Annex L

Statistics derived from HESA data used to inform the 2005-06 widening participation allocations

Purpose

1. This annex describes how we will use 2003-04 Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) data to inform the widening participation allocations for 2005-06. Further details of the algorithms are provided in Appendix 13.

Widening access for students from disadvantaged backgrounds

2. This is a formula-based allocation of funding for teaching to recognise the extra costs associated with recruiting and supporting undergraduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are currently under-represented in higher education. The funds are allocated on the basis of higher education participation rates and average educational achievement for census wards. They are calculated for each institution using its HESA 2003-04 data. The method is as follows.

3. Firstly, using postcode information from 2003-04 HESA data, each student is mapped to a ward. These wards are then ranked in terms of their higher education participation rate (for young, under 21, full-time students) or average educational achievement (for mature full-time students and all part-time students), split into quintiles, and weighted as follows.

Quintile	Weighting
1 Lowest HE participation (young FTS) or lowest average educational achievement (mature FTS and part-time)	2
2	1
3, 4, 5	0

4. Part-time and mature students who already hold a higher education (HE) qualification at the same level as, or higher than, their current qualification aim, or have unknown entry qualifications, are given a weighting of zero, irrespective of their postcode.

5. We calculate a 'widening access average weight' (separately for full-time and part-time) as follows.

$$\frac{\text{Total weight for all students in the population}}{\text{Total students in the population}}$$

The population is defined as:

- for young full-time students: fundable UK domiciled entrants eligible to be counted in HESES Column 4

- for mature full-time students: fundable English and Welsh domiciled entrants eligible to be counted in HESES Column 4

- for part-time students: fundable English and Welsh domiciled entrants eligible to be counted in HESES Column 4.

Some students are excluded from the population:

- those whose postcode is in an enumeration district that includes a school or other such institution, as there is greater uncertainty about the participation rates in these areas

- full-time mature and part-time students in Scotland and Northern Ireland

- other EU students.

6. These students are counted in the next step (see paragraph 7), and therefore receive an average weight for the purpose of allocating funds.

7. The average weight derived from paragraphs 5-6 is London weighted (8 per cent for inner London and 5 per cent for outer London) and applied to the assumed undergraduate (UG) (including foundation degree) full-time equivalent (FTE) for 2005-06.

Improving retention

Full-time

8. As well as allocating funding to widen access, we are also allocating funding to improve retention. For full-time undergraduate students, this is based on their pre-entry qualifications and

age. Some changes to the method have been implemented for 2005-06 to reflect the replacement of A-level points with UCAS tariff points; and to assign students with unknown entry qualifications or unknown UCAS tariff points to the lowest weighted risk category. The allocations are calculated as follows.

9. Firstly, using age and pre-entry qualification information from 2003-04 HESA data, full-time undergraduate entrants are assigned to one of six categories which are then weighted as shown below.

	Young	Mature
Low risk	0	0
Medium risk	1	1.5
High risk	1.5	2.5

10. For this allocation, mature students are those aged 21 or over on entry. The assignment of students to risk categories based on entry qualifications is as shown in Table 19 below.

11. We calculate an 'improving retention average weight' as:

$$\frac{\text{English-domiciled full-time and sandwich undergraduate entrants, weighted according to age and pre-entry qualification}}{\text{All English-domiciled full-time and sandwich undergraduate entrants}}$$

12. The average weight derived from paragraph 11 is given a London weighting and applied to the assumed UG (including foundation degree) FTE for 2005-06.

Table 19 **The assignment of students to risk categories based on entry qualifications**

	Young	Mature
Low risk	A-levels/Highers/vocational A-levels with more than 260 or 0* Tariff points Baccalaureate Degree or Higher Unknown†	A-levels/Highers/vocational A-levels with more than 320 or 0* Tariff points Degree or Higher Unknown†
Medium risk	A-levels/Highers/vocational A-levels with between 260 and 161 tariff points Foundation course Vocational A-levels only Other HE qualification	A-levels/Highers/vocational A-levels with 320 or fewer tariff points Other HE qualification Foundation course Access course Vocational A-levels only
High risk	A-levels/Highers/vocational A-levels with between 160 and 1 tariff points BTEC Access course Others None	BTEC Baccalaureate Others None

* Entrants whose highest qualification on entry is A-levels but who did not enter via UCAS, so do not have tariff points recorded, are allocated to medium risk.

†Entrants with 'unknown' entry qualifications or unknown UCAS tariff points have been assigned to the 'low risk' category. Institutions should ensure that entry qualifications are fully recorded, if students are to be weighted appropriately in the allocation method for this stream of funding.

Part-time

13. This allocation is distributed pro rata to London weighted part-time undergraduate assumed FTEs. In previous years, this allocation also took account of part-time postgraduate student numbers. Where institutions would have been disadvantaged by the restriction of this funding to undergraduates only, we have provided an addition to mainstream teaching grant to ensure that no such disadvantage occurs.

Widening access for students with disabilities

14. This allocation has been calculated using HESA 2003-04 data as follows.

15. Firstly, we calculate the proportion of eligible students who were in receipt of the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

16. Each institution is assigned to one of four quartiles, according to the proportion of students in receipt of the DSA, although this is smoothed to ensure that no institution falls by more than one quartile since the previous year. Separate weightings are attached to each of the four quartiles, as follows.

Quartile	Weighting
A (lowest proportion)	1
B	2
C	3
D (highest proportion)	4

17. Institutions' share of the allocation is pro rata to the assumed FTE for 2005-06, weighted according to the quartile in which they fall and a London weighting, although a minimum allocation of £10,000 for each HEI applies.

Widening participation tables

18. The output files can be downloaded from the HEFCE extranet. Annex G from '2003-04 statistics derived from HESA data for monitoring and allocation of funding' (2004/47) describes how to access the Excel workbook 'HHWP03XXXX.xls'.

Errors in 2003-04 HESA data

19. The procedures for the quality assurance of 2003-04 HESA data should take place prior to an institution signing off the 2003-04 HESA data as correct. Any amendments accepted after this point to recalculate funding should be seen as exceptional, and not as part of quality assurance procedures.

20. If institutions wish to correct their 2003-04 HESA data used to inform the widening participation allocation they should submit amendments **by 29 April 2005** to Ben Grassby at hesa_heses_stats@hefce.ac.uk.

21. Amendments should follow the specification described in Annex I of 2004/47. It is essential that amendments are in this format in order to establish an audit trail of data changes, and to ensure that amendments are processed in a timely and accurate manner.

22. We may carry out an investigation where amendments contradict our understanding of the broad characteristics of activity at an institution.

23. Amendments to 2003-04 HESA data will be incorporated in future HEFCE statistical publications and analyses.