

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 HEIFES14. It also details the treatment of students on Higher or Advanced Apprenticeships which include both higher and further education elements.

1. HEFCE is responsible for funding only some higher education (HE) courses in further education colleges (FECs). These courses are defined as 'recognised' in this document. Only students studying on recognised HE courses should be included in the HEIFES14 student population.
2. Within HEIFES14, recognised HE courses are those where, on successful completion, the student is awarded by a relevant recognised body, one of the following qualifications:
 - a higher degree, such as a PhD, MPhil, MSc, MA, MBA
 - a postgraduate diploma
 - a postgraduate initial teacher training qualification, such as a Postgraduate or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE)
 - a first degree, such as a foundation degree, BSc, BA, or Bachelor of Education (BEd)
 - a foundation degree bridging course, where these are integrated into the final years of a first degree
 - a Higher National Diploma (HND)
 - a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
 - a Higher National Certificate (HNC)
 - a Diploma in Teaching in the Lifelong Learning Sector (DTLLS) or a Level 5 120-credit point Diploma in Education and Training
 - a Certificate in Education (CertEd).
3. Relevant recognised bodies are:
 - any UK institution with the power to award degrees
 - for foundation degrees (but not for foundation degree bridging courses), any further education college in England with the power to award such degrees
 - for HNDs and HNCs, Pearson Education Ltd and the Scottish Qualifications Authority.
4. The Skills Funding Agency's Information Management Hub includes a learning aims search (<https://hub.imservices.org.uk/Learning%20Aims/Pages/default.aspx>). This returns the awarding body and qualification type for a particular learning aim. If a college believes that a qualification has been incorrectly classified in the learning aims search, it

should e-mail heifes@hefce.ac.uk as soon as possible (ideally as soon as the course has been added to the Hub), providing the learning aim reference, learning aim title, awarding body and learning aim type **as displayed on the learning aims search**, together with the suggested amendments. We shall then liaise with the Skills Funding Agency on the college's behalf.

5. Courses leading to professional or similar qualifications will not normally be recognised. For example, a course leading to a Certificate in Management awarded by the Institute of Management is not a recognised HE course for the purposes of HEIFES. However, if these courses also meet the definition given in paragraph 2 of this annex, they will be recognised.
6. 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.
7. 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 HEIFES population – only if it is done under a franchise arrangement from the institution offering the recognised HE qualification.

Funding for Higher and Advanced Apprenticeships

8. 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 in paragraph 2
 - funding from the Skills Funding Agency for study towards other qualifications within apprenticeships
 - tuition fees that may be supported through publicly funded loans from the Student Loans Company.
9. 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 programme of study should not be included in HEIFES.
10. 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.

11. Where colleges or franchise partners provide other elements of training as part of a Higher or Advanced Apprenticeship, for each student on the apprenticeship they should report two learning delivery entities for the programme of study on the ILR:

- one relating to study towards the qualifications, or credits, that meet the definition of recognised HE courses in this annex and which may be HEFCE-fundable
- the other relating to study towards any other qualifications, which may be funded by the Skills Funding Agency.

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