

## Annex G: Recognised higher education courses

This annex defines recognised higher education courses on which students must be studying if they are to be included in HESES14. It also details the treatment of students on Higher or Advanced Apprenticeships which include both higher and further education elements.

1. To be included in the HESES14 population and therefore potentially counted in HESES14, a student instance must have a course aim of a recognised higher education (HE) qualification or an HE-level credit that can be counted towards such a qualification.
2. Recognised HE courses are those defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 of the Education Reform Act 1988. This includes any postgraduate or undergraduate degree, accredited HE diploma or certificate. Other courses leading to professional or vocational qualifications may be included if they are generally recognised as HE qualifications; this does not include National Vocational Qualifications.
3. Student instances that do not lead, upon successful completion, towards a recognised HE qualification, or an HE-level credit that can be counted towards one, are excluded from the HESES14 student population.
4. Foundation years, access provision and other provision commonly referred to as 'Level 0' will be classed as part of a 'recognised HE course' only if they are an integrated part of a recognised HE qualification, such that both of the following apply.
  - a. Students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution.
  - b. Progression to the recognised HE qualification is guaranteed, subject to satisfactory completion of the foundation year.
5. Free-standing foundation years and other free-standing Level 0 provision are not recognised HE courses. The requirement that students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution means that, where the foundation year is taught by a different institution, this will be treated as integrated – and therefore within the HESES population – only if it is done under a franchise arrangement from the institution offering the recognised HE qualification.

### **Funding for Higher and Advanced Apprenticeships**

6. Higher Apprenticeships (also known as Higher Level Apprenticeships) and some Advanced Apprenticeships that include HE-level elements may receive support from public funds through a variety of sources:
  - HEFCE teaching grant for those elements that meet the definition of recognised HE courses
  - funding from the Skills Funding Agency for study towards other qualifications within apprenticeships

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- further education and HE tuition fees that may be supported through publicly funded loans from the Student Loans Company.
7. Only the activity within a Higher or Advanced Apprenticeship that meets the definition of recognised HE courses given in this annex should be included. This means that a student who has commenced a Higher or Advanced Apprenticeship but is not undertaking the recognised HE part of that apprenticeship during the year of instance should not be included in HESES.
8. Students studying full-time towards a recognised HE qualification as part of a Higher or Advanced Apprenticeship should be included in Table 6 when they commence their full-time study towards such undergraduate qualifications and where they also meet the other criteria for inclusion.
9. Where HEIs or franchise partners are also providing other elements of training as part of a Higher or Advanced Apprenticeship, they should report two instances on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record for each student on the apprenticeship.
- a. One of these should relate to study towards the qualifications, or credits, that meet the definition of recognised HE courses in this annex and which may be HEFCE-fundable.
  - b. The other should relate to study towards any other qualifications, which may be funded by the Skills Funding Agency. Where institutions return further education (FE) activity directly to the Skills Funding Agency on the Individualised Learner Record the FE instance should not be included on the HESA record.

This is necessary to ensure clarity in our respective funding responsibilities.