

### Introduction

---

HESA have embarked on a long-term project, Data Futures, which seeks to deliver a new redefined Higher Education landscape. This project aims to create a more efficient and timely approach to data collection across the sector, in order to support better decision-making and to allow the sector to evolve and keep pace with other industries.

Building on a data model developed as part of the HEDIIP programme, HESA are engaging with a range of stakeholders to establish a collection timetable and a data specification for the 2019/20 student data collections. HESA have taken an iterative approach to seeking feedback on their high-level designs for this collection, with the specification due to be published during the week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Following this, detailed design of the collection is expected to begin. This should clarify the extent to which institutions will be offered a single and unified approach when providing data to funding bodies; to the Student Loans Company; and to HESA.

While the sector awaits details of these new data collection processes over the coming months, it is vital that institutions start to consider both the risks and opportunities that this project poses – at both executive and operational levels. Institutions will particularly need to ensure that student record and reporting systems are aligned with the future data landscape. We hope that the new approach to data collection will help institutions shift some focus away from data reporting, and instead allow increased attention on how the rich data held can be exploited for the benefit of institutions and their students.

*To support the move to Data Futures, there have been several other reviews undertaken within the data landscape:*

### NewDLHE

---

Over the last year, HESA have been undertaking a major review of data collection about graduate destinations and employability. Building on the work undertaken by a strategic-group and a working group, as well as a sector-wide consultation, HESA are preparing to announce their recommendations for a revised Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) collection, termed the 'NewDLHE'. The recommended model for this collection is due to be published in February 2017, and is expected to include details about:

- How the return will be governed, potentially through a central group.
- How the return will be financed, particularly if a centralised approach is adopted.
- How consistency will be applied across the, potentially complex, methodology.
- How data will be linked to other data sources, such as external salary data and other HESA information.
- How the data will be collected and supplied, including the timescales for release to the Sector and general public.

## Unistats Record

---

Following the completion of HEFCE's consultation exercise, the Key Information Set (KIS) submission is to be revised from 2017/18 onwards – referred to as the Unistats Record, with the first submission due to August 2017. This return will still include high-level course information, such as sandwich years, URLs and accreditation, and will facilitate the maintenance of a centralised Sector website to provide a source of national data.

However, the responsibility for advertising certain elements of the KIS will be transferred directly to providers. This includes:

- Financial information about courses provided;
- Assessment and Learning & Teaching information;
- Accommodation details.

HEFCE are developing guidance to support the new requirements to assist institutions. However, given these additional requirements, universities will need to ensure that all information published is accurate and meets the expectations of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) and the wider Consumer Protection Law.

## Higher Education Open Source Data

---

During 2016, HESA announced plans to move to an 'open source' model, publishing a lot of the information they hold as open data allowing the public to use and share it. This has potential benefits for universities, as well as key other external key users of data – although it further strengthens the importance of institutions reporting reliable data.

96% of respondents to a consultation undertaken by HESA with the sector in July 2016 supported the concept of open source data. HESA have begun publishing some information as open data. Implementation plans – and what data will be accessible to all – should become clear during 2017.

## Higher Education Classification of Subjects (HECoS)

---

As part of the Data Futures implementation, in 2019/20 a new subject coding system will be introduced to replace the current JACS system. This will allow universities the opportunity to use a single classification to cater to a broad range of stakeholders, improving efficiency.

## Get in Touch

---

If you would like to discuss how Uniac could help provide assurance and advice about your current and future data reporting, please contact our data specialists:



**Tom Astell**  
**Head of Data Assurance**

☎ 0161 247 2859

tastell@uniac.co.uk

uniac.co.uk



Certificate Number 13024

ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, ISO 14001

