Universities Scotland welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Graduate Endowment Abolition (Scotland) Bill.

Universities Scotland supports the abolition of the graduate endowment fee, which will benefit the majority of our full-time undergraduate students.

Universities Scotland notes the statement in the policy memorandum that the abolition of the graduate endowment will not have any implications for university funding. It is important that the proposed abolition should not be at the expense of the resources available for investment in Scotland’s higher education institutions.

Universities Scotland believes that any change in the financial arrangements for student support must be considered in the context of the recent spending review and also in the ability of universities in Scotland to provide their students with a learning experience which matches the best international standards.

Universities Scotland found the policy memorandum and the financial memorandum helpful in providing further information on the policy intention of the Bill and how this will affect the Scottish Government’s budget. Universities Scotland was satisfied with the consultation process that the Scottish Government carried out prior to the introduction of the Bill and found the analysis of responses particularly helpful.