

Office for
Students



Data collection to inform funding for 2022-23

Notification of changes

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Summary

1. To inform the calculation of Office for Students (OfS) grants, all higher education providers that are registered, or are applying to register, with the OfS in the Approved (fee cap) category must complete a data survey. The data surveys to inform funding for the 2022-23 academic year are:
 - a. For a provider that has students registered with it in the 2021-22 academic year, the **2021 Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES21) survey**.¹
 - b. For a provider that does not have students registered with it in the 2021-22 academic year, the **Higher Education Students Forecast 2022-23 (HESF22) survey**.²
2. This document provides notification of the changes that we intend to make to these surveys from last year.
3. We welcome any questions or comments on the proposed changes, but we are not consulting on them. The main changes arise following the Secretary of State's notification on grant funding for the 2021-22 academic year³ and the outcomes of our consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22.⁴
4. This document does not contain the full technical specification of our data requirements and definitions; we will confirm these when we publish the full HESES21 and HESF22 guidance, which we intend to do in autumn 2021.

Please email any questions to heses@officeforstudents.org.uk.

¹ For information, last year's guidance for the 2020 Higher Education Students Early Statistics (HESES20) survey can be found at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses20/.

² For information, the previous guidance for the Higher Education Students Forecast 2021-22 survey can be found at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/hesf20/.

³ See the Notification to the Office for Students (OfS) by the Secretary of State for Education to set terms and conditions for the allocation by OfS of strategic priorities: Grant funding for the 2021-22 academic year, published on 19 July 2021, at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/guidance-from-government/.

⁴ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/recurrent-funding-for-2021-22-outcomes-of-consultation/ (OfS 2021.26).

Changes to data collection to inform funding for 2022-23

The HESES21 data collection process

5. All higher education providers registered (or applying to register) in the Approved (fee cap) category, that have students registered with them in the 2021-22 academic year, are required to complete the HESES21 data survey. This includes further education and sixth form colleges and academies (FECs), but there are some differences in the data reporting requirements for FECs.
6. Currently, we intend the HESES21 data return to use the following key dates:
 - a. **Further education and sixth form colleges and academies** will use a census date of 1 November 2021 and will be required to submit their data by noon on Thursday 11 November 2021.
 - b. **All other providers** will use a census date of 1 December 2021 and will be required to submit their data by noon on Thursday 9 December 2021.
 - c. **All providers** will be required to have their data signed off by their accountable officer by Tuesday 1 February 2022.
7. This initial timeline is similar to last year's funding data collection timetable. As with HESES20 and HESES19, we recognise that this timeline is not completely consistent in the way that it treats providers, and results in FECs having a longer time to verify and sign off their data.

Changes to funding definitions and guidance for HESES21 and HESF22

8. We are making a number of amendments to funding definitions and guidance that will apply equally to HESES21 and HESF22.

Fee eligibility and fundability status

9. Our definition of fundability is not changing (in that students are classified depending on whether they can be regarded as eligible, as defined in Schedule 1 of the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 (Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 779), as amended.⁵ However, providers are reminded that there are changes to the legislation from 1 August 2021 that will affect the eligible population. In particular, amendments to these regulations for 2021-22 have been made by The Education (Student Fees, Awards and Support) (Amendment) Regulations 2021.⁶

⁵ See <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2007/779/contents>.

⁶ Available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2021/127/contents/made>. These also amend other regulations, including The Higher Education (Fee Limit Condition) (England) Regulations 2017 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1189/contents>), which define the population of students to whom regulated course fee limits apply.

10. To reflect these changes in legislation, from 1 August 2021 we are implementing the following changes to HESES21:

- a. We are re-labelling 'Home and EU' as 'Home fee', to reflect that the eligibility of EU students has changed in line with the arrangements agreed following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union (EU).⁷
- b. We are re-labelling 'Island and overseas' as 'Overseas', to reflect that this population no longer includes students ordinarily resident in the Crown Dependencies (Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) attending an English provider.⁸

11. Government guidance on the changes to home fee status for students from 2021-22 is available on the gov.uk website.⁹

Price groups C1.1 and C1.2

12. Following the consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22 (see paragraph 3), we are splitting price group C1 between C1.1 (covering pre-registration courses in nursing, provision relating to computing and information technology, and archaeology) and C1.2 (other price group C1 subjects, covering provision in performing and creative arts and media studies). For HESES21, we will be updating Annex G (Price groups) to reflect this split, including the guidance on how to allocate years of instance to price groups (including the new C1.1 and C1.2 price groups) based on course subject codes.

13. Students on pre-registration courses, that on successful completion lead to first registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a professional in nursing (all specialisms), should be entirely attributed to price group C1.1, irrespective of the subject code(s) for their course. Otherwise, the attribution of activity to price groups C1.1 and C1.2 is determined by the subject codes of courses. These subject codes are the Learn Direct Classification System (LDCS) for FECs and the Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS) for other providers. Table 1 summarises how these subject codes map to price groups C1.1 and C1.2, including using the Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH) of HECoS codes where appropriate.¹⁰

⁷ Further information on eligibility can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-eligibility-2021-to-2022-academic-year>.

⁸ Students from the Crown Dependencies have been eligible for home fees if they were already living and working in the UK. The change from 2021-22 is to make those resident in the islands before the start of their course also eligible for home fees and applies to those in all years of study. Providers should note, however, that this change does not apply to students from the Crown Dependencies that are studying by distance learning, unless they are doing so within the UK (rather than from the islands).

⁹ See <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-finance-eligibility-2021-to-2022-academic-year>.

¹⁰ LDCS codes contain up to six characters which indicate a hierarchy of subject specialism. The top level of the hierarchy is represented by a letter. Each additional character represents a (further) sub-level. CAH codes contain 'CAH' followed by up to six digits in three pairs. The top level and two subsequent levels of the hierarchy are each represented by a pair of digits. In Table 1, the mapping of LDCS and CAH codes to price groups includes all sub-levels of each code, unless stated otherwise.

Table 1: Identification of price group C1.1 and C1.2 subjects according to subject codes

Price group	Common Aggregation Hierarchy of Higher Education Classification of Subjects code	Learn Direct Class System code
C1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAH11 • CAH20-01-03 • HECoS 100369 (within CAH 26-01-05) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BF • C (except CD, CE) • DC
C1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECoS 100109 and 100110 (within CAH10-01-03) • CAH24 (except CAH24-01-02)¹¹ • CAH25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD, CE • J (except JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JE)¹² • K (except KB, KC)¹³ • L (except LF.3, LJ, LK.3 (but including LK.31))¹⁴ • SE (except SE.9)¹⁵ • VF (except VF.3, VF.4, VF.7)¹⁶ • W (except WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WG, WM)¹⁷

14. A full list of the latest mapping of LDCS and HECoS codes to price groups for HESES21 can be found in Annex A.¹⁸

Social work

15. We are clarifying the guidance for courses that lead to registration as a social worker with one of the UK regulatory bodies, or those that provide post-registration qualifications for social workers. These clarifications are as follows:

- a. Courses that lead to dual-registration as both a nurse and a social worker should be assigned entirely to price group C1.1 as per the guidance on 'Pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions' in Annex G of HESES21.

¹¹ CAH24-01-02 continues to map to price group D.

¹² The exceptions continue to map to price group D.

¹³ The exceptions continue to map to price group D.

¹⁴ The exceptions continue to map to price group D.

¹⁵ SE.9 continues to map to price group C2.

¹⁶ VF.3 and VF.4 continue to map to price group B; VF.7 continues to map to price group D.

¹⁷ WA, WB, WC, WD, WE and WG continue to map to price group B; WM continues to map to price group C2.

¹⁸ Annex A can be found alongside this document at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/data-collection-to-inform-funding-for-2022-23-notification-of-changes/.

- b. Short, post-registration, credit-bearing courses whose primary (but not necessarily only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of social workers should be entirely attributed to price group C2.

Guidance on LDCS codes

16. Additionally, we will update the guidance in Annex G of HESES21 to recognise that the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has now included LDCS codes within its Find a Learning Aim service (FALA). The guidance now details how to utilise the FALA service to identify LDCS codes for courses. We strongly recommend that FECs check FALA now to ensure courses are listed correctly in the Learning aim reference service (LARS) database. Where providers identify courses that are listed incorrectly, or where providers have new courses, they should contact the ESFA immediately to begin the process of correcting or updating the LARS database.

Changes to years abroad

17. Following the introduction by Government from 2021-22 of the new Turing scheme, which supports students to study and work abroad,¹⁹ we will update the guidance in Annex K of HESES21 to reflect that students undertaking a year abroad in 2021-22 will be able to do so under either the Erasmus+ programme or Turing scheme.

Changes to the HESES21 workbook

18. We will be making a number of changes to the tables that need to be completed in HESES21. These are listed below.

Fundability status

19. As set out above in paragraphs 9 to 11, the populations are changing due to the changes to fees regulations (following the UK's withdrawal from the EU and the government's decision on home fee status for students from the Crown Dependencies). As such, to reflect the changes in funding population, we are renaming the columns in HESES21. The changes are as follows:

- a. The columns formerly headed 'Home and EU' will be renamed as 'Home fee'
- b. The columns formerly titled 'Island and overseas' will be renamed as 'Overseas'.

Price group C1 split

20. As set out above in paragraphs 12 to 14, following the outcomes of the consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22, we are splitting price group C1 into price groups C1.1 and C1.2. These updated price groups will be reflected on Tables 1, 3, 6a and 6c.

¹⁹ The Turing Scheme is the new student exchange programme established by the Department for Education as the UK replacement for the EU Erasmus programme. More information is available at <https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/>.

Table 4 (Turing years abroad)

21. As set out in paragraph 17 above, HESES21 will reflect the introduction of years abroad under the Turing scheme from 2021-22. As such, we will update HESES21 to collect the following on Table 4:

- a. Erasmus+ and Turing years abroad
- b. Other study years abroad.

Table 7

22. In HESES20, Table 7 collected information about the teaching location of OfS-fundable students. This table was only completed by providers that were not receiving OfS funding for 2020-21, with the data recorded in this table used to calculate any location-based funding allocations. Following the outcomes of the consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22, we will no longer be collecting this information in HESES21. This table has been removed from the survey workbook.

Courses table (FECs only)

23. For HESES21, on the Courses table (which is for completion by FECs only), we are introducing a new 'Notes on temporary learning aims' column. This is to enable those FECs that require a temporary learning aim to complete HESES21, to provide information about the relevant courses. This might be where a provider's course is not yet available on the ESFA's LARS database, or where a provider has submitted evidence for a course mapping incorrectly to price group on the courses table. As set out in paragraph 16, FECs should check the FALA/LARS database as early as possible to ensure learning aims are listed correctly.

Comparison tables

24. In addition to the changes above regarding the tables for completion on HESES21, we would like providers to note that we will also be making adjustments to the comparison tables used for reference during the data verification process. We intend, where possible, to retain the structure of the comparison tables from HESES20 but will adjust them to include providers' 2020-21 individualised data returns.²⁰ Full details of the comparison tables and thresholds will be published alongside the main HESES21 guidance in autumn 2021.

The HESF22 data collection process

25. All providers registered (or applying to register) in the Approved (fee cap) category that **do not** have students registered with them in the 2021-22 academic year, but that will offer higher education provision recognised for OfS funding purposes in 2022-23, are required to complete the HESF22 data survey. The changes to the structure of the HESF22 tables compared with HESF21 are set out below.

²⁰ These are the Student and the Student Alternative returns submitted to the Higher Education Statistics Agency and the Individualised Learner Record submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency. We did not use the 2019-20 individualised data returns for some comparisons in the HESES20 workbook, because exceptional guidance on data reporting arising from the COVID-19 pandemic made such comparisons inappropriate.

26. Please note, the HESF22 survey utilises the definitions set out in the HESES guidance document. Therefore, providers should ensure they consult the HESES guidance document for further information when completing their HESF22 survey.
27. As it is a forecast of student numbers in the 2022-23 academic year, no census date applies to HESF22. We will specify the deadline for submission when we notify any providers that they are required to complete the survey. Commonly, the submission and sign-off deadlines will be similar to those for HESES21, so that (subject to their entry onto the OfS register in time) such providers can be included in the grant announcements we make in spring 2022.

Changes to the HESF22 workbook

28. We will be making a number of changes to the tables that need to be completed in HESF22. These are listed below.

Price group C1 split

29. As set out above in paragraphs 12 to 14, following the consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22, we are splitting price group C1 into price groups C1.1 and C1.2. These will be reflected on Table 1 of HESF22.

Table 2

30. In HESF21, Table 2 collected information about the expected teaching location of OfS-fundable students. This information was used to calculate any location-based funding allocations. Following the outcomes of the consultation on recurrent funding for 2021-22, we will no longer be collecting this information in HESF22. This table has been removed from the survey workbook.

Changes to the HESES21 seminars and training

Webinars and other online training material

31. Following last year's successful programme of webinars, introduced because of the coronavirus pandemic, we again intend to offer a similar programme of webinars later this year. These will run from 16 September to 7 October 2021. Information on these webinars will be emailed to nominated student data contacts, released on the OfS website²¹ and announced through the OfS email alert system in mid-August.²²
32. More information will be available in due course at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses/.

²¹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/news-blog-and-events/events/.

²² See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/sign-up-for-email-alerts/.



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