

Office for
Students

The logo for the Office for Students, featuring a dark blue square with a yellow square in the top right corner containing the letters 'OfS' in dark blue.

OfS

HESES22 training

Essential updates for experienced staff

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27 September 2022

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Webinar housekeeping

- Who is presenting today:
 - Host: Roger Lear (backup host – Ross Lawlor)
 - Toby West-Taylor, Head of Funding at the Office for Students (OfS)
- Closed captions are available – click the CC icon
- A recording of this session will be available on the OfS website
- Intended audience: provider staff with previous knowledge of HESES
- How to ask a question:
 - please use Q&A rather than “chat”
 - use “chat” box to communicate with our events team
- Please let us have your feedback.

Today's session

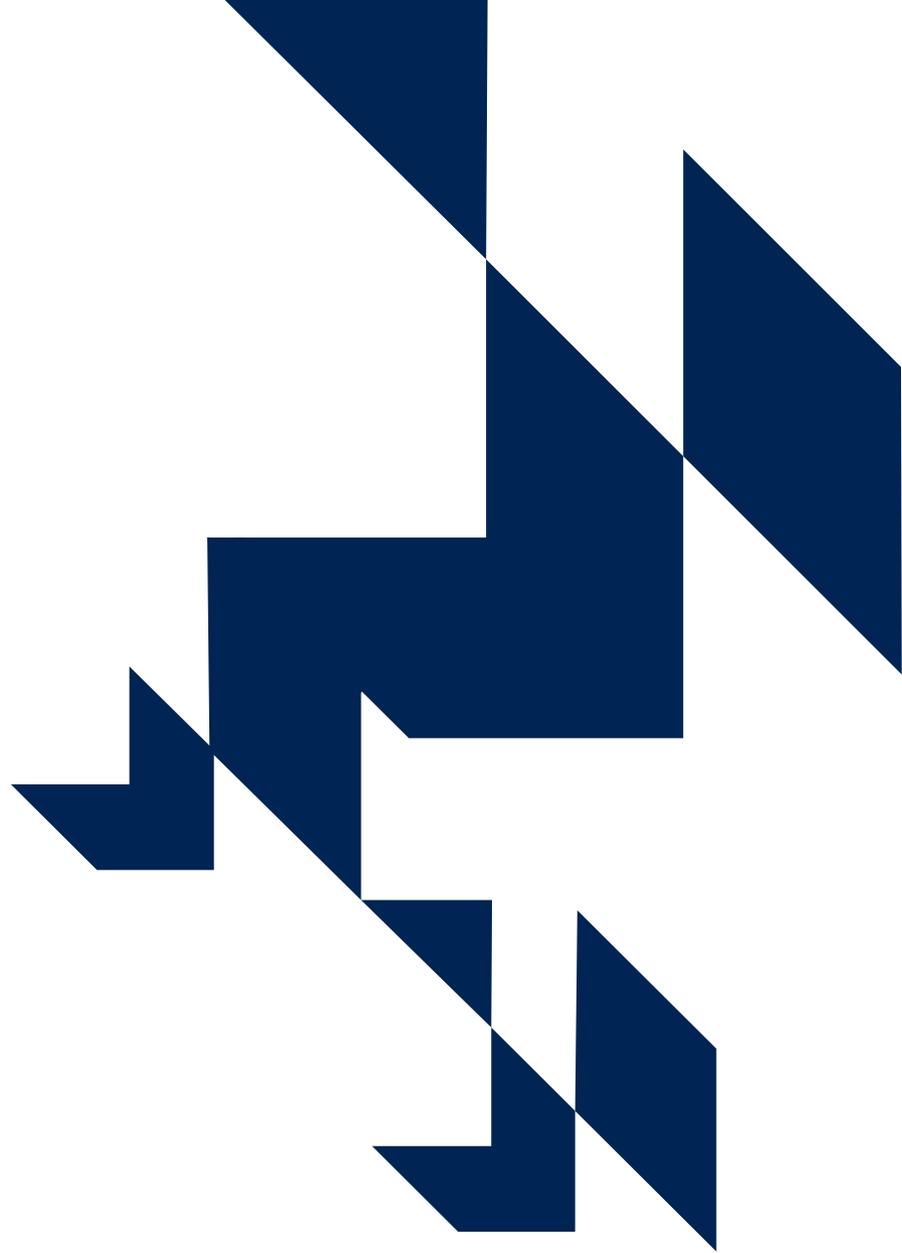
- Format
 - Presentation by Toby West-Taylor, Head of Funding at the OfS
 - Questions and answers.
- Your questions
 - Changes to HESES and policy issues related to them
 - Batched wherever possible
 - May take offline if that is more suitable
 - Questions that are very specific to a particular provider should be sent to HESES@officeforstudents.org.uk.



Supporting materials

- A recording of this event and today's slides will be available from the OfS website at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events
- Providers should also refer to:
 - HESES website: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses
 - includes model HESES22 workbooks
 - 'How to complete the HESES22 workbook' publication
 - HESES22 – Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey 2022-23 publication
 - www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses22
 - 'Guide to funding 2022-23' publication
 - HESES videos on the OfS YouTube page: www.youtube.com/officeforstudents

Changes to data collection for HESES22



Summary of changes to HESES for 2022-23 (1)

- Implications of HESA Data Futures for HESES data collection
- Changes to tables
 - Splitting the undergraduate level between UG (Level 4 and 5) and UG (Other)
 - New Table 7 to collect data on degree apprenticeship students' years of instance
 - Table 6b no longer exists. Tables 6a and 6c remain and now allow for the reporting of students on a postgraduate pre-registration course in dental therapy

Summary of changes to HESES for 2022-23 (2)

- Changes/clarifications to guidance
 - Clarification on recognised courses of higher education for OfS funding purposes
 - Guidance on the populations to be returned as UG (Level 4 and 5) and UG (Other)
 - Guidance on the degree apprenticeship years of instance to be reported on Table 7
 - Clarification on 'attendance' requirement for full-time study and long years; new guidance on distance learning, taken from student support legislation
 - Clarifications on reporting level for graduate-entry courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science; and for 'part 2' pre-registration architecture courses
 - Home fee definition remains, but now includes new categories of eligible students
 - Minor guidance changes on fundability status
 - Updated guidance on exceptional circumstances affecting study years abroad
 - Clarifications on the populations to be reported on Tables 6a and 6c.

Implications of HESA Data Futures for HESES data collection (1)

- From 2022-23, providers that make student data returns to HESA will do so under a new data specification ('Data Futures') – introduced with the end-of-year return
- Under Data Futures, student activity is reported on the basis of a 'student course session' rather than 'year of instance'
 - When students change their status (such as change course or take a break in study) they start a new student course session – not necessarily true for years of instance
 - Concepts such as 'funding completion' (FUNDCOMP) may capture the status of an individual student differently by student course session compared with year of instance
 - Funding completion is used in the OfS funding method to determine whether or not a student is counted for funding purposes.
- Providers that return the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) to the ESFA still do so on the basis of years of instance

Implications of HESA Data Futures for HESES data collection (2)

- Adopting the concept of student course sessions for HESES22 would risk:
 - Significant burden for providers that do not make data returns to HESA in trying to adopt a concept not used for the ILR; or else inconsistency in how providers report data according to whether they make HESA or ILR submissions
 - Burden for providers that do make HESA student data returns in implementing 'Data Futures' specifications earlier than expected
 - An unplanned funding redistribution between providers because of changes in which and how students were counted for funding purposes
- HESES22 retains the concept of a 'year of instance' as the basis for reporting student activity. This is consistent:
 - With how providers have reported data in previous years
 - Between providers
- We will not use the 'FUNDCOMP' field in the 2022-23 HESA and ILR data

Changes to the HESES Tables for 2022 (1): Splitting undergraduates between UG (Level 4 and 5) and UG (Other)

- Required to inform the distribution of £8 million set aside to encourage the provision of more Level 4 and 5 qualifications
- **UG (Level 4 and 5):** applies to all undergraduate students on courses leading to qualifications at Level 4 or 5. This does **not** include students who may be studying at Level 4 or 5, but:
 - whose course aim is credit, rather than a qualification
 - whose qualification aim(s) are all at level 6 or above.
- **UG (Other):** applies to all other students on undergraduate courses, including any students undertaking credit at Level 4 or 5 without a stated qualification aim.
- Students with multiple stated qualification aims should be recorded against the **lower** aim.

Changes to the HESES Tables for 2022 (2): New Table 7 to collect degree apprenticeship data

- Required to inform the distribution of £8 million to support the growth of Level 6 degree apprenticeship training programmes in 2022-23 and beyond
- **Two criteria for inclusion on Table 7.** A student must:
 - Be on an apprenticeship at Level 6, and
 - Have a qualification aim of an undergraduate degree.
- Table 7 allows students to be reported as either UG (Level 4 and 5) or UG (Other) but we expect the former to be very rare – would apply only where apprentices have multiple qualification aims and are reported against a lower (Level 4 or 5) one
- Table 7 collects students in all years of study and also ‘starters’:
 - Students should be recorded as starters in the academic year in which they first start study towards a qualification aim of an undergraduate degree.

Changes to the HESES Tables for 2022 (3): Changes to Tables 6a, 6b and 6c

- Table 6b has been removed. This previously collected data on sandwich years out of pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health, but no data was reported
- We have not renumbered Tables 6a and 6c. These have been extended to allow for the reporting of postgraduate pre-registration courses in dental therapy. The latter should be reported in HESES:
 - In price group B
 - As PG (Masters' loan), as they are not eligible under the undergraduate student support arrangements.
- Clarifications that Tables 6a and 6c do **not** include:
 - Foundation years for pre-registration courses unless these were part of the specific courses that the relevant regulatory body approved
 - Students on courses leading to registration as a nursing associate

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (1): Attendance requirement for full-time study

- Three criteria for a year of instance to be full-time remain:
 - The student is normally required to **attend** the provider, or elsewhere, for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of instance
 - Within that time they are expected to **undertake periods of study, tuition, learning in the workplace, or sandwich work placement** that does not meet the criteria to be sandwich year out, which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week
 - Full-time fees are chargeable for the course for the year (may be disregarded for apprenticeships)
- Attendance requirement **applies to the 24 weeks criterion (only)**:
 - It means the student is required to be at a provider location, or other specified location (such as a partner provider, or defined workplace) to undertake periods of study, tuition, learning in the workplace, or sandwich work placement.
 - Applies to all students on the course except where a student is unable to attend for reasons related to their disability

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (2): Distance learning courses

- We have included the definition of a distance learning course that applies in the student support regulations:
 - A 'distance learning course' means a course on which a student undertaking the course is not required to be in attendance by the provider of the course, where 'required to be in attendance' is not satisfied by a requirement imposed by the provider to attend any provider location (or other specified location):
 - for the purposes of registration or enrolment or any examination;
 - on a weekend or during any vacation
 - on an occasional basis during the week.
- Where a course meets the definition of a distance learning course, it will not meet the attendance requirement to be classified as full-time **in HESES**:
 - A student on a distance learning course can still count as 1 FTE
 - The concept of full-time distance learning still applies for student finance

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (3): Level of study

- Undergraduate split between UG (Level 4 and 5) and UG (Other)
- Clarification that graduate-entry pre-registration courses in medicine, dentistry and veterinary science should be reported as PGT (UG fee)
- Clarification that students undertaking the Part 2 course leading towards registration with the Architects Registration Board should be reported as:
 - PGT (UG fee) where Part 2 is treated for student finance purposes as a single course with Part 1
 - PGT (Masters loan) otherwise.
- Postgraduate pre-registration courses in dental therapy should be reported as PGT (Masters loan).

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (4): Recognised courses of higher education for OfS funding purposes

- Ensuring consistency of language in HESES in referring throughout to recognised courses, rather than qualifications.
- To be recognised for funding purposes it must be:
 - A course that is designated under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011.
 - A ‘course of higher education’ as defined in Schedule 6 of the Education Reform Act 1988, other than one leading to a qualification in the Register of Regulated Qualifications.
- Clarification that references to Schedule 6 of the Education Reform Act 1998 do **not** include changes (that have not yet commenced) given in Section 16 of the Post-16 Education and Skills Act 2022

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (5): Student categories newly eligible for home fees status from 1 August 2022

- Students with Ukraine Scheme leave
 - Students from the Ukraine who are on a **new year of instance** and who are in England under one of the three routes for those affected by the conflict in Ukraine (the ‘Ukraine Family Scheme’, the ‘Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme’ and the ‘Ukraine Extension Scheme’).
 - Links: www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules/immigration-rules-appendix-ukraine-scheme and ‘SSIN Student Funding 2022-23’ (SSIN 07/22) available from www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/policy.
- Afghanistan:
 - Persons granted leave under one of the Afghan Schemes, and
 - British nationals evacuated or assisted from Afghanistan
 - ... who begin a **new course** on or after 1 August 2022.

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (6): Student categories newly eligible for home fees status from 1 August 2022

- British overseas territories:
 - Family members of all persons who would be settled when in the UK, who begin a new course on or after 1 August 2022 (subject to three years residence in the UK, Islands and specified British overseas territories, of which at least part was in the specified British overseas territories, immediately before the start of the course).
 - Family members of all persons settled in the UK who begin a new course on or after 1 August 2022 (subject to three years residence in the UK and Islands immediately before the start of the course).
 - Link: ‘Students from British Overseas Territories: Access to Student Finance in England from academic year 2022-23’, available from www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/policy, provides further guidance.

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (7): Changes to guidance on fundability of home fee students

- We have removed three categories of non-fundable students, which applied to students who started pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health in a year when funding responsibility for such courses rested with DHSC.
 - However, students remain non-fundable if they are on a course (other than an apprenticeship) commissioned and funded by an NHS organisation, where the course fee charged to the student is zero because an NHS organisation is meeting the full costs of the course.
- We have updated guidance on equivalent and lower qualifications (ELQ) to include reference to the 'sector-recognised standards' that apply in England.
 - Link: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (8): Years abroad: exceptional circumstances

- In exceptional circumstances, providers may offer students an alternative 'year abroad' experience involving, for example, online learning while remaining in the UK. Such exceptional circumstances may arise because of **ongoing armed conflicts**, or any continuing need to comply with domestic or foreign government guidance and regulations on measures to address the **coronavirus pandemic**.
- Under these particular circumstances, students prevented from travelling abroad for their overseas year of study due to the exceptional circumstances will still be considered as attending the overseas institution if both of the following criteria are met:
 - That overseas higher education provider (rather than the provider in England) is providing the learning online. Sandwich years abroad will therefore not meet this criterion.
 - The fees charged to the student for the year are no higher than the regulated fee limit that would apply had the student been able to take the year abroad as normal.

Changes/clarifications to HESES guidance (9): Guidance for further education and sixth form colleges

- We have updated the Courses table that further education and sixth form colleges and academies complete, to reflect the split of undergraduate between UG (Level 4 and 5) and UG (Other).
- We have updated the guidance on learning aims in Annex B, to make clear further education and sixth form colleges and academies responsibilities in ensuring that all courses for which they intend to return instances in HESES have valid learning aims, and that the learning aim information for each course (including qualification type and the LearnDirect Class System (LDCS) code(s)) is correct.
- We have also set out our expectation that all courses returned in HESES have valid learning aims and correct learning aim information before the data is signed off
- Links: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/supplying-data/request-or-modify-a-learning-aim/ and <https://submit-learner-data.service.gov.uk/find-a-learning-aim/>.

Questions

Please use the Q&A box



Other HESES22 webinars & recordings

- For those new to HESES:
 - Introduction to OfS funding and HESES22 – recording to be released soon
 - Categorising your students and important definitions - 29 September 2022
 - Identifying and counting students to be included in HESES22 - 6 October 2022
 - Submission and verification of HESES22 data return – recording to be released soon
- More information available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/events.

How to find out more

Website: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/heses

YouTube: www.youtube.com/officeforstudents

Email: heses@officeforstudents.org.uk

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