

---

# Higher Education Update

## Destination of Leavers from HE DLHE Survey

---



---

### Introduction

---

The Destination of Leavers from HE Survey is an annual census survey of home and EU higher education qualifiers (undergraduate and postgraduate) undertaken by Higher Education Institutions. From April 2014 all HEIs and FECs in England will fund and manage the survey themselves - with support from HESA. The survey is designated as official statistic by the Office for National Statistics and published by HESA. It is also used as an important information source including in HESA employment performance indicators and the Key Information Set (KIS) to provide course level data on graduate employment. This information is required as a condition within the Financial Memorandum.

### Current Developments

---

HEFCE Are working with HESA and the sector to ensure that the data in DLHE returns continues to be robust and trustworthy. Since the survey questionnaire was developed in 2002, its profile has increased reflecting the increasing importance to students of employment data in making their choices about Higher Education, and to institutions in marketing and position in league tables.

HESA have recently reviewed the overall survey process and, at HEFCE's request, are clarifying the guidance that they provide to institutions to promote robust methods and avoid the risk of biased data (i.e. greater responses from specific groups). HEFCE are keen to encourage institutions to take active steps to ensure that data is representative of the whole student population, is valid and is reliable. HEFCE will also be asking institutions to retain information about their survey methods for potential future audit.

### Audit Implications

---

The new HEFCE Chief Executive has asked that internal auditors in the Sector consider whether:

- institutions have made a reasonable effort to contact and gain responses from all eligible students, and submitted all their data?

- institutions' data is broadly reflective of their student population without undue bias?
- institutions can demonstrate steps they have taken to ensure the reliability and validity of their data?
- all staff involved in the management and delivery of the survey are appropriately trained and supported?"

## **Next Step**

---

To discuss how Uniac can help provide you with assurance about your DLHE data and supporting process, please contact Tom Astell ([tastell@uniac.co.uk](mailto:tastell@uniac.co.uk)).

For further information, you can also see the most recent guidance from HESA at [http://www.hesa.ac.uk/c12018/Guidance\\_for\\_institutions.html](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/c12018/Guidance_for_institutions.html)