

STEM Bursary Advisory group

Thursday 13 February 2020

Note of meeting

Attendees

Stephanie Walsh	Team Leader, Education Workforce Unit, Scottish Government (Chair).
Angela Felvus	Senior Policy Officer, Education Workforce Unit, (Secretariat).
Frank Creamer	STEM and Numeracy Policy Manager.
Lynda McShane	STEM Programme Executive, Skills Development Scotland.
Cindy Cannon	National Operations Manager, Skills Development Scotland.
Paul McGuinness	NTP Performance and Operations Manager, Skills Development Scotland.
Ian Rivers	Chair of the Scottish Council Deans of Education.

Apologies

Dr Helen Gorman	Curriculum Leader for Science and Technology, McLaren High School.
Nicola Dickie	Chief Officer, Children and Young People, COSLA.
Stuart Robb	Head of Education Workforce Unit.

Note

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed the members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr Helen Gorman, Nicola Dickie and Stuart Robb.

2. Actions from previous meeting and note :

The group agreed the note of 28 November meeting and the following actions were completed:

- SDS to consider the employment criteria for next meeting.
- Group to consider exceptional circumstances for consideration of lowering the 2:1 threshold.
- SG to provide doodle poll for next meeting

3. SDS STEM Bursary Scheme 2020/21 Eligibility Criteria paper

The paper provided a summary of the issues from the for the advisory group to consider on for any scheme of a STEM Bursary Scheme for 2020/21.

There was a lengthy discussion on the issues that had arose during the 2019//20 scheme. The group agreed that no major changes would be required for this year's criteria.

It was agreed however that the requirement to have evidence an applicant had been in employment for 150 hours would be removed following criteria would be included for the 2020/21 scheme.

- 150 hours was an issues for self-employed applicants in terms of providing evidence to meet the criteria.
- Applicants who can evidence they have been in receipt of carers allowance for 36 months out of the last 60 will also meet the employment eligibility criteria.
- At the point of application, applicants need to be at least 36 months away from full time education (excluding those who have completed three years of a remunerated PhD which includes teaching experience). Further and at the discretion of SDS, any applicant who has since 30/9/17 undertaken a short full time top up course to meet the academic entry requirements of their chosen PGDE) including but not limited to, Higher English and National 5 Mathematics will be deemed eligible.

4. Next steps

As this was the last meeting of this year's STEM bursary advisory group, the Chair thanked the members for their time and contribution.