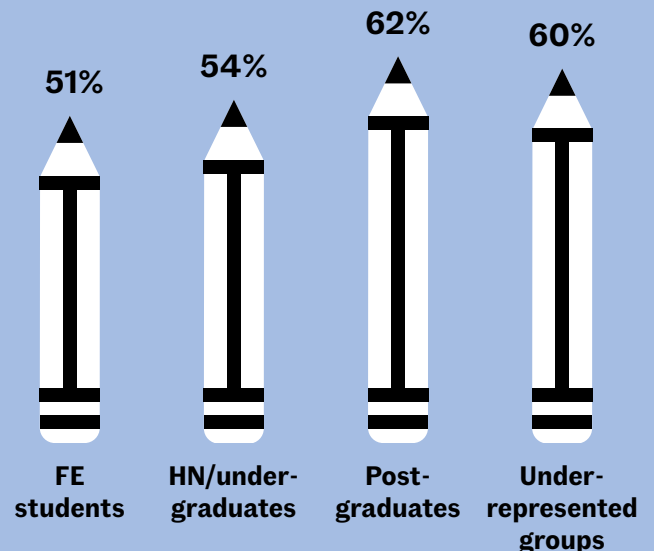


Impact of financial difficulty on study decision making

Between a third and two-thirds of students reported that their study decisions had been affected by the availability of student funding.



Of those who said their decision making had been affected, between a half and two-thirds stated that they would not have studied without funding, with postgraduate and students from under-represented groups more likely to say this.



Students from under-represented groups include those who are: care experienced; estranged from their parents/ legal guardians/ carers; parents; carers; or disabled.

For more information, please see the Scottish Government website where you can access the study's full findings report. www.gov.scot.