

Office for
Students



HEIFES18

Higher Education in Further Education:
Students survey 2018-19

Reference OfS 2018.39

Enquiries to heifes@officeforstudents.org.uk

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This document is relevant to higher education providers that:

- have registered (or applied to be registered) with the Office for Students (OfS) in the Approved (fee cap) category
- are further education colleges, sixth form colleges or academies
- have registered students in 2018-19 on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes.

The data collected provides an early indication of the number of higher education students studying in 2018-19, and, with Individualised Learner Record data, will inform the allocation of teaching funds for 2019-20.

Action: Higher education providers should upload returns to the OfS portal.

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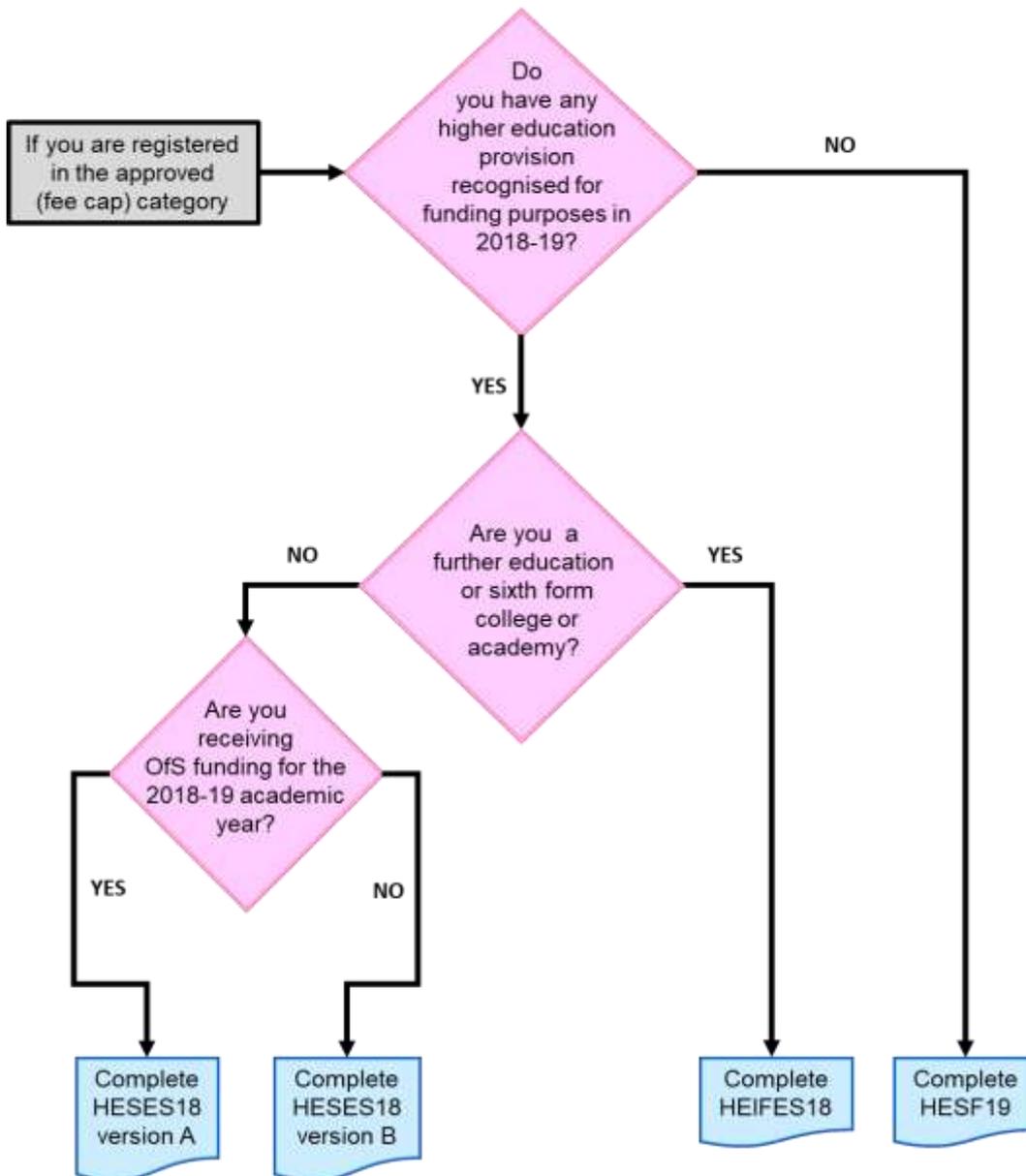
Introduction

This section contains an overview of the HEIFES18 process, a guide for those unfamiliar with the Higher Education in Further Education: Students survey (HEIFES) and a summary of changes and clarifications since HEIFES17.

Purpose

1. Providers that are registered in the Approved (fee cap) category with the Office for Students (OfS) for the academic year 2019-20 (1 August 2019 to 31 July 2020) will be required to submit a data return in 2018-19 to the OfS. This will allow us to calculate OfS funding for 2019-20 and provides us with an early indication of student numbers for planning purposes.
2. This document sets out the requirements for the HEIFES18 return, and applies only to higher education providers that:
 - have registered (or applied to be registered) with the OfS in the Approved (fee cap) category
 - are further education colleges, sixth form colleges, or academies
 - have registered students in 2018-19 on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes (excluding any subcontracted in from another provider).
3. Higher education providers in the Approved (fee cap) category that do not meet the criteria in paragraph 2 will be required to complete a different data return. This will be either the Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey (HESES) or the Higher Education Students Forecast survey (HESF). Figure 1 can be used to identify which data return a higher education provider should complete.
4. The data provided in this survey will:
 - give an early indication, for purposes including government planning, of the number of higher education students studying in the academic year 2018-19
 - together with the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) supplied to the Education and Skills Funding Agency, inform the allocation of teaching funds for the academic year 2019-20.
5. This document provides the following.
 - a. An introduction to the HEIFES18 data return and how we use it to inform our funding allocations.
 - b. Guidance notes for completing the HEIFES18 survey (Part 1).
 - c. Definitions used in the HEIFES18 survey (Part 2).

Figure 1: Determining which data return a provider should complete



- d. Appendices which provide detailed technical information to support the HEIFES18 tables and worksheets (Part 3). Sample tables are available online at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heifes18-higher-education-in-further-education-students-survey-2018-19/. The tables for completion will be available to download from the OfS portal in October 2018. The appendices will be available once the worksheets have been released.
- e. A summary of changes since HEIFES17 (paragraphs 31 to 54 of the main document).
- f. Good practice guidance (highlighted with blue banding to the left of the text).
- g. Guidance on related ILR data ('ILR notes' sections throughout the document, highlighted with blue banding to the left of the text).

Introduction – Outline timetable for HEIFES18 return and funding round process

6. Information on how HEIFES survey data is used to inform funding allocations can be found in ‘Guide to funding 2018-19: How the Office for Students allocates money to higher education providers’ (OfS 2018.21)¹.

Action required

7. HEIFES18 workbooks will be available to providers in October 2018. Providers must ensure that:
- a. Completed HEIFES18 workbooks are uploaded to the OfS portal by **noon on Monday 12 November 2018**.
 - b. By 28 January 2019:
 - i. All our data verification queries are resolved to our satisfaction.
 - ii. The data is signed off by their accountable officer.

Outline timetable for HEIFES18 return and funding round process

8. The timetable for HEIFES18 and the 2019-20 funding round is summarised in the table below.

Date	Action
October 2018	HEIFES workbooks available to providers via the portal.
1 November 2018	HEIFES18 census date.
12 November 2018	Noon deadline to return HEIFES18 data.
From mid-November 2018	Data verification phase, using our validation and credibility checks. HEIFES contacts asked to verify, and answer any questions about, the data. Contacts will have up to five working days to respond. Further rounds of queries may be necessary.
28 January 2019	HEIFES18 data must be signed off by the provider’s accountable officer ² as being correct as at 1 November 2018.
Spring 2019	Recurrent teaching grant allocations for 2019-20 released to providers.
Spring 2019	Confirmation of process and deadlines for providers to request transfers of provision and other data amendments.
By end of July 2019	Terms and conditions of funding for 2019-20 confirmed to providers.
Autumn 2019	Providers notified of any amendments to recurrent teaching grant allocations for 2019-20.

¹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/guide-to-funding-2018-19/.

² See ‘Regulatory advice 10: Accountable officers; Guidance for providers on the responsibilities of accountable officers’, (OfS 2018.29), available at: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-10-accountable-officers-guidance-for-providers-on-the-responsibilities-of-accountable-officers/.

9. It is a condition of registration³ that providers supply data requested by the OfS. It is also a condition of funding to 31 July 2019 that providers that we fund complete HEIFES18. Deadlines for the HEIFES18 return are not flexible. Where a provider fails to return credible data on time, we may base the allocation of funds on our own estimate of student activity. Providers that do not submit credible data on time are more likely to be audited.
10. We expect that the data signed off as correct by the provider's accountable officer is the final data that we will use. We will only accept amendments after this point in exceptional circumstances, where errors are widespread, significant and make a material difference to our use of the data. This will be determined through an amendment process⁴.
11. If we find, either through reconciliations with ILR data or through any data audit, that incorrect data has resulted in providers receiving incorrect funding, we may adjust their allocations accordingly for all relevant years (subject to any appeals process and the availability of our funds).
12. As explained under condition of registration F3⁵, the OfS will assess, as part of its routine monitoring activities, the quality, reliability and timeliness of information supplied by a provider including through scheduled or ad hoc data audit activity. If the OfS has reason to believe that information received is not reliable, it may choose to investigate the matter. This investigation may result in additional steps to ensure compliance, whether through enhanced monitoring or the imposition of specific ongoing conditions. The OfS may, for example, require the provider's accountable officer to implement an agreed action plan to improve the provider's information systems and processes and the oversight arrangements for these.

How to use this document

13. This document provides guidance on how to complete the HEIFES18 survey and sets out the funding rules and definitions for OfS-funded higher education. This document has three parts:

Part 1: Guidance for completing the survey

14. This section explains how to download the survey, describes the data to enter into each table, and links to funding rules and definitions in Part 2. It also explains the process for verifying and signing off the data, as well as considerations for data assurance.

Part 2: Funding rules and definitions

15. This section defines the student population covered by the HEIFES return and gives guidance on what is 'countable' in HEIFES18. This ensures we can collect information on students counted for funding purposes, but also helps us to collect information on other higher education students. This helps to provide a more complete picture of providers' higher education activities, supporting our understanding of their circumstances and student populations, for purposes including informing government planning and audits and reconciliations with ILR data.

³ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/conditions-of-registration/.

⁴ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/amendments-to-data/.

⁵ See 'Securing student success: Regulatory framework for higher education in England' (OfS 2018.01), available at: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/.

16. Paragraphs 17 to 28 list the annexes in Part 2 of this guidance and give a short summary of what each covers.

Annex A: Defining the HEIFES student population

17. This annex defines a ‘course’, and explains which student courses should and should not be included in the HEIFES student population. This annex also explains how to treat provision delivered through related undertakings.

Annex B: Recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes

18. This annex defines the higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes; students must be studying one of these courses to be included in HEIFES18. It also details the treatment of students on higher, degree or advanced apprenticeships which include both recognised higher education and other elements.

Annex C: Counting student activity

19. This annex gives the definition of a year of course and explains how to count them in HEIFES18. This includes the criteria for counting a year of course in HEIFES18, the definitions of standard and nonstandard years of course, flow charts to aid with determining how years of course should be counted, and guidance on counting some short courses that are sometimes known as ‘summer schools’.

Annex D: Completion and non-completion

20. This annex explains how to determine the completion status of a year of course in HEIFES18.

Annex E: Full-time equivalence for part-time students

21. This annex explains how full-time equivalence (FTE) for part-time students should be calculated in HEIFES18. This includes guidance on how to treat students who are exempt from part of a course, and full-time students who change mode within a year of course to become part-time students.

Annex F: Residential and fundability status

22. This annex provides guidance on identifying the residential and fundability status of a student for the purposes of HEIFES18. It includes guidance on:

- which students should be classified as Home and EU, and which are Island and overseas
- categorising Home and EU students as OfS-fundable or non-fundable
- how to determine the fundability status of students aiming for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQs), and of those supported from other EU public sources.

Annex G: Price groups

23. This annex explains how years of course should be mapped to price groups for the purposes of HEIFES18, including guidance on the specific cases of sandwich years out, pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, and education. Examples are given for cases where a year of course can be split across price groups.

Annex H: Mode of study

24. This annex explains how to determine, for the purposes of HEIFES18, the mode of study for a year of course (full-time, sandwich year out or part-time). It includes guidance on how to treat learning in the workplace and work experience when determining mode of study.

Annex I: Level of study

25. This annex explains how to determine a student's level of study (undergraduate (UG) or postgraduate (PG)) for the purposes of HEIFES18 and three sub-levels of postgraduate. It also explains how the data in Table 5 of HEIFES18 is split to allow separate identification of students on apprenticeships.

Annex J: Long years of course

26. This annex explains how to determine whether a full-time or part-time year of course should be classed as 'long' for the purposes of HEIFES18. It also contains guidance on how to treat learning in the workplace and work experience when determining the length of a year of course, as well as examples of how to treat mixed-length courses.

Annex K: Year abroad categories in Table 4

27. This annex provides guidance on how to assign years of course to the appropriate category of year abroad in Table 4 of HEIFES18.

Annex L: Nursing, midwifery and allied health for Tables 7a, 7b and 7c

28. This annex defines the pre-registration healthcare profession courses and populations which must be separately identified in HEIFES18 Tables 7a, 7b and 7c. Only providers delivering these courses in 2018-19 need to complete these tables.

Part 3: Appendices

29. The following appendices will be issued once the worksheets have been released (from October). They will contain detailed technical information to support the HEIFES18 tables and worksheets:

- a. Appendix 1 provides guidance on using the OfS portal and workbook submission.
- b. Appendix 2 describes the validation checks on HEIFES18 data.
- c. Appendix 3 describes the credibility checks on HEIFES18 data, which include the credibility warnings and the checks on comparison tables.
- d. Appendix 4 provides further information on the comparison table worksheets.
- e. Appendix 5 provides further information on the funding worksheets A to G.

30. Examples of the 'Courses' table and Tables 1 to 7c of the HEIFES18 survey are now available online at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heifes18-higher-education-in-further-education-students-survey-2018-19/. The tables for completion will be available to download from the OfS portal (<https://extranet.officeforstudents.org.uk/data>) in October 2018.

Summary of changes and clarifications since HEIFES17

31. Those who previously completed HEIFES17 should note the following changes and updates that have been made to the 2017-18 version (HEIFES17) for HEIFES18. The main changes were set out in 'Funding for academic year 2019-20: Approach and data collection' (OfS 2018.31)⁶.

Changes to tables

32. The forecast table worksheet has been removed from the HEIFES return.

Courses table

33. We have redesigned the courses table to reflect the changes to sub-levels recorded in Table 5.

Table 5

34. We have redesigned Table 5 to collect sub-levels that reflect whether qualifications are studied as part of an apprenticeship and to collect new entrant data for apprentices. Undergraduates are no longer broken down between the sub-levels used in HEIFES17.

Tables 7a, 7b and 7c

35. Tables 7a, 7b and 7c now collect data according to whether students started courses in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19. (Where a profession or level of study is not applicable, the cells are greyed out.) The data will be used for planning purposes and to inform funding allocations for providers in 2019-20.

Funding tables

36. We have introduced revised funding tables in HEIFES18 to provide a more complete comparison of FTE and modelled funding changes (see Part 1, paragraph 192). These are set out to reflect the grant Tables A to G first issued to providers in May 2018 or subsequently updated in July or October 2018.

Changes to and clarifications of definitions

Annex A

37. We have added references to HESF. This is a new data survey to be completed by providers registered in the Approved (fee cap) category from 2019-20 that do not have their own students in 2018-19 on courses recognised for OfS funding purposes.

38. We have updated guidance on partnerships between providers to reflect the terminology in our regulatory framework.

Annex B

39. The definition of 'recognised higher education' for the purposes of completing the HESES18, HEIFES18 and HESF19 surveys has been revised so as to apply consistently across all providers,

⁶ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/funding-for-academic-year-2019-20-approach-and-data-collection/.

while also reflecting the funding responsibilities of other organisations. References to ‘recognised higher education’ mean recognised solely for our funding purposes, rather than any wider purpose.

Annex C

40. We have added further guidance to paragraph 5a on counting years of course for recognised higher education taken as part of an apprenticeship.
41. We have added guidance on which students should be recorded in Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5 in the HEIFES18 return. This guidance was previously given in Annex A.
42. We have updated the guidance on starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c to reflect the different treatment required for postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses and for pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy courses compared with (other) undergraduate pre-registration courses. The different treatment is required to reflect the different academic years in which the transfer of funding responsibility from the Department of Health and Social Care begins.

Annex D

43. We have provided additional guidance on determining the completion status of students to reflect changes to the definition of recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes (given in Annex B). The additional guidance applies to students who may be studying modules, rather than for whole qualifications.
44. We have added further guidance to the good practice notes (paragraphs 39 to 42) on the importance of determining a student’s completion status as part of your student record processes, and on estimating non-completion rates.

Annex E

45. We have revised the guidance on determining the full-time equivalence of part-time students, to take account of changes to the definition of recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes (given in Annex B) and to make this consistent with HESES. This allows for full-time equivalence to be determined on the basis, relative to an equivalent full-time course, of either credit points studied or the duration of a course.

Annex F

46. As in previous years, students are classified as ‘Home and EU’ if they can be regarded as eligible students as defined in Schedule 1 of the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 (Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 779), as amended. However, from 2018-19, persons granted stateless leave and their family members have been added as a new category of eligible students in the regulations. We have added a footnote to the guidance in Annex F to remind providers of this.

Changes to definitions and guidance on fundability status of home and EU students on pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions

47. The definition of non-fundable students has been amended to reflect that students starting, on or after 1 August 2018, a postgraduate pre-registration course in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, or a pre-registration course in dental hygiene or dental therapy may now be recorded as fundable as a result of the further transfer of funding responsibility from the Department of Health

and Social Care (DHSC). Further guidance can be found in paragraphs 13c, 13d and 13e of Annex F. These changes are also reflected in Figures F2 and F3. Figures F2 and F3 have also been amended to make clear that if, notwithstanding the phased transfer of funding responsibility to the OfS, an NHS organisation is still commissioning and funding (as defined in paragraph 13f of Annex F) students who are on a pre-registration course in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, such home and EU students should still be recorded as non-fundable.

Annex G

48. We have updated the guidance to make clear that all students on a sandwich year out should be assigned to price group C2, even if they also fall under one of the other specific cases in Annex G where price group assignment is determined by the characteristics of a course (for example, courses leading to qualification to practice, or improving the effectiveness of those already qualified to practice, in certain professions).

Annex H

49. We have added guidance on the considerations we would expect to be made when determining the mode of study of students undertaking apprenticeships.

Annex I

50. We have updated the guidance to make clear that all students on postgraduate pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions should be assigned to the postgraduate (undergraduate fee) category.

51. We have also updated the guidance on undergraduate and postgraduate taught levels of study to reflect changes to the sub-levels on Table 5, which have been made to allow us to identify separately years of instance taken as part of an apprenticeship.

Annex J

52. We have extended our definition of full-time long years of instance, paragraph 3, to clarify our expectation that qualifications that are taken as part of an apprenticeship; or years of instance for pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health will not typically meet the criteria to be recorded as long.

Annex L

53. We have updated the guidance on starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 to reflect the different treatment required for postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses and for pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy courses compared to (other) undergraduate pre-registration courses. The different treatment is required to reflect the different academic years in which the transfer of funding responsibility from the DHSC begins.

54. We have also updated the guidance in Annex L to make clear that all students on postgraduate pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions should be assigned to the postgraduate (undergraduate fee) category. This applies irrespective of when students started their courses, or their own personal eligibility for student support.

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook

Part 1 contents

The HEIFES process:

- Overview of the HEIFES18 process
- Before completing your survey
- Notes on completing your survey
- Submitting your survey
- The data verification phase
- Signing off your data
- What happens after the data is signed off
- Data assurance
- Good practice

Self-check questions

Guidance for completing workbook tables

- Selecting students to include in the survey
- The tables in the HEIFES18 survey workbook
- Data to enter into the tables
- Other worksheets

The HEIFES process

55. This section describes the HEIFES process as a whole, from compiling and submitting the survey, through the data verification phase, to the point where the data is signed off. It also gives details of our data audit programme and recommendations on good practice.

Overview of the HEIFES18 process

56. The timetable for the HEIFES18 process is summarised below.

Date	Action
2 August 2018	'Funding for academic year 2019-20: Approach and data collection' (OfS 2018.31) released, describing changes to the HESES and HEIFES guidance for 2018-19.
25 September 2018	HEIFES18 beginners' seminar held in London.
Early October 2018	HEIFES18 guidance released

Date	Action
2 October 2018	HEIFES18 beginners' seminar held in Bristol.
10 October 2018	HEIFES18 beginners' seminar held in Manchester.
October 2018	HEIFES18 workbook will be available to download from the OfS portal.
1 November 2018	HEIFES18 census date.
12 November 2018	Submission deadline. Valid HEIFES18 workbooks must be submitted through the OfS portal by noon.
Mid-November 2018 to late January 2019	Data verification phase. OfS staff will discuss the data and associated explanations with staff at your provider. This may involve several rounds of queries.
28 January 2019	Sign-off deadline. Final HEIFES18 data must be signed off as correct by the provider's accountable officer ⁷ as at the census date.
February 2019	HEIFES evaluation. We will contact you after your data has been signed off with an evaluation survey. We will use this to evaluate the effectiveness of the HEIFES18 process and make improvements for the following year.

57. As noted in the introduction, HEIFES18 is completed only by higher education providers that:

- have registered (or applied to be registered) with the OfS in the Approved (fee cap) category
- are further education colleges, sixth form colleges or academies
- have registered students in 2018-19 on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes (excluding any subcontracted in from another provider).

58. Higher education providers that are not further education colleges, sixth form colleges or academies and have registered students in 2018-19 on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes complete the HESES18 survey, which runs to a similar timescale.

59. Providers that did not have any registered students in 2018-19 on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes will complete the HESF19 survey.

Before completing your survey

60. In preparation for completing the survey, we recommend that you read this guidance thoroughly. When completing the survey, you will need to follow the definitions given in Part 2. To accompany our HEIFES18 beginners' seminars, we released a number of online training materials, which are

⁷ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-10-accountable-officers-guidance-for-providers-on-the-responsibilities-of-accountable-officers/

available from our website⁸. Depending on your level of experience in completing HEIFES, you may find it useful to consult this material when reading the rest of this guidance document.

61. Your provider will have nominated a member of staff to be our 'HEIFES contact', who we will write to in October when the survey workbooks are released. This person will be our primary point of contact throughout the HEIFES process, though it is possible for your provider to nominate alternative contacts. It is important that your contact details are correct. If you want to check or amend them, please contact us at recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk. We recommend that more than one person is involved with completing the survey, so that expertise is spread across your staff.
62. Your HEIFES workbook is a Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) file that will be available to download from the OfS portal (<https://extranet.officeforstudents.org.uk/data>) in October. Please note that before you can access the workbook, the OfS portal user administrator at your provider will need to grant you access. Appendix 1 will provide further information on how to use the portal and the role of the user administrator.

Notes on completing your survey

63. The HEIFES survey workbook provides an in-year count of the students on higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes at your provider in 2018-19, including a snapshot of your provision on the **census date of 1 November 2018**. This means that your HEIFES survey will include:
- a count of the students who have started their year by the census date
 - a forecast of the students you are expecting to start their year after the census date.
64. When completing the workbook, you may see automatic highlighting of three types:
- a. Validation errors on the 'Courses' table and Tables 1 to 8, highlighting where data is not correct (for example, where a negative number has been entered in a column that cannot be negative). Any validation errors will need to be corrected before the workbook is ready to be submitted.
 - b. Credibility warnings on the Courses table and Tables 1 to 7c, highlighting where data is possible, but appears unusual (for example where you have recorded a particularly high percentage of your students as new entrants).
 - c. For providers that previously returned HEIFES and are receiving OfS funding in 2018-19: Highlighting on comparison worksheets 1 to 3. These worksheets contain tables that summarise your HEIFES18 data and compare it with previous years. Any highlighting shows differences that are greater than might be expected.

⁸ See

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180405121147/http://www.hefce.ac.uk/data/collect/HEIFES/>

65. After completing the workbook, it is good practice for someone else to review the data. You should also:
- a. Make notes of any highlighting and investigate the underlying causes – it is possible that this might bring to light errors in your data. During the data verification phase of the HEIFES process (see paragraphs 71 to 82), we will ask you about these highlighted sections.
 - b. Have a senior member of the provider check the return and agree that it is accurate.
 - c. Use the set of self-check questions on page 23 as a final check on your data and processes.

Submitting your survey

66. When you are satisfied that the survey is complete and accurate, you have until the submission deadline to upload the workbook to the OfS portal. The deadline is **noon on Monday 12 November**.
67. We will not give extensions to this deadline. Please note that the portal usually sees heavy traffic on deadline day, which can cause the upload process to take longer than usual. You can submit the workbook to us before this date, and it is possible to submit the workbook multiple times, though we will only keep and use the most recently uploaded version. Though it is possible to upload your survey to the portal at any time, we require that your final submission is uploaded after the census date of 1 November 2018.
68. In order not to breach data protection, **you must not email** the HEIFES workbook. The Courses table could potentially contain information that would allow identification of individual students.
69. After uploading the HEIFES workbook, you should email dataverification@officeforstudents.org.uk with explanations for any highlighted credibility checks or comparison tables (see paragraph 64). This highlighting will form the basis of any questions you are asked as part of the data verification phase of the HEIFES process. Explanations should include sufficient detail to allow us to understand fully the cause for the highlighting on data that appears unusual, or exceeds the defined comparison table thresholds (see Appendices 3 and 4, once available). Providing explanations with your submission will considerably shorten the data verification phase.
70. After the HEIFES workbook has been successfully uploaded to the portal, you will be able to download a results package. This contains the latest processed copy of your HEIFES workbook, which will have an updated 'Information' worksheet that will show the submission date and number. You should always download the results package, as we will refer to the most recent version of your workbook during the rest of the HEIFES process.

The data verification phase

71. The data verification phase of the HEIFES process allows us to:
- be confident in the accuracy of your data
 - understand any context to the data and how this relates to changes highlighted
 - identify any large or unexpected changes from previous years.

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – The HEIFES process

72. The data verification phase starts after the submission deadline, and ends on the signoff deadline (**Monday 28 January 2019**). By this point any queries we have will need to be answered and your data will need to be signed off as correct. The timescale for data verification takes account of the holiday period. It is advisable to have more than one member of staff involved with completing the HEIFES survey.
73. After the submission deadline, we will email your provider's HEIFES contact with our initial queries within five working days. This email will come from a member of our data verification team who will have reviewed your HEIFES workbook, along with any initial explanations that you have sent us. This initial email will contain a letter with full instructions, along with our specific queries set out in a separate Microsoft Word document.
74. We expect your response to our initial queries to be returned within another five working days to dataverification@officeforstudents.org.uk. We will then review your response and, if necessary, respond with further queries. Several rounds of queries are often necessary before your data is ready to be signed off. In later rounds of queries, response deadlines may be shorter because of the timescales of the data verification phase.
75. During data verification, it may become apparent that part of your workbook needs to be amended. If so, directions for resubmitting the survey will be included in the letter. As with submitting your initial workbook, data protection considerations mean that we will not accept any amendments by email. If it is necessary to amend your workbook, we will contact you with details on how to resubmit your workbook via the portal.

Data queries

76. When generating queries, we will look at:
- credibility warnings on the Courses table and Tables 1 to 7c
 - highlighting in the comparison tables (applicable **only** to providers that previously returned HEIFES17)
 - other relevant issues.
77. The credibility warnings, and many of the changes in the comparison tables, will be automatically highlighted in your survey workbook as you complete it. They are triggered when your data exceeds certain thresholds – more information on this will be given in Appendices 3 and 4.
78. Generally queries are raised:
- a. Where your data differs from our usual expectations; for example, when you have a particularly low percentage of new entrants.
 - b. Where your data shows a significant change from previous years; for example, when your total number of students has increased or decreased in excess of a pre-set threshold (applicable **only** to providers that previously returned HEIFES17).

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – The HEIFES process

79. In your initial explanations, and when you respond to our queries, we require responses that directly relate to the query raised, provide an appropriate level of detail, and show an understanding of HEIFES definitions.
80. If you are addressing queries raised from the comparison tables in HEIFES18 (applicable **only** to providers that previously returned HEIFES17), you should describe how your higher education provision has changed compared with the previous year. You may wish to reference specific changes in provision at a subject or course level. You should also describe changes to any provider arrangements, for example if your subcontractual arrangements with other providers have changed.
81. We recognise that a single underlying issue can relate to several queries. In this case we do not expect you to repeat your answers – it is acceptable to answer once and refer to this answer later. However, you should also check to see whether there are any other issues that may have contributed to the query.
82. You should review responses your provider has provided to data verification queries in previous years to see whether these refer to ongoing issues (applicable **only** to providers that previously returned HEIFES17). We do not want to assume that these answers still apply to your provider, so may ask similar questions; it can be useful to pre-empt these questions by providing any relevant answers up front.

Signing off your data

83. When our queries have been resolved and any amendments to your data have been processed, we will ask for your data to be signed off by your provider's **accountable officer**, who is usually the principal. This is the same person as the accounting officer for providers as defined by the Education and Skills Funding Agency.
84. We will send you a verification form by email. Please check that the submission date and number match those in your most recent HEIFES workbook. Your accountable officer will need to sign this form, which should then be emailed to dataverification@officeforstudents.org.uk. The final deadline for us to have received the sign-off form is **noon on Monday 28 January 2019**.
85. Providers are reminded about the importance of meeting data collection deadlines, particularly as this forms part of the ongoing conditions of registration with the OfS. Where a provider fails to submit data on time, or returned data is not credible after verification, we may allocate funds based on our own estimates of student activity. Providers that do not submit credible data on time are more likely to be audited.

What happens after the data is signed off

86. Straight after the sign-off deadline, we will start to prepare your HEIFES data for various uses, including to calculate your grant for 2019-20.
87. Shortly after the data verification phase has ended, we will contact you for feedback on the HEIFES process, through an online survey. This feedback is extremely valuable to us, and will allow us to evaluate the effectiveness of the HEIFES process and guide any improvements that we may consider for future data collection.

Data assurance

88. Data assurance is an essential part of how we can ensure that our approach to regulation is appropriate and effective. The requirement to permit verification of information is condition F3, which applies to all registered providers. More information on condition F3 is set out on pages 127-131 of the Regulatory Framework⁹.

89. It is essential to keep an audit trail when filling out your HEIFES return, recording how your decisions have been made and the data used to support them. As part of our regulatory responsibilities examples of areas we may look at include:

- whether there is sufficient data for any estimates, forecasts or judgements
- evidence of enrolment and engagement
- any relevant internal audit work carried out on your student record system or HEIFES return.

90. Our data audits test the systems and processes used by a provider to prepare specific aspects of their data. This can involve desk-based audit work, as well as visits to providers to:

- a. Review systems used to manage student data.
- b. Review supporting audit trail documents that show how the return was produced.
- c. Test the values reported on the return and the assumptions underpinning it. This involves selecting samples (or whole populations) of students and testing how they have been reported in the return.

91. Audits will often include a review of the final (outturn) position of students at the end of an academic year. This will allow us to assess the reasonableness of any assumptions made when they were included in the HEIFES return, for instance in non-completion estimates.

92. We will compare your HEIFES with data submitted to the ILR for the same year. We will use this comparison to assess the risk that HEIFES or ILR data is incorrect. This could lead to assurance work and will be considered as part of ongoing registration.

Audit recommendations

93. Previous audits of HEIFES data have identified a number of areas where some providers were incorrectly interpreting the HEIFES definitions, or where internal provider systems and practices complicated the production of the HEIFES return. These have included:

- incorrect assignment of activity to price groups
- incorrect identification of mode of study
- inadequate recording of entry qualifications

⁹See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/.

- weaknesses in processing student withdrawals and transfers
- inadequate recording of submission dates of final assessments, for the purpose of determining completion status
- incorrect application of the rules on student completion (particularly those around the requirement for submission of the final assessment in all modules intended to be studied in the year)
- failure to identify students' study intentions for the year for the purpose of determining completion status
- lack of robustness in estimating non-completions and forecasting countable years
- incorrect calculation of FTE and incorrect assignment of multiple instances to part-time students following modular programmes
- poor communication and lack of oversight within partnership arrangements
- inadequate audit trail between the student record system and the HEIFES return
- lack of systems notes for recording data on student activity and for the HEIFES preparation process
- lack of rigorous checking including analytical review of figures in the return to identify anomalies and ensure that the data makes sense
- lack of reconciliation between HEIFES and ILR returns.

94. We strongly recommend that providers review their arrangements regularly, taking into account the above, as well as the blue-bordered 'Good practice' sections in this document. Providers should give particular attention to any changes introduced in HEIFES18, and ensure they have assurance over all aspects of the return in case of audit.

Good practice

Audit trail

95. You should keep an adequate audit trail between student record systems and the HEIFES return for **at least five years**. This should include a record of the basis for estimating non-completions and forecast countable years, along with any relevant electronically stored data, printouts and working papers used in completing the return. Source documents such as registration forms should also be retained, including information on students' detailed study intentions for the academic year and their qualifications on entry.

96. There should be an audit trail to individual figures in the return. In the case of figures based on activity up to the census date, a clear trail from individual students to the figures should be retained. During audit we may ask for a sample of these figures to be rebuilt. In the case of estimates and forecasts, there must be a clear rationale for the figures, and backup data justifying what is being returned.

97. Where your provider is involved in subcontractual or other partnership arrangements, your audit trail must contain evidence for the inclusion or exclusion of students (including details of the partnership arrangements between providers), and forecasts relating to such students. In particular, providers should ensure that evidence of completion status of students taught by partner providers is held.

Knowledge management and staff training

98. It is advisable to have **at least two people** who know how to prepare the HEIFES data return. At many providers, the knowledge required to prepare the HEIFES return is undocumented and sometimes lies with only one person. This creates a risk that in that person's absence, particularly at crucial times of the year, the provider may not be able to prepare the return on time and to the appropriate standard. A good audit trail helps to reduce this risk, but we also consider it good practice for all providers to manage this risk by ensuring that at least two people can produce the information for the return and prepare the return itself.

99. All relevant staff, including experienced staff, should consider the HEIFES guidance each year and make any necessary changes to their systems. Providers should also ensure that the relevant processes are adequately documented and that this documentation is kept up to date.

100. Staff should prepare data returns using **OfS funding rules** set out in this document, **not** their own academic regulations. There are, quite reasonably, differences between providers' academic regulations and the rules relating to the counting of students for funding purposes. It is essential that individuals involved in completing student data fields used for funding purposes fully understand the fields they are completing in the student record. For these fields, student activity should be reported with regard to funding rules and not in accordance with the provider's own academic regulations and progression rules. This is discussed in more detail in Annex D.

101. Your data collection and recording procedures should be **applied consistently** across the provider. Although providers have academic regulations and procedures for managing student data in their student record systems, practice within providers can be inconsistent. In general, provider practices for collecting and recording data should be applied consistently across all departments and faculties with the same data requirements. However, some departments may have additional requirements to meet. For example, faculties of health studies often have requirements beyond those of the rest of the provider.

102. Your staff should understand the **funding rules** and how they relate to the provider's **record system**. Data quality will be improved if staff who input data into, manage and maintain the student record system understand and take into account the requirements of its users. Many instances have been found where staff responsible for completing key fields required for funding purposes had no training on the funding rules governing their completion. In many cases the data required to complete those fields correctly was not recorded on the main student record system, so robust centralised systems could not be implemented, and reliance was placed on inadequately trained staff. All users should be trained in the provider's data requirements, with reference to any differences between academic regulation requirements and funding rule requirements, so that they understand why they are asked to perform particular tasks.

Analytical reviews and data reconciliations

103. You should **check your 2018-19 ILR** record against your HEIFES18 data **before** your ILR data is submitted. Differences should be examined as part of the process for identifying possible data errors, and amendments made to the ILR data if necessary. It should also help to eliminate inconsistencies in students' treatment in the two returns for future reference, and reduce systems problems with the way students are returned in ILR data before submission. In summer 2019 we expect to give providers access to a data checking tool that will be able to recreate a provider's HEIFES18 data from its 2018-19 ILR return.

Management information

104. In gaining assurance we do not ask for any reports that could not reasonably be expected to be used in everyday activity. However, some providers have great difficulty in extracting this standard data from the student record system, and many do not even hold the required data. Data that cannot be extracted and reported on is of limited value.

105. Developing exception reporting, and using it to highlight data issues for review and subsequent amendment, will help to ensure that high-quality data is returned. Data quality is also enhanced by data management reviews by those with a good understanding of the data.

Self-check questions

106. Please ensure that you can answer 'Yes' to all these questions before submitting the completed HEIFES18 return.

- Q1. Is your system recording student information in accordance with the OfS' funding rules? Have you complied with the OfS funding rules and definitions, as set out in Part 2?
- Q2. Have you completed the 'Courses' table in full, as this will populate Column 1 data in Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5?
- Q3. Have you used the Learning Direct Classification System (LDCS) codes associated with individual course learning aims to apportion provision split between price groups?
- Q4. Have you used robust and accurate past performance data to inform any forecasts and estimates on your provider's return?
- Q5. Have you checked that any forecast years of course (Column 2 of Tables 1 to 7) meet the criteria to be included in Column 2? (See Annex C.)
- Q6. Have you checked that you are using the correct definition of non-completions? (See Annex D.)
- Q7. Have you included all contracted-out years of course on your provider's return (and excluded them from the teaching provider's return)? Have you excluded all contracted-in years of course on your provider's return? (See Annex A.)
- Q8. Have you passed all of the validation checks on each table? (See Appendix 2.)
- Q9. Where the workbook shows credibility warnings, or automatic check highlighting on the comparison tables, have you:
- checked the data to make sure that it is correct?
 - checked that you are using the definitions set out in the relevant sections of this publication?
 - emailed dataverification@officeforstudents.org.uk to adequately explain why the data is credible?
- Q10. Have you kept an effective audit trail to your student records system?

Guidance for completing workbook tables

Selecting students to include in the survey

107. You will first need to read the guidance in Annex A to identify which students are in the HEIFES population for 2018-19. You will also need to refer to Annex B to identify ‘recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes’.
108. In HEIFES18 you must record ‘years of course’ rather than students. This is because students may be on more than one course, and not all years may count. Annex C fully explains which years of course should be counted in the HEIFES18 survey.
109. The census date for HEIFES18 is **1 November 2018**. A student starting in the academic year but withdrawing before that date should not be counted.
110. When completing the survey you need to refer to Annexes D to L for definitions. You may be asked questions during data verification to make sure you are using the correct definitions.

The tables in the HEIFES18 survey workbook

111. The HEIFES18 survey is an Excel workbook. There are **10 worksheets** (A ‘Courses’ table and Tables 1 to 7c) that you may need to complete. These worksheets are listed in Figure 1. You may not need to enter data into all of the worksheets for your survey, for instance if you do not offer health courses you will not need to complete Tables 7a-c. Figure 2 lists other worksheets that are automatically filled and show data comparisons for providers that previously returned HEIFES and are receiving OfS funding in 2018-19.

Figure 1: The tables in the HEIFES18 workbook

Table number	Name of worksheet	Title or description	Action
	Validation	If you attempt to upload a workbook with validation errors, the results package workbook will include this sheet which will contain details of the errors.	Automatically filled in the results package
	Courses	Countable years of course between 1 August and 1 November 2018 at course level.	Provider to complete
1	1 Full-time	Full-time counts of years of course.	Provider to complete
2	2 Sandwich	Sandwich year out counts of years of course.	Provider to complete
3	3 Part-time	Part-time counts of years of course and FTE.	Provider to complete
4	4 Year abroad	Home and EU undergraduate years abroad.	Provider to complete
5	5 Planning	Further student breakdowns for planning purposes.	Provider to complete

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Table number	Name of worksheet	Title or description	Action
6	6 Subcontractual	Years of course taught under subcontractual arrangements by other providers.	Provider to complete
7a	7a Health full-time	Full-time counts of years of course for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 starters on pre-registration health courses.	Provider to complete
7b	7b Health sandwich	Sandwich year out counts of years of course for 2016-17 and 2017-18 starters on pre-registration health courses.	Provider to complete
7c	7c Health part-time	Part-time counts of years of course and FTE for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 starters on pre-registration health courses.	Provider to complete

Figure 2: Comparison tables for providers that previously returned HEIFES and are receiving OfS funding in 2018-19

Name of worksheet	Title or description	Action
Comparison 1	Tables in these worksheets summarise your HEIFES18 data and compare it with previous years. You may be asked questions on large changes during data verification.	Automatically filled
Comparison 2		Automatically filled
Comparison 3		Automatically filled
Other comparisons	These tables are for information only and are not generally used during data verification. Tables in this worksheet summarise your HEIFES18 data and compare it with previous years.	Automatically filled
A Summary B High-cost C Student premium D Erasmus+ E Nursing, midwifery and allied health (NMAH) supplement F Other TAs (targeted allocations) G Parameters	These worksheets compare your teaching funding for 2018-19 (shown in your latest grant tables) with funding modelled using your HEIFES18 data. Funding is modelled using the 2018-19 funding methods and parameters. Modelled funding is provided solely for data verification purposes and is not an indication of funding for 2019-20 or funding adjustment for 2018-19.	Automatically filled

112. Appendix 5 will provide further information on the worksheets A to G.

113. You should note that in the following guidance, when we refer to column numbers and letters, we refer to the column titles on the tables, not to worksheet columns. Column titles may include more than one worksheet column.

Completing the tables

114. For the Courses table and Tables 1 to 7c there are three different cell types:
- white cells – these are cells where we require data to be entered where appropriate to your provider
 - blue cells – these are cells that have been either pre-populated with data from another source, or pre-filled by an underlying calculation
 - grey cells – these cells are locked and data cannot be entered into them.
115. When entering data into the Courses table and Tables 1 to 7c, you may see two types of highlighted message above the table:
- a. **Validation failures** (red highlighting) indicate where the data you have entered is not correct – for example, if you enter a positive number instead of a negative one in the ‘non-completions’ column. If any validation checks are triggered, you should check your data and make any necessary corrections. We will not accept a workbook with any validation failures.
 - b. **Credibility checks** (orange highlighting) indicate where your data is possible, but appears unusual – for example, if there is a very high or very low proportion of new entrants. If any credibility checks are triggered, you should first check that your data is correct. If the data is correct, you will need to explain the underlying causes during data verification.
116. If any checks are triggered, further explanatory text will be automatically displayed, either below or to the right of the table. Further detail on these checks will be provided in Appendix 2 (validation checks) and Appendix 3 (credibility checks).
117. We recommend taking notes on any triggered credibility checks after you complete the workbook. You should email us your explanations for these when you submit your workbook; for example, a high percentage of one-year courses might explain an unusually high proportion of new entrants.

Before you start

118. The first step in filling in the tables is to define who to include in the HEIFES18 survey using Annexes A, B and C. Once you have worked out this population, you will need to look at the modes of study of these students, using Annex H.

Validation

119. If you attempt to upload a workbook with validation errors, the resulting package will include this sheet which will contain details of the errors.

Courses table

120. The ‘Courses’ table collects a breakdown of ‘years of course’ countable between 1 August and 1 November 2018 at course level. Completion of the Courses table is mandatory for all further education colleges, sixth form colleges and academies. A partial screenshot of this table is shown in Figure 4.

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121. Enter the learning aim reference for a course to look up its price group or groups and level. The data collected in the Courses table will automatically populate Column 1 on Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5. The price group assignment used in automatically populating the Courses table is primarily determined by the LDCS code(s) for the learning aim. However, it also takes account of the specific cases (not based on LDCS code) that determine price groups for pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession and education courses (as set out in Annex G paragraphs 2 to 10) **where these are already known for a provider.**
122. If you believe you have a course that is not mapping correctly to price group on the courses table because of the specific categories in Annex G paragraphs 2 to 10, please email heifes@officeforstudents.org.uk setting out full details of why you believe the mapping is incorrect. This may apply in particular to teacher training courses that lead to qualifications of awarding bodies that do not have full degree awarding powers; and to new courses that you may have introduced for 2018-19. If you do not have a learning aim reference, or if you think the learning aim reference is incorrect, please also contact us at heifes@officeforstudents.org.uk to provide details.
123. The courses worksheet is only for years of course that have started on or before 1 November 2018. These years should be included in Column 1 of Table 1, 2 or 3 and Column 1 of Table 5. See Annex C for further guidance.

Figure 3: Breakdown of years of course

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Mode of study	Full-time Sandwich year out Part-time	Annex H
Price group	B C1 C2 D	Annex G
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F
Residential status	UK-domiciled Other Home and EU Island and overseas	Annex F paragraph 8

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	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Level of study	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters' loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters' loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I
Sub-level	UG: 'The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies' (FHEQ) Level 4 and 5 apprenticeship; FHEQ Level 6+ apprenticeship; All other UG PG (UG fee): Apprenticeship; All other PG (UG fee) PG (Masters' loan): Apprenticeship; All other PG (Masters' loan) PG (Other): Apprenticeship; All other PG (Other)	Annex I Annex B (apprenticeships)
Length of year	Standard-length Long	Annex J

124. To complete the table:

- a. Enter the **learning aim reference** for each course. The **course title** will be completed automatically.
- b. The **price group or groups** of the course will be completed. If a course is split across more than one price group, enter the **proportion** of the course that is in each price group (see Annex G) as a percentage. The total for the course must add up to 100 per cent. It is possible to enter the same learning aim reference on multiple rows of the courses table. This may be useful where a learning aim reference is split across different price groups and the proportion attributable to each price group can vary, so that the proportional split between price groups can be more accurately recorded. Where such splits appear unusual we may query this during data verification to request further information.
- c. **Level, sub-level** and **length** are completed automatically for the course. However, if this does not reflect your provision accurately you can overwrite the value in the cell with the following options (necessary in particular to identify apprenticeships):
 - i. Level – UG, PG (UG fee), PG (Masters' loan), PG (Other).
 - ii. Sub-level (for undergraduate courses) – FHEQ Level 4 and 5 apprenticeship, FHEQ Level 6+ apprenticeship, all other UG; (for each postgraduate level) – apprenticeship; all other PG.
 - iii. Length – Standard, Long.

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- d. Enter the number of years of course, broken down in the ways shown in Figure 3.
- e. After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see paragraph 126). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

125. **Validation failure** messages will occur in the Courses table if:

- a. A row has an invalid or blank learning aim reference.
- b. Price group proportions have not been entered where required.
- c. The total of the price group proportions do not equal 100 per cent.
- d. The price group proportion is not a whole percentage (no decimals).
- e. The course level has not been entered as 'UG', 'PG (UG fee)', 'PG (Masters' loan)' or 'PG (Other)'.
- f. The sub-level is not compatible with the level.
- g. The course length has not been entered as 'Standard' or 'Long'.
- h. Whole numbers have not been entered (no decimal points) where required.
- i. Positive numbers have not been entered where required.
- j. A row has been left blank when data has been entered below it.
- k. A row has a learning aim reference but no years countable.

126. **Credibility warnings** will occur in the Courses table if:

- a. The same course has been entered into multiple rows.
- b. A price group proportion has been entered as 0 per cent where there is more than one price group.
- c. The level or sub-level entered does not match the level recorded on the Learning Aim Reference Service.

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

Figure 4: Partial screenshot of Courses table

Courses table: Countable years of course between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 at course level																											
Provider																											
Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: Failure (see right of table) First-stage credibility: Warnings (see right of table)			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK															
									Full-time Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive			Sandwich year out Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive			Part-time Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive												
									Home and EU			Home and EU			Home and EU												
									(a) O/S-fundable UK-domicile and EU			(b) Non-fundable UK-domicile and EU			(c) Island and overseas			(a) O/S-fundable UK-domicile and EU			(b) Non-fundable UK-domicile and EU			(c) Island and overseas			
Row number	Learning aim reference	Course title	Price group 1	Price group proportion 1	Price group 2	Price group proportion 2	Price group 3	Price group proportion 3	Level	Sub-level	Length	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)	(i)	(ii)
1	100700633	HNC in Engineering (Mechanical/Manufacture)	B	100%					US	All other US	Standard	3		5		3											
2	00239642	BSc (Hons) in Animal Management	B	100%					US	Other US degree	Standard	20		7		3											
3	00240968	BA (Hons) Photography	C1	100%					US	Other US degree	Standard																

Learning aims are included in the figure above for illustrative purposes only.

Table 1 Full-time

127. Once you have defined who to include in the HEIFES18 survey using Annexes A, B and C, record years of course for all full-time students in Table 1. Refer to Annex H for the definition of full-time. We will use this information when we calculate funding for 2019-20. A partial screenshot of Table 1 is shown in Figure 6.

128. Years of course recorded in Table 1 should **not** be included in Tables 2 or 3.

129. In Columns 2 and 3 you will need to break down years of course in the ways shown in Figure 5. Column 1 will automatically be populated using the information in the Courses table.

130. This table can be filtered by price group to make it easier to complete.

Figure 5: Breakdown of full-time years of course

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Price group	B, C1, C2, D (Some years of course are split across price groups. In these cases up to two decimal places can be used but the total for the years of course must be a whole number.)	Annex G
Length of year	Standard-length Long	Annex J
Level of study	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters' loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters' loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F

131. When completing Table 1:

- a. **Column 1** is automatically populated from the data collected in the Courses table, and records years of course that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive.
- b. Enter in **Column 2** years of course that you forecast will start between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive. This may include new entrants or those on the second or subsequent years of a course.

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- c. See Annex C for full instructions on whether to record years in the Courses table or in Column 2 of Table 1.
 - d. Enter in **Column 3** a forecast of the total number of years of course included in Column 1 and Column 2 that will not be completed. Non-completions must be recorded as a negative number. You should use the definitions and methodology for calculating estimates described in Annex D. You may be asked questions on your methodology during data verification.
 - e. **Column 4** will be filled automatically with the numbers of completed years, as you enter data into Columns 2 and 3.
 - f. The totals in the **final rows** will be filled automatically and must add up to whole numbers.
132. After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see paragraph 134). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

133. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 1 if:

- a. Your totals do not add up to whole numbers. If you have courses that are split across price groups the totals must still be a whole number. Refer to Annex G for how to record this.
- b. Column 3 contains a positive number, or any other column contains a negative number.
- c. You record numbers to more than two decimal places.

134. **Credibility warnings** will occur in Table 1 if:

- a. You record zero non-completions in Column 3 in a row where you have recorded at least 50 years of course across Columns 1 and 2.
- b. Your total of forecast years not completed in Column 3 is equal to the combined total years of course recorded in Columns 1 and 2.

Figure 6: Partial screenshot of Table 1 Full-time

Table 1: Full-time counts of years of course

East Filton College

			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK		
			Column 1 Automatically populated			Column 2			Column 3			Column 4 Automatically populated		
			Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive			Forecast of years countable between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive			Forecast of years not completed (negative values)			Estimated completed years academic year 2018-19 (Columns 1 + 2 + 3)		
			Home and EU			Home and EU			Home and EU			Home and EU		
Price group	Length	Level	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)
B	Standard	UG	30.00	12.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	12.00	6.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Long	UG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C1	Standard	UG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Long	UG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C2	Standard	UG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Long	UG	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (UG fee)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Masters' loan)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		PG (Other)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Information Courses 1 Full-time 2 Sandwich 3 Part-time 4 Year abroad 5 Planning 6 Subcontractual 7a Health full-time 7b Health sandwich 7c Health part-time ...

Price group: Annex G

Year length: Annex J

Level of study: Annex I

Column 1 or 2: Annex C

Column 3 Non-completions (negative number): Annex D

Column 4 automatically filled

Fundability status: Annex F

Table 2 Sandwich

135. Once you have determined who to include in the HEIFES18 survey using Annexes A, B and C, record years of course for all students on a sandwich year out in Table 2. Refer to Annex H for the definition of a sandwich year out. Students must meet this definition to be included in this table. We will use this information when we calculate funding for 2019-20. A partial screenshot of Table 2 is shown in Figure 8.

136. Years of course recorded in Table 2 should **not** be included in Tables 1 or 3.

137. In Columns 2 and 3 you need to break down sandwich years out in the ways shown in Figure 7. Column 1 will automatically be populated using the information in the Courses table.

Figure 7: Breakdown of sandwich year out years of course

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Level of study	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters' loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters' loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F

138. When completing Table 2:

- a. **Column 1** is automatically populated from the data collected in the Courses table, and records years of course that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive.
- b. Enter in **Column 2** sandwich years out that you forecast will start between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive. This may include new entrants (very unlikely for a sandwich year out) or those on the second or subsequent years of a course.
- c. See Annex C for full instructions on whether to record years in the Courses table or in Column 2 of Table 2.
- d. Enter in **Column 3** a forecast of the number of sandwich years out that will not be completed. Non-completions must be recorded as a negative number. Use the definitions and the methodology for calculating estimates described in Annex D. You may be asked questions on your methodology during data verification.

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- e. **Column 4** will be filled automatically with the numbers of completed years, as you enter data into Columns 2 and 3.
- f. The totals in the **final row** will be filled automatically.

139. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 2 if:

- a. You do not record whole numbers.
- b. You enter a positive number of non-completions in Column 3, or a negative number in any other column.

Figure 8: Partial screenshot of Table 2 Sandwich

Table 2: Sandwich year out counts of years of course

East Filton College

		Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK		
		Column 1 Automatically populated Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive			Column 2 Forecast of years countable between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive			Column 3 Forecast of years not completed (negative values)			Column 4 Automatically populated Estimated completed years academic year 2018-19 (Columns 1 + 2 + 3)		
		Home and EU			Home and EU			Home and EU			Home and EU		
Price group	Level	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)	OFS-fundable (a)	Non-fundable (b)	Island and overseas (c)
C2	UG	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PG (UG fee)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PG (Masters' loan)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PG (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Validation checks for Table 2 (see Appendix 2 for full definitions of the underlying formulae)

1. The following cells in Column 3 contain positive values:
2. The following cells contain values that are not whole numbers:
3. The following cells in Columns 2 and 4 contain negative values:

Price group: Annex G

Level of study: Annex I

Column 1 or Column 2: Annex C

Column 3 Non-completions (negative number): Annex D

Complete all relevant cells in Columns 2 and 3 with count of full-time years of course

Table 3 Part-time

140. Once you have determined who to include in the HEIFES18 survey using Annexes A, B and C, record the number of years of course for all part-time students in Table 3. Refer to Annex H for the definition of part-time. We will use this information when we calculate funding for 2019-20. A partial screenshot of Table 3 is shown in Figure 10.

141. Years of course recorded in Table 3 should **not** be included in Tables 1 or 2.

142. In Columns 2, 3 and 4a you need to break down years of course in the ways shown in Figure 9. Column 1 will automatically be populated using the information in the Courses table.

143. The table can be filtered by price group to make it easier to complete.

Figure 9: Breakdown of part-time years of course

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Price group	B, C1, C2, D (Some years of course are split across price groups. In these cases up to two decimal places can be used but the total for the years of course must be a whole number.)	Annex G
Length of year	Standard-length Long	Annex J
Level of study	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters' loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters' loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F

144. When completing Table 3:

- a. **Column 1** is automatically populated from the data collected in the Courses table, and records years of course that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive.
- b. Enter in **Column 2** years of course that you forecast will start between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive. This may include new entrants or those on the second or subsequent years of a course.

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- c. See Annex C for full instructions on whether to record years in the Courses table or in Column 2 of Table 3.
 - d. Enter in **Column 3** a forecast of the number of years of course that will not be completed. Non-completions must be recorded as a negative number. Use the definitions and the methodology for calculating estimates in Annex D. You may be asked questions on your methodology during data verification.
 - e. **Column 4** will be filled automatically with the numbers of completed years, as you enter data into Columns 2 and 3.
 - f. Enter in **Column 4a** the FTE for the number of completed years of course in Column 4. This should be the total full-time equivalent years of course for that row, not the average FTE per year of course. Refer to Annex E for guidance on how to determine the FTE of part-time students.
 - g. The totals in the **final rows** will be completed automatically.
145. After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see Part 1, paragraph 147). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

146. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 3 if:

- a. The totals for Columns 1 to 3 do not add up to whole numbers. If you have courses that are split across price groups the totals must still be whole numbers. Refer to Annex G for how to record this.
- b. Column 3 contains a positive number, or any other column contains a negative number.
- c. You record numbers to more than two decimal places.
- d. The FTE recorded in Column 4a is greater than the years of course in Column 4.
- e. The FTE recorded in Column 4a makes the average FTE for that row less than 0.03. (Years of course that have an FTE of less than this are not included – see Annex H.)

147. **Credibility** warnings will occur in Table 3 if:

- a. You record zero non-completions in Column 3 in a row where you have recorded at least 50 years of course across Columns 1 and 2.
- b. Your total of forecast years not completed in Column 3 is equal to the combined total years of course recorded in Columns 1 and 2.
- c. The total PG (Masters' loan) or PG (Other) FTE recorded in Column 4a makes the average FTE for that level 80 per cent or more.

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- d. The total UG or PG (UG fee) FTE recorded in Column 4a makes the average FTE for that level 67 per cent or more.

Figure 10: Partial screenshot of Table 3 Part-time

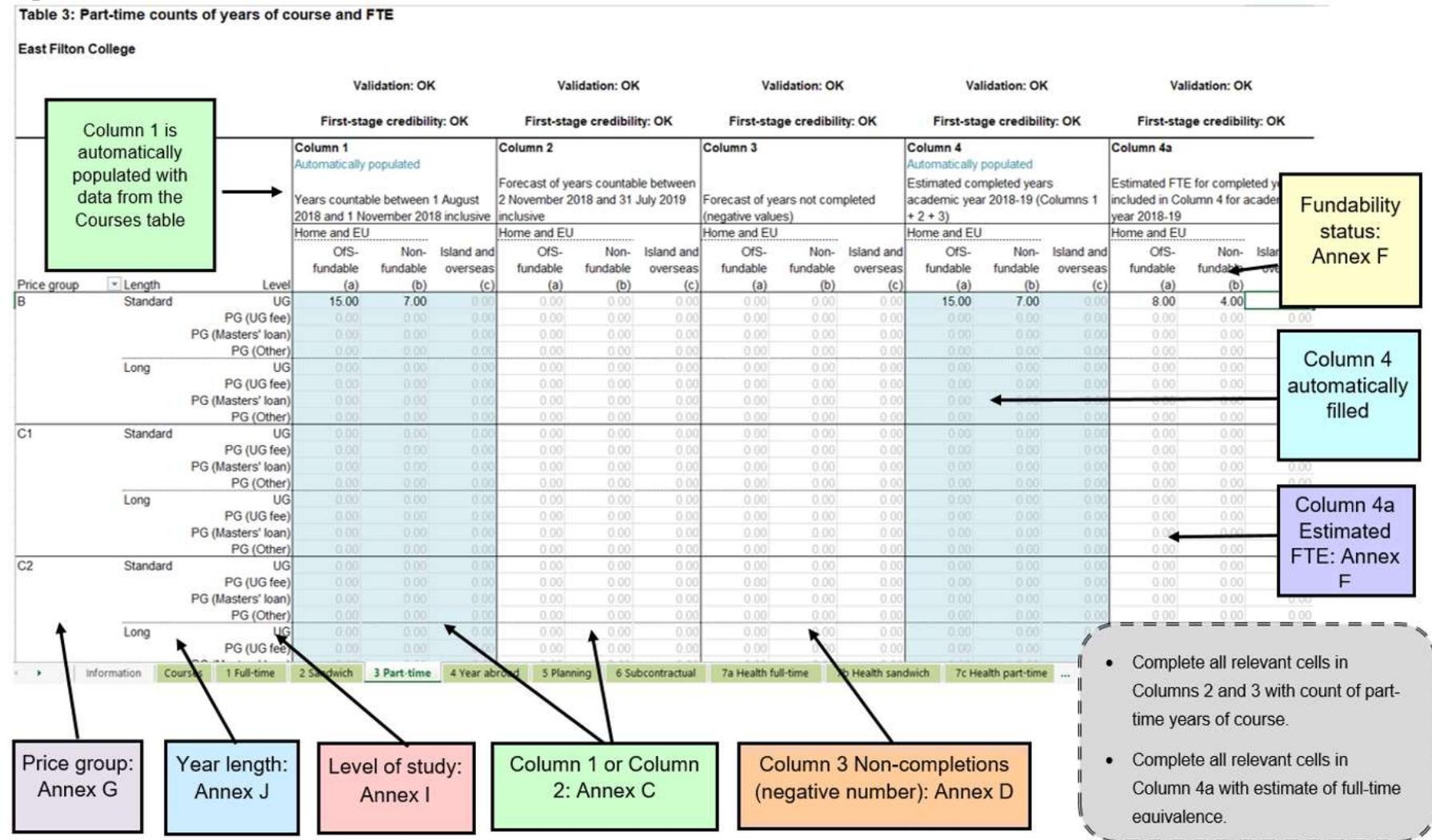


Table 4 Year abroad

148. In this table record years of course for undergraduates taking a year abroad in 2018-19 as part of their course. You will also record these years of course in Table 1 if they are full-time, or Table 2 if they are sandwich year out. We use this information for planning purposes and when we calculate funding provided under our 'Erasmus+ and overseas study programmes' targeted allocation.

149. You must only include Home and EU students, as defined in Annex F. A partial screenshot of Table 4 is shown in Figure 12.

150. You need to break down the number of years abroad into the categories shown in Figure 11.

Figure 11: Breakdown of years abroad

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Type of year abroad	Outgoing Erasmus+ year abroad Outgoing year abroad outside the Erasmus+ programme	Annex K
Mode of study	Full-time Sandwich year out	Annex H
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable	Annex F

151. When completing Table 4:

- a. Enter in **Column 1** years abroad that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive.
- b. Enter in **Column 2** years abroad that you forecast will start between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive.

152. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 4 if:

- a. Whole numbers have not been entered where required.
- b. Positive numbers have not been entered where required.
- c. You enter numbers that are greater in total than the equivalent totals you recorded in Table 1 (Full-time) or Table 2 (Sandwich).

Figure 12: Partial screenshot of Table 4 Year abroad

Table 4: Home and EU undergraduate years abroad

Provider

Mode of study:
Annex H

	Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK				Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK			
	Column 1				Column 2			
	Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive				Forecast of years countable between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019			
Type of year abroad	(a) Full-time		(b) Sandwich year		(a) Full-time		(b) Sandwich year	
	OfS- fundable (i)	Non- fundable (ii)	OfS- fundable (i)	Non- fundable (ii)	OfS- fundable (i)	Non- fundable (ii)	OfS- fundable (i)	Non- fundable (ii)
Outgoing Erasmus+ year abroad	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outgoing year abroad outside the Erasmus+ programme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Type of year abroad: Annex K

Fundability status: Annex F

Column 1 or Column 2: Annex B

Validation checks for Table 4 (see Appendix 2 for full definitions of the underlying formulae)

1. The following cells contain values that are not whole numbers:
2. The following cells contain negative numbers:
3. The following totals are greater than the equivalent undergraduate totals in Tables 1 and 2:

Complete all relevant cells in Columns 1 and 2 with counts of years of course

	Information	Validation	Courses	1 Full-time	2 Sandwich	3 Part-time	4 Year abroad	5 Planning	6 Subcontractual	7a Health full-tim
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Table 5 Planning

153. Table 5 collects information about students recorded in Tables 1 to 3, broken down into different categories. The table provides more detailed information on qualification level, the number of new entrants and apprenticeships at your college. This information is collected for planning and monitoring purposes. The data gives an early indication, for purposes including government planning, of the number of students starting higher education courses recognised for OfS funding purposes.
154. In Table 5, you need to include the years of course that you included in Tables 1, 2 and 3, broken down in the ways shown in Figure 13. A partial screenshot of Table 5 is shown in Figure 14.
155. As described in paragraph 34, the format of Table 5 has changed since HEIFES17 in that the different levels of apprenticeships are now recorded as qualification sub-levels rather than in a separate column. This is detailed in Figure 13.

Figure 13: Breakdown of years of course for planning purposes

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Mode of study	Full-time and sandwich year out Part-time	Annex H
Level	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters' loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters' loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I
Sub-level	UG: FHEQ Level 4 and 5 apprenticeship; FHEQ Level 6+ apprenticeship; All other UG PG (UG fee): Apprenticeship; All other PG (UG fee) PG (Masters' loan): Apprenticeship; All other PG (Masters' loan) PG (Other): Apprenticeship; All other PG (Other)	Annex B and Annex I
Fundability status	OfS-fundable Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F
Residential status	UK-domiciled Other Home and EU Island and overseas	Annex F, paragraph 8
Years countable	All years (Section A) New entrants (Section B)	Annex C

Section A: All years

156. **Column 1** is automatically populated from the data collected in the Courses table, and records years of course that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive. The totals for this column will be the same as the total for Columns 1 of Tables 1 and 2 for full-time and sandwich year out numbers (which are combined in Table 5), and will be the same as the total for Column 1 of Table 3 for part-time numbers.

157. Enter in **Column 2** years of course that started between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive. The totals for this column must be the same as the total for Columns 2 of Tables 1 and 2 for full-time and sandwich year out numbers (which are combined in Table 5), and must be the same as the total for Column 2 of Table 3 for part-time numbers.

Section B: New entrants

158. Enter in **Section B** the years of course included in Section A of this table that are new entrants. See Annex C, paragraph 14.

159. After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see paragraph 161). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

160. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 5 if:

- a. You do not enter whole numbers.
- b. You enter a negative number.
- c. The totals in Section A: All years, Column 2 are not the same as the relevant totals in the corresponding Column 2 of Tables 1, 2 or 3.
- d. In Section B: New entrants, you record more new entrants than there are years of course in Section A: All years.

161. **Credibility** warnings will occur in Table 5 if you record:

- a. No new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- b. All of the students in Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- d. 70 per cent or more of your Home and EU, undergraduate, full-time and sandwich year out years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- e. 25 per cent or less of your Home and EU, undergraduate, full-time and sandwich year out years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- f. 50 per cent or less of your Home and EU, postgraduate, full-time and sandwich year out years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.

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- g. 70 per cent or more of your Home and EU, undergraduate, part-time years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- h. 15 per cent or less of your Home and EU, undergraduate, part-time years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- i. 70 per cent or more of your Home and EU, postgraduate, part-time years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- j. 25 per cent or less of your Home and EU, postgraduate, part-time years of course from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- k. 25 per cent or less of your Island and overseas students from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.
- l. 70 per cent or more of your Island and overseas students from Section A: All years as new entrants in Section B: New entrants.

Figure 14: Partial screenshot of Table 5 Planning

Table 5: Further student breakdowns for planning purposes

Provider

Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK Validation: OK First-stage credibility: OK

Residential status: Annex F

Column 1 is automatically populated with data from the Courses table

			Section A: All years						Section B: New entrants						
			Column 1 Automatically populated Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive			Column 2 Years countable between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive (as entered in Column 2 of Tables 1, 2 and 3)			New entrants included in Section A of this table						
			(a) OFS-fundable		(b) Non-fundable		(c) Island and overseas		(a) OFS-fundable		(b) Non-fundable		(c) Island and overseas		
Mode	Level	Sub-level	UK-domiciled (i)	Other Home and EU (ii)	UK-domiciled (i)	Other Home and EU (ii)	and overseas	UK-domiciled (i)	Other Home and EU (ii)	UK-domiciled (i)	Other Home and EU (ii)	and overseas	UK-domiciled (i)	Other Home and EU (ii)	and overseas
Full-time and sandwich year out	UG	FHEQ level 4 and 5 apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		FHEQ level 6+ apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		All other UG	10	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PG (UG fee)	Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		All other PG (UG fee)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PG (Masters' loan)	All other PG (Masters' loan)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	All other PG (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Part-time	UG	FHEQ level 4 and 5 apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		FHEQ level 6+ apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		All other UG	15	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	PG (UG fee)	Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		All other PG (UG fee)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PG (Masters' loan)	All other PG (Masters' loan)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Apprenticeship	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	All other PG (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
All m			25	0	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total			25	0	12	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Mode of study: Annex H

Level and sub-level: Annex I

Fundability status: Annex F

Section A: All years Column 1 or Column 2: Annex C

Section B: New entrants Annex C

Information Validation Courses 1 Full-time 2 Sandwich 3 Part-time 4 Year abroad 5 Planning 6 Subcontractual 7a Health full-time ...

Table 6 Subcontractual

162. Table 6 collects information on any subcontractual arrangements that your college may have with other providers. We collect this information for planning purposes, and to reconcile with regulatory data for 2018-19¹⁰. Only students who are registered with your college, but part or all of whose year is taught by another provider under a subcontractual arrangement, should be recorded on this table. Annex A provides further guidance and definitions of a subcontractual relationship.
163. Subcontracted years are often referred to as ‘franchised’, but you should make sure that only years of course that meet our definitions in Annex A are returned on Table 6. For example, we would not generally expect any years of course to be returned for exchange programs or for informal arrangements between providers.
164. Record the years of course that are subcontracted out to other providers (in whole or part) in 2018-19. These years of course should also be recorded in Tables 1, 2 or 3. Information should be recorded under the categories shown in Figure 15. A partial screenshot of Table 6 is shown in Figure 16.
165. Subcontracted-in provision should not be recorded in HEIFES and therefore is also excluded from Table 6.
166. The table can be filtered by UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) to make it easier to complete.

Figure 15: Years of course taught under subcontractual arrangements by other providers

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
UKPRN	Record the UKPRN of the provider that your provider subcontracts to.	Annex A
Name of provider	This will be filled in automatically after you enter the UKPRN.	
Mode of study	Full-time and sandwich year out Part-time	Annex H
Level of study	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate taught study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements PG (Masters’ loan): postgraduate taught study on courses eligible under masters’ loan arrangements that are not PG (UG fee) PG (Other): postgraduate taught study not falling into the previous two categories	Annex I

¹⁰ Available at See: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/existing-regulatory-data/.

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	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Fundability status	Home and EU, OfS-fundable Home and EU, Non-fundable Island and overseas	Annex F
Years countable	All years (Section A) New entrants (Section B)	Annex C

167. When completing Table 6:

- a. Enter the UKPRN for the subcontracted provider in the **UKPRN** column. This will then automatically populate the **Name of provider** column. You will not be able to edit this column.
- b. Where the UKPRN for a provider is not known, values can be obtained from the UK Register of Learning Providers (www.ukrlp.co.uk/).
- c. Select the **Mode**, **Level** and **Fundability** status using the drop-down menu in each column. A separate line will need to be entered for each combination of these three columns.
- d. Enter in **Section A** all years of course from Columns 1 and 2 of Tables 1, 2 and 3 that are contracted out; this means all those that start in the academic year, whether before or after 1 November.
- e. Enter in **Section B** how many of the years of course in Section A are new entrants. See Annex C paragraph 14.

168. After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see paragraph 170). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

169. **Validation failure** messages will occur in Table 6 if:

- a. A row has an invalid or blank UKPRN.
- b. An option from the drop-down menu has not been selected for mode, level or fundability status.
- c. No countable years have been entered in Section A: All years.
- d. Whole numbers have not been entered where required.
- e. Positive numbers have not been entered where required.
- f. The totals for each combination of mode, level and fundability status in Section A: All years are greater than the corresponding totals in Tables 1 (Full-time), 2 (Sandwich) or 3 (Part-time).

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

g. The totals for each combination of mode, level and fundability status in Section B: New entrants are greater than the corresponding totals in Table 5 (Planning).

h. The cell in Section B: New entrants is greater than the equivalent cell in Section A: All years.

i. A row has been left blank when data has been entered below it.

170. **Credibility** warnings will occur in Table 6 if:

a. No new entrants are recorded in Section B: New entrants.

b. You record all subcontracted students as new entrants (total of Section B = total of Section A).

Figure 16: Illustrative partial screenshot of Table 6 Subcontractual

Table 6: Years of course taught under subcontractual arrangements by other providers

East Filton College

First-stage credibility: OK					Validation: OK	Validation: OK	Validation: OK
First-stage credibility: OK					First-stage credibility: OK	First-stage credibility: OK	First-stage credibility: OK
Row number	UKPRN	Name of provider	Mode	Level	Fundability status	Section A: All years Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive	Section B: New entrants New entrants included in Section A of this table
					Total	16	4
1	10031402	ELLIOTT CLARKE LIMITED	FT + SWOUT	UG	Home & EU, Non-fundable	5	2
2	10031402	ELLIOTT CLARKE LIMITED	PT	UG	Home & EU, OfS-fundable	5	0
3	10031239	LIVERPOOL MEDIA ACADEMY LIMITED	FT + SWOUT	UG	Home & EU, OfS-fundable	5	2
4	10031239	LIVERPOOL MEDIA ACADEMY LIMITED	PT	UG	Island & overseas	1	0
5						0	0

UKPRN and name of provider sub contracted to: Annex A

Mode of study: Annex H

Level of study: Annex I

Fundability status: Annex F

Section A: All years
Sum of years countable

Section B: New entrants
Annex C

Information Courses 1 Full-time 2 Sandwich 3 Part-time 4 Year abroad 5 Planning 6 Subcontractual 7a Health full-time 7b Health sandwich 7c Health part-time ...

Note – providers and numbers used in the figure above are for illustrative purposes only

Tables 7a Health full-time, 7b Health sandwich and 7c Health part-time

171. Table 7 is split between Table 7a Health full-time, 7b Health sandwich and 7c Health part-time. Tables 7a, 7b and 7c collect information about years of course that lead to first registrable qualifications for the health professions listed in Figure 17. Only providers delivering pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions in 2018-19 need to complete these tables. The data will be used for planning purposes and to inform funding allocations for providers in 2019-20. Further guidance on definitions specific to these tables is provided in Annex L.
172. The tables are mutually exclusive; for example, years of course recorded in Table 7a should not be included in Tables 7b or 7c. These years of course will have already been included in Tables 1 Full-time, 2 Sandwich and 3 Part-time, respectively.
173. The transfer of funding responsibility for pre-registration courses from the Department of Health and Social Care to the OfS took effect in different years for different professions and level of course (undergraduate or postgraduate). Tables 7a, 7b and 7c therefore collect data separately according to whether students started courses in 2016-17, 2017 18 or 2018-19. Where a profession or level of study is not applicable, the cells are greyed out.
174. Tables 7a, 7b and 7c can be filtered by health profession, to make it easier to complete the tables. Panes can also be frozen. The listed professions now also show the relevant price group.
175. For Tables 7a, 7b and 7c; we are collecting information on activity in 2018-19 undertaken by **Starters in 2016-17, Starters in 2017-18 and Starters in 2018-19**, which are a slightly different concept from 'new entrants' as collected in Tables 5 and 6. Further guidance on definitions of new starters compared to new entrants is provided in Annex C.
176. Partial screenshots of Tables 7a, 7b and 7c are shown in Figures 18a, 18b and 18c.

Healthcare professions

177. For the professions listed in Figure 17, only pre-registration courses at English providers that are approved by the relevant regulatory body should be included. These are:
- for nursing and midwifery, the Nursing and Midwifery Council
 - for dental hygiene and dental therapy, the General Dental Council
 - for all other professions listed, the Health and Care Professions Council.
178. Further information on these courses is in Annex L.

Figure 17: Breakdown of counts of years of course and on pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Mode of study	Table 7a Full-time Table 7b Sandwich year out Table 7c Part-time	Annex H

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

	Categories	Definitions and guidance
Profession	Dietetics Midwifery Nursing (adult) Nursing (children) Nursing (learning disability) Nursing (mental health) Nursing (unclassified)	Occupational therapy Operating department practice Orthoptics Orthotics and prosthetics Physiotherapy Podiatry and chiropody Radiography (diagnostic) Radiography (therapeutic) Speech and language therapy
Length of course	Standard-length Long	Annex J
Level	UG: undergraduate PG (UG fee): postgraduate study on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements	Annex I
Years countable	Starters in 2016-17 Starters in 2017-18 Starters in 2018-19	Annex L
Fundability status	Home and EU: OfS-fundable Home and EU: Non-fundable	Annex F

179. For each Column in **Tables 7a, 7b and 7c** there are the following sub-columns:

- a. **Starters in 2016-17:** years of instance for all students in the relevant combination of profession, length of year, level and fundability status, who started study for the first time in 2016-17 (as defined in Annex L paragraph 7).
- b. **Starters in 2017-18:** years of instance for all students in the relevant combination of profession, length of year, level and fundability status, who started study for the first time in 2017-18 (as defined in Annex L paragraph 7).
- c. **Starters in 2018-19 (for Tables 7a and 7c only):** years of instance for all students in the relevant combination of profession, length of year, level and fundability status, starting study for the first time in 2018-19 (as defined in Annex L paragraph 7).

180. Data to enter in Table 7a, 7b and 7c:

- a. Enter in **Column 1** years of course that started between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive.

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

- b. Enter in **Column 2** years of course that you forecast will start between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive. See Annex C for full instructions on whether to record years in Column 1 or Column 2.
 - c. Enter in **Column 3** a forecast of the number of years of course that will not be completed. Non-completions must be recorded as a negative number. Use the definitions and the methodology for calculating estimates in Annex D. You may be asked questions on your methodology during data verification.
 - d. **Column 4** will be filled automatically with the numbers of completed years, as you enter data into Columns 1 to 3.
 - e. For **Table 7c Health part-time** only, enter in **Column 4a** the FTE for the number of completed part-time years of course in Column 4. This should be the total FTE years of course for that row, not the average FTE per year of course. To determine the FTE of part-time students refer to Annex E for guidance.
- 181.** After completing the table make note of any credibility warnings (see paragraph 183). In a separate document, list the underlying reasons that make the data credible for your provider. This will help with your initial explanations and your responses to our queries.

182. Validation failure messages will occur in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c if:

- a. Column 3 contains a positive number, or any other column contains a negative number.
- b. For Table 7c only, the FTE you have recorded in Column 4a is greater than the years of course in Column 4.
- c. For Table 7c only, the FTE you have recorded in Column 4a makes the average FTE for that row less than 0.03. (Years of course that have an FTE of less than this are not included – see Annex C.)
- d. For Table 7c only, for any cell in Column 4a, the FTE is entered to more than two decimal places.
- e. You have entered a value that is not a multiple of 0.5 in Columns 1, 2 or 3 for the following professions:
 - i. Nursing – adult
 - ii. Nursing – child
 - iii. Nursing – learning disability
 - iv. Nursing – mental health

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

- f. For the other professions (excluding Nursing (adult), Nursing (child), Nursing (mental health) and Nursing (learning disability)) you have entered a value that is not a whole number in Columns 1, 2 or 3.
- g. For all columns, the absolute total of 'Starters in 2016-17' and 'Starters in 2017-18' and 'Starters in 2018-19' is greater than the corresponding totals from the equivalent columns in Tables 1, 2 or 3.

183. **Credibility** warnings will occur in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c if:

- a. You do not enter any non-completions for a row where you have recorded at least 50 years of course across Columns 1 and 2.
- b. You record all years of course in Columns 1 and 2 for a row as non-completions.
- c. For Table 7b only, you have entered sandwich year out students.
- d. For Table 7c only, for part-time students, the total FTE entered in Column 4a is less than 25 per cent of the total years calculated in Column 4.
- e. You have entered students with a long year of course.
- f. You have entered students for the Nursing (unclassified) profession.

Part 1: The HEIFES process and instructions on completing the workbook – Guidance for completing workbook tables

Figure 18a: Partial screenshot of Table 7a Health full-time

Table 7a: Full-time counts of years of course for 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 starters on pre-registration health courses

East Filton College

Profession: Annex L

Validation: OK
First-stage credibility: OK

Column 1
Years countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018 inclusive

Column 2
Forecast of years countable between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019 inclusive

Column 3
Forecast of years not completed (negative values)

Column 4
Automatically populated
Estimated completed years academic year 2018-19 (Columns 1 + 2 + 3)

Profession (price group) Length Level

Dietetics (B) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Midwifery (B) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Nursing - learning disability (C1) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Nursing - mental health (C1) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Nursing - unclassified (B) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Occupational therapy (B) Standard UG

Long PG (UG fee)

Information Courses Full-time 2 Sandwich 3 Part-time 4 Year abroad 5 Planning 6 Subcontractual 7a Health full-time 7b Health sandwich 7c Health part-time ...

Length: Annex J

Level: Annex I

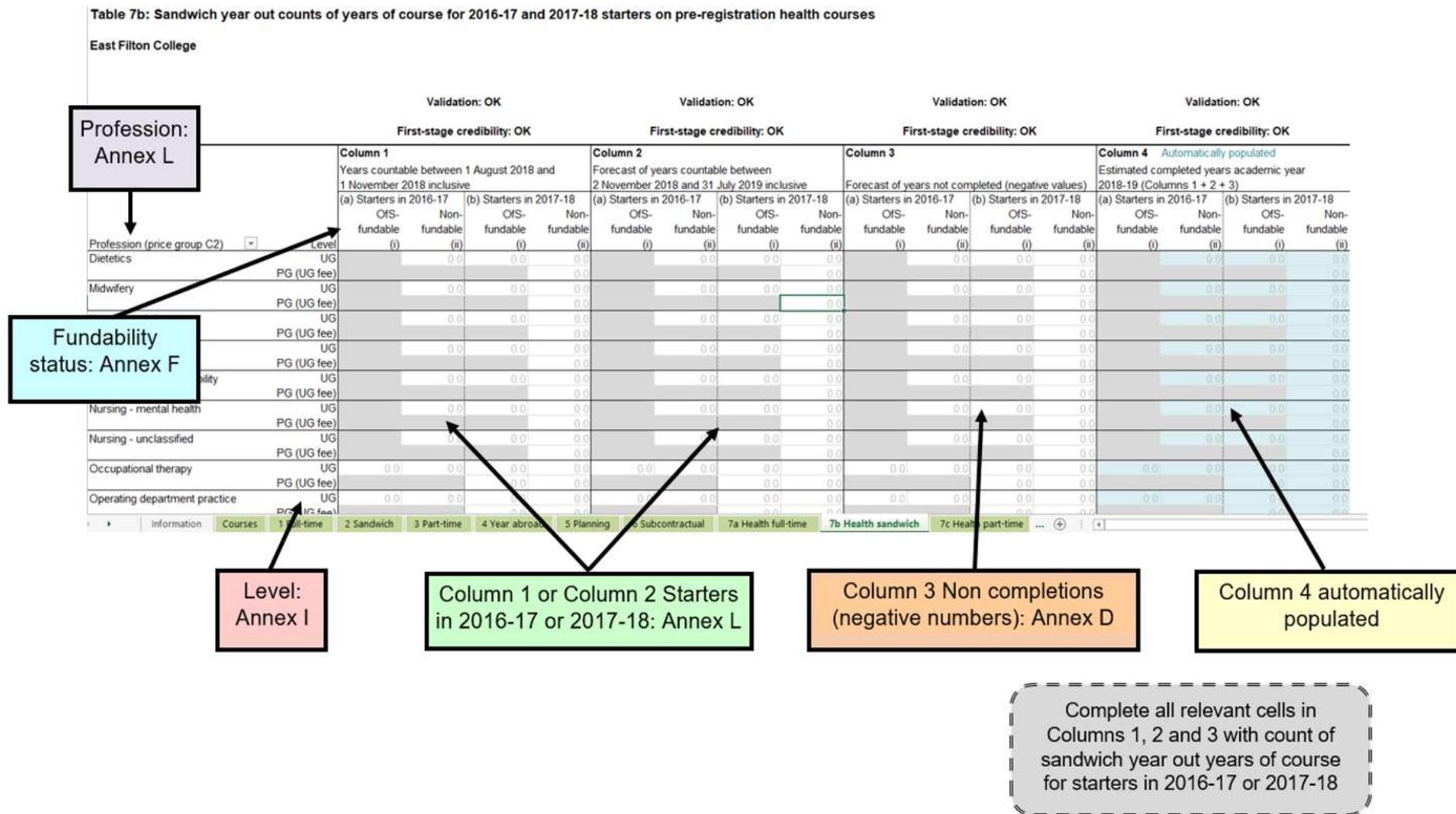
Column 1 or Column 2 Starters: Annex L

Column 3 Non completions (negative numbers): Annex D

Column 4 automatically populated

Complete all relevant cells in Columns 1, 2 and 3 with count of full-time years of course for starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19

Figure 18b: Partial screenshot of Table 7b Health sandwich year out



Other worksheets

184. Comparison tables will be available only for those providers that submitted HEIFES17 data. Funding sheets will be available for all providers receiving OfS funding in 2018-19.
185. These worksheets compare the data you have entered in Tables 1 to 7c for 2018-19 with data for other years, as previously submitted by your provider (where applicable). They are provided for information and allow us to identify where your higher education provision has changed over time.
186. You do not have to enter any data directly into these tables: the relevant information will be automatically drawn from Tables 1 to 7c. However, we will use several of these tables to inform our data verification queries and we expect you to review them when completing your workbook.
187. Further detail on these worksheets will be given in the appendices. Specifically:
- a. Appendix 4 describes Comparison sheets 1 to 3.
 - b. Appendix 5 describes Tables A to G.

Comparison sheets 1 to 3

188. These worksheets contain tables that summarise your HEIFES18 data and compare it with data for 2016-17 and 2017-18. These tables break down your data in different ways. For example, Table F (Comparison 2) looks at how your non-completion rates have changed between years.
189. These tables will show automatic highlighting where the changes between years are greater than expected, according to pre-set thresholds. **You should make notes** on any highlighting on these tables and determine the underlying changes to your provision that this reflects.
190. During the data verification phase of the HEIFES process (see paragraphs 76 to 82), our questions will take account of any highlighting in the comparison tables. We strongly recommend that you email us with explanations based on your notes when you submit your workbook.

Other comparisons

191. This worksheet also contains tables that summarise your HEIFES18 data and compares it with previous years. We will not routinely ask questions on these tables during the verification phase.

Tables A to G

192. The funding comparison worksheets compare your 2018-19 funding allocations as announced in your provider's latest grant tables (which used HEIFES17 data) with modelled funding. This takes your HEIFES18 data and applies it to the 2018-19 funding model. The allocations in the funding sheets are shown only as a comparison tool. They are illustrative calculations using the 2018-19 funding method and parameters, and should not be considered to be any kind of funding commitment.
193. You will not be routinely asked about funding changes during the HEIFES18 data verification phase. However, we would encourage you to look at these as they can be used to sense check your data and to identify large errors in your data.

Part 2: Funding rules and definitions

Annex A: Defining the HEIFES student population

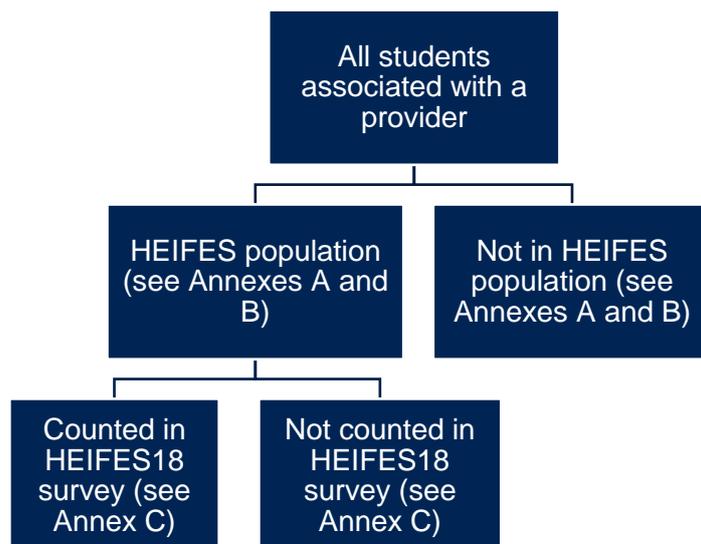
This annex explains which students should and should not be included in the HEIFES population. It also explains how to treat provision delivered through related undertakings and subcontractual arrangements. (Annex C contains guidance on how to count students in the HEIFES18 survey)

Annex A contents

Definitions

- The HEIFES population for 2018-19
- Who is in the HEIFES population for 2018-19?
- Related undertakings
- Subcontractual arrangements

Good practice



Definitions

The HEIFES population for 2018-19

1. HEIFES18 records counts of years of course for students (regardless of whether or not the student is repeating a year) aiming for a recognised higher education qualification or higher education level credit that can be counted towards one. We refer to this as the 'HEIFES student population'. References to 'recognised higher education' mean recognised solely for Office for Students (OfS) funding purposes, rather than any wider purpose, and are defined in Annex B.
2. For the purposes of HEIFES:
 - a. 'Course' is defined as an engagement (for example a period of study) with the college by a student aiming towards the award of one or more qualifications, or of credit. Other comparable terms in usage at colleges include 'programme' or 'programme of study'. Students study on courses over a period of time, which can be split into one or more 'years of course'.
 - b. A 'year of course' is defined in Annex C. The first year begins when the student starts studying towards the qualification; the second and subsequent years start on or near the anniversary of this date (allowing for minor variations in term dates).

Annex A: Defining the HEIFES student population

- c. 'College' and 'provider' means the provider including its related undertakings, as defined in paragraphs 7 to 11, unless such undertakings:
 - i. Are subject to a separate funding agreement directly with the OfS.
 - ii. Are subject to separate terms and conditions of UK Research and Innovation funding in relation to funds administered by Research England.
 - iii. Have been designated by the Secretary of State as providers in the further education sector which have their own contract with the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).
 - iv. Are schools as defined by section 4 of the Education Act 1996 or multi-academy trusts.
- d. The provider with which a student is 'registered', for the purposes of HEIFES and the Individualised Learner Record (ILR), means the provider which has the full contractual responsibility to the student for the provision of educational services. Where fee payments from the Student Loans Company are concerned, this will also be the provider that collects the student tuition fee. Where payments from the ESFA for apprenticeships are concerned, this will also be the provider that is paid by the ESFA. This applies whether the provider provides all the teaching for the course or subcontracts out some of that teaching to another body.
- e. An 'exchange' is defined as a programme offered in partnership with an overseas provider where there is a movement of students in both directions between the providers. The movement of students does not have to be balanced. For an exchange programme:
 - i. In an 'outgoing' exchange the UK provider sends participants from its registered students to undertake a period of study at a provider abroad or, under the Erasmus+ scheme only, a work placement abroad.
 - ii. In an 'incoming' exchange, the UK provider receives students registered at a provider abroad, who are undertaking a period of study with them.
- f. 'Recognised higher education courses' are defined in Annex B.

Who is in the HEIFES population for 2018-19?

3. Students meeting **all** the following criteria should be included in the HEIFES population:
 - a. They are registered and actively pursuing studies with the college for at least part of the academic year (1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019). This:
 - i. Includes outgoing, but not incoming, exchange students.
 - ii. Excludes students who the college teaches under a subcontractual relationship with another provider, where the latter provider has the full contractual responsibility to the student for the provision of education.
 - iii. Excludes students who are on school-centred initial teacher training courses.

Annex A: Defining the HEIFES student population

- iv. Excludes students who are being returned on any other provider's HEIFES or Higher Education Students: Early Statistics (HESES) survey.
- v. Excludes courses where no year of course for which the student is actively studying with the provider falls at least partly in the academic year 2018-19, such as:
 - 1) Courses where all years of course falling in the year are entirely writing up. Writing up is not considered to be 'study' for HEIFES purposes.
 - 2) Courses where the only activity is assessment. This includes teacher training programmes that consist only of a qualified teacher status assessment.
- b. They are studying on a course of recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes, as defined in Annex B of HEIFES. This excludes students whose **sole** course aim is a National Vocational Qualification, but includes courses which lead to both a recognised higher education qualification and a National Vocational Qualification.
- c. No more than half of the student's active study time for the whole course is spent outside the UK (including through distance learning), unless any of the following apply:
 - i. There is a clear academic reason for studying abroad rather than in the UK. Even where such a reason exists, we must specifically sanction the course as eligible.
 - ii. The student is temporarily and unavoidably abroad and remains liable to UK tax on their earnings, or is a dependant of such a person. This includes members of HM forces and their dependants.
 - iii. The student is receiving UK student support from the Student Loans Company for the year.

Sandwich students working abroad and students on a study year abroad as part of an exchange should normally be included in the HEIFES population, because the year abroad will not constitute most of their course.

- 4. All students included in the HEIFES population must be included in the college's Individualised Learner Record (ILR), even if this is not normally compulsory under the coverage of the record.
- 5. The responsibility for reporting student data depends on which provider has full contractual responsibility to the student for the provision of education. Students should not, other than in exceptional circumstances, change the provider they are registered with and no change should be made to which provider reports data on students who are continuing on the same course without each student's informed agreement. In reporting student data to us, colleges will be confirming their contractual responsibilities for the provision of education to these students.
- 6. The flowcharts provided in Figures A1 to A4 can be used to determine whether a student can be included in the HEIFES population for 2018-19.

Figure A1: Determining the HEIFES population for 2018-19

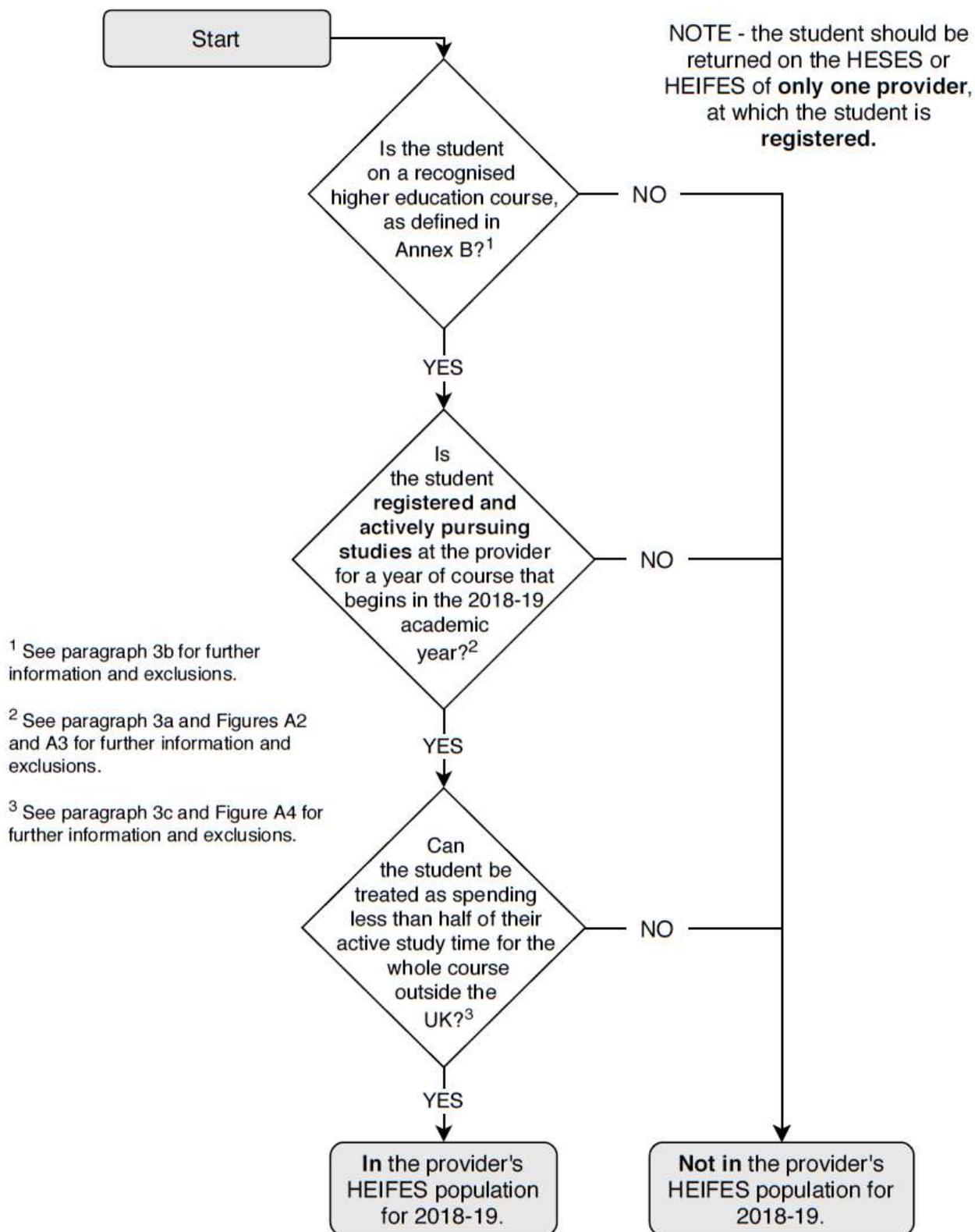


Figure A2: Determining whether a student is registered with a provider

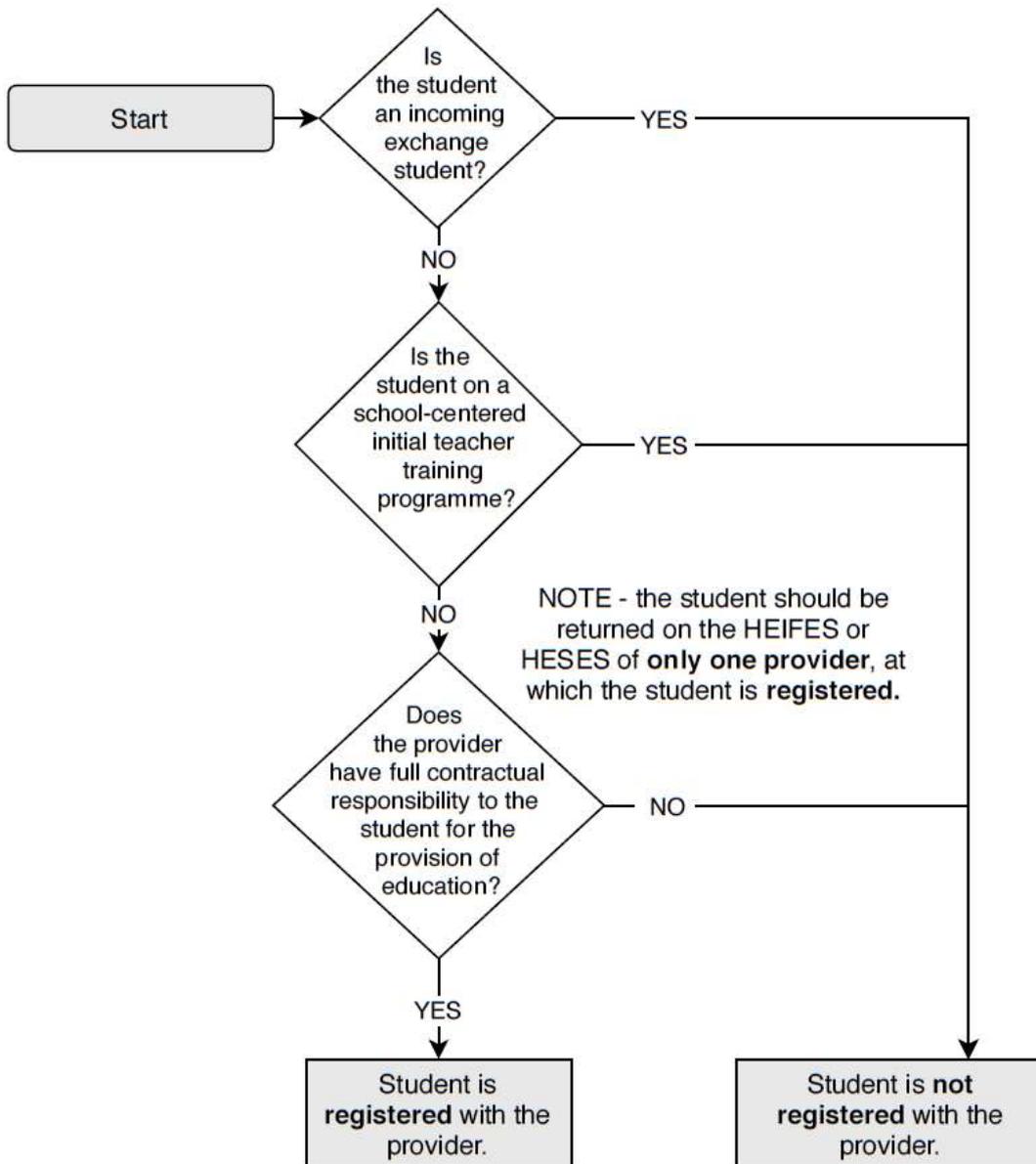


Figure A3: Determining whether a student is actively studying with a provider

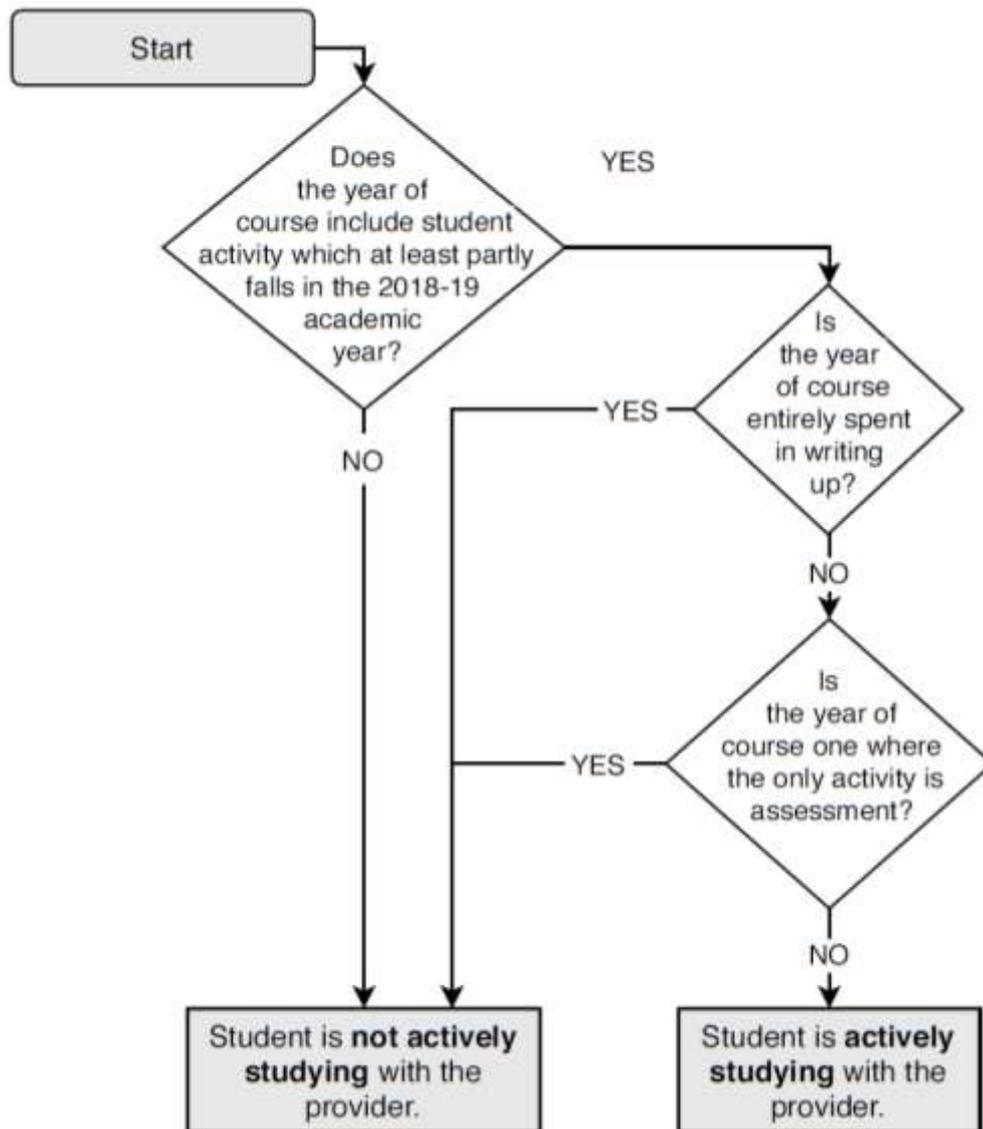
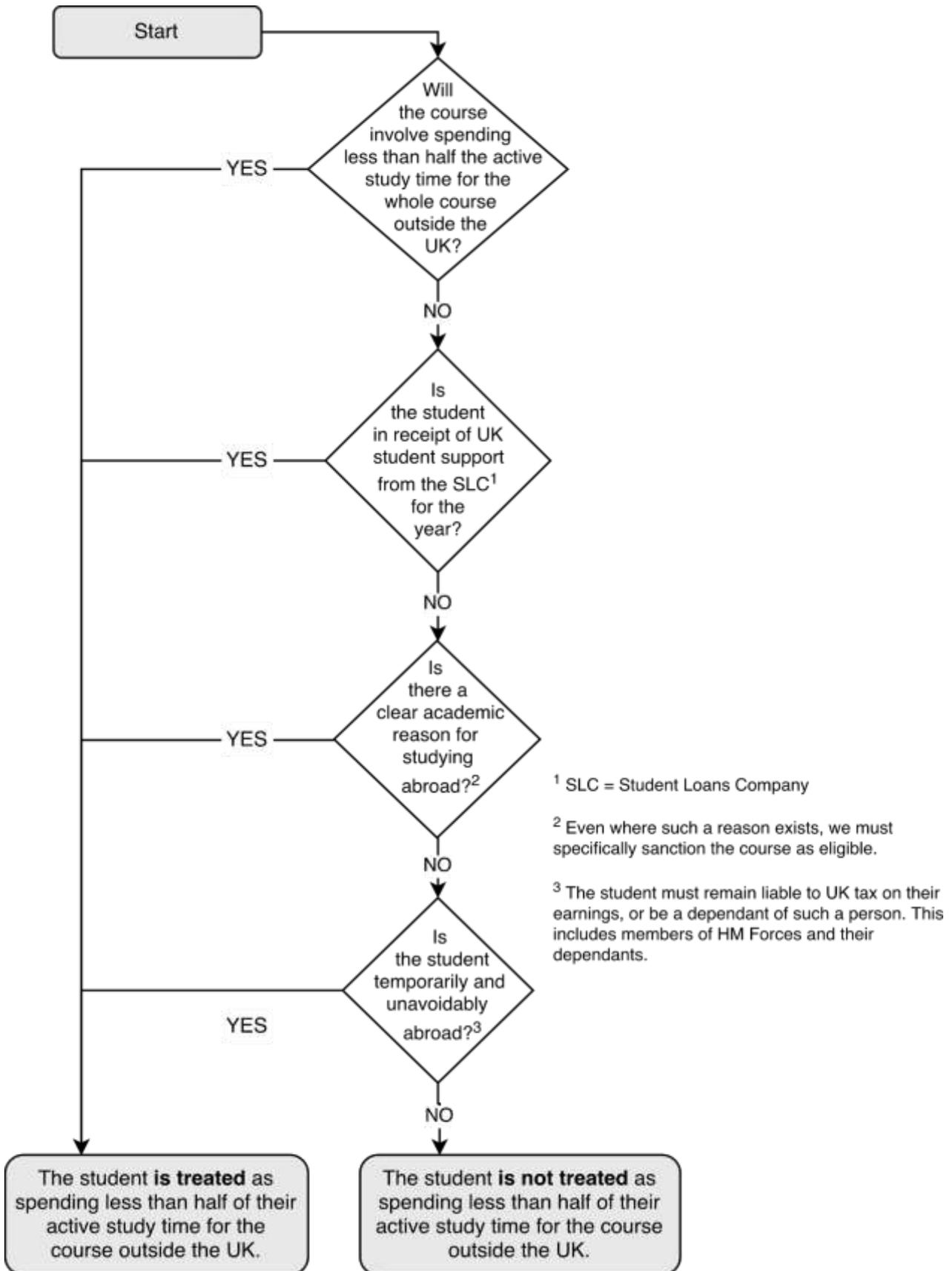


Figure A4: Courses with less than half of the active study time spent abroad



Related undertakings

7. An 'undertaking' includes a body corporate, a partnership, an unincorporated association or a trust. An undertaking will normally be regarded as a related undertaking of the provider if any of the following apply:
- a. The provider controls that undertaking.
 - b. The provider and another undertaking or other undertakings related to the provider together control that undertaking.
 - c. Another undertaking or other undertakings related to with the provider control that undertaking.
 - d. That undertaking is recognised by the OfS as a 'connected institution' as defined by section 27 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998.
 - e. We consider that the sole purpose, or one of the main purposes, of registering students at that undertaking is to avoid or minimise regulation by the OfS, to optimise funding or manipulate data for regulatory or other purposes.
 - f. We consider that the undertaking was established by, or is operated for the primary benefit of, the provider.
8. We may, at our discretion, decide to treat a related undertaking as a separate provider for funding, regulatory and other purposes if we consider that the undertaking has a separate historic identity from its parent provider.
9. For the purpose of paragraph 7, an undertaking is under the 'control' of another if any of the following apply¹:
- a. That other holds or is entitled to acquire a majority of the shares in the undertaking.
 - b. That other holds or is entitled to acquire a majority of the voting rights in the undertaking.
 - c. That other has or is entitled to acquire the right to appoint or remove a majority of the board of directors or other governing body of the undertaking.
 - d. That other has or is entitled to acquire the right to exercise dominant influence over the undertaking by virtue of provisions contained in the undertaking's articles of association or any other constitution, control contract, memorandum of understanding or other document regulating the undertaking or any other undertaking.
 - e. That other has or is entitled to acquire the right to a share of more than half the assets in the event of a winding-up or in any other circumstances, or of more than half the income, of the undertaking.

¹ The expressions 'voting rights in an undertaking', 'right to appoint or remove a majority of the directors', 'right to exercise a dominant influence' and 'control contract' have the meanings given in schedule 7 to the Companies Act 2006.

- f. Both are in common or overlapping ownership or are managed on a uniform basis or have a significant number of directors (or equivalent) or senior management in common.
 - g. That other has or is entitled to acquire the power, by any other means, to secure that the affairs of the undertaking are conducted in accordance with its wishes, or the undertaking is habitually conducted in accordance with the wishes of the other.
10. Where a school (as defined in paragraph 2c) or multi-academy trust is under the control of the provider and delivers higher education the expectation is that higher education students would be reported through the provider, but students not studying at higher education level in school would be excluded.
11. Where a student union is under the control of the provider, it is excluded from the definition of related undertakings, except where it delivers higher education.

Partnerships between providers

12. Our regulatory framework² provides guidance on the definitions of validation and subcontractual arrangements:
- a. A **validation arrangement** applies to a course (module or programme) which a degree awarding body approves to contribute, or lead, to one of its awards. The validated course is delivered by the provider that designed it and students on the course normally have a direct contractual relationship with that provider and not the validating provider. The validating provider remains responsible for the academic standards of the award granted in its name.
 - b. A **subcontractual arrangement** (sometimes described as a ‘franchise arrangement’) is a relationship, based on a formal contract, in which a body with degree awarding powers (the lead provider) allows another provider (the delivery provider) to deliver all or part of a programme which has been designed, approved and owned by the degree awarding body. The lead provider or subcontracting provider retains overall control of the programme’s content, delivery, assessment and quality assurance arrangements.
- This does not include informal arrangements that are not governed by contracts between providers, such as for study abroad under the Erasmus+ programme. It may include some exchange programmes, if there is a formal contract between providers.
13. While the nature of any partnership arrangement is for providers to decide, we would consider this to be determined by the details of the contract between the relevant providers.
14. A course is considered to be part of a subcontractual arrangement if, typically:
- a. There is a written, legally binding agreement in place between the lead provider and the delivery provider that sets out the conditions of the arrangement.

² See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/securing-student-success-regulatory-framework-for-higher-education-in-england/.

- b. The lead provider has a contractual relationship with the student (and the full contractual responsibility for the provision of educational services, as mentioned in paragraph 2d of this annex).
 - c. The fee or fee loan is paid to the lead provider.
 - d. The student is registered as a student of the lead provider and is included in its data returns.
15. We would expect providers to be clear on the nature of any partnership agreements and to ensure that this is communicated to students.
16. The Student Loans Company requires that students are registered with the validating body before a provider collects the fee for the student. In the case of subcontractual arrangements it should be the lead provider with contractual responsibility that registers the student with the validating body. Where delivery of Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates is subcontracted to another provider, we expect the arrangement to be approved by Pearson PLC. Please refer to Pearson's guidance on collaborative and consortium arrangements³.
17. It is the responsibility of the registering provider to ensure the quality of the data it returns, including those relating to activity at its subcontractors.

Good practice

18. It is essential that exchanges of information and communications between the partners are frequent, timely, open and effective. In particular, we highlight the importance of a lead provider being told promptly by its partner delivery providers about any withdrawing students. This may require clear protocols among partner providers regarding the exchange of information.
19. The different roles of each partner in collecting and managing data will vary. The principle applied at audit is that student data should be managed with equal professionalism at all partner providers. When entering into subcontractual arrangements, the systems in operation and the exchange of information should form part of the negotiations and final agreement.
20. It is important that students are returned on the HESES (or HEIFES) survey and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record (or the ILR or HESA alternative provider student record) by the lead provider only. A provider's student record system should contain all subcontracted-out students' records in the same way as it does students taught directly. However, providers' student record systems should clearly identify students subcontracted out and to be returned by them and should ensure that those not eligible (including those subcontracted in) are excluded from the survey. This will help to ensure that subcontracted-out students are correctly returned in HEIFES, and that an audit trail for such students is available.

³ See <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/understanding-our-qualifications/policies-for-centres-learners-and-employees.html>.

21. Use of the lead provider's standard processes by partner colleges is strongly encouraged – for example for enrolment, module registration, interruption of studies, change of module, change of course and withdrawal. This helps to identify clearly which provider a student has a contractual arrangement with, and is especially important where a lead provider deals with more than one delivery provider. It also ensures that the lead provider is collecting all of the data it requires for its own purposes.

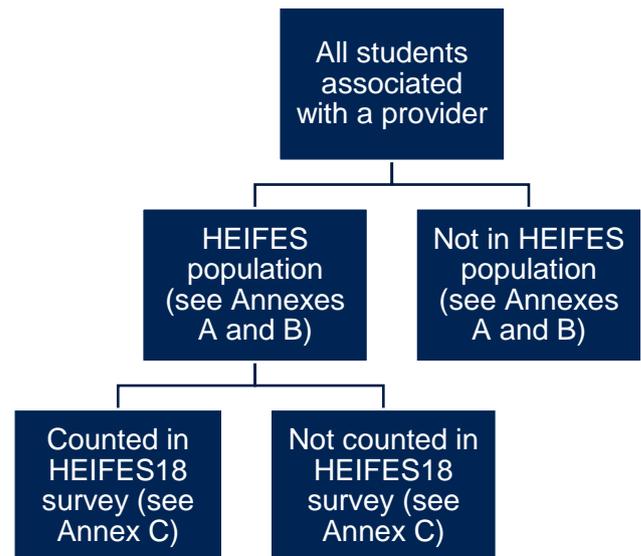
Annex B: Recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes

This annex defines the recognised higher education courses which students must be studying if they are to be included in HEIFES18. It also details the treatment of students on higher, degree or advanced apprenticeships which include both recognised higher and other elements

Annex B contents

Definitions

- Recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes
- Learning aims and the learning aims search
- Professional (or similar) qualifications
- Foundation years
- Funding for higher and advanced apprenticeships



Definitions

Recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes

1. To be included in the HEIFES population for 2018-19 and therefore potentially counted in HEIFES18, a course must meet our definition of recognised higher education for Office for Students (OfS) funding purposes. This:
 - a. Includes courses that are designated under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 and other courses that lead to qualifications meeting the standards at Level 4 and above of the 'Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies¹, or credit towards such a qualification that is itself at Level 4 or above.
 - b. Excludes courses (and credit towards such courses) leading to qualifications in the Register of Regulated Qualifications², unless they are courses designated under the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011.

¹ Available from www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/the-existing-uk-quality-code/part-a-setting-and-maintaining-academic-standards.

² See <https://register.ofqual.gov.uk/>.

2. Courses that do not meet the definition in paragraph 1 are excluded from the HEIFES population. References to 'recognised higher education' mean recognised solely for our funding purposes, rather than any wider purpose.

Learning aims and the Learning aims search

3. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA)'s Information Management Hub includes a learning aims reference service (LARS) search (<https://hub.imservices.org.uk/LearningAims/Pages/default.aspx>). This returns the awarding body and qualification type for a given learning aim. Information regarding how to request or modify a learning aim on the LARS can be found at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/supplying-data/request-or-modify-a-learning-aim/. Colleges should also email heifes@officeforstudents.org.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 LARS**, together with the suggested amendments. This will allow us to determine how the course should be returned in HEIFES18.

Professional (or similar) qualifications

4. Courses leading to professional or similar qualifications will not normally be recognised, because they are likely to be on the register of regulated qualifications and not eligible for student support. However, if these courses also meet the definition given in paragraph 1 of this annex, they will be recognised.

Foundation years ('Level 0')

5. Foundation years, access provision and other provision commonly referred to as 'Level 0', will be included in the HEIFES population only if they are an integrated part of a recognised higher education course, as defined in paragraph 1, such that both of the following apply:
 - a. Students are already registered for the recognised higher education course at the same provider.
 - b. Progression to the recognised higher education course is guaranteed, subject to satisfactory completion of the foundation year.
6. Free-standing foundation years and other free-standing Level 0 provision are not recognised higher education courses. The requirement that students are already registered for the recognised higher education course at the same provider means that, where the foundation year is taught by a different provider, this will be treated as integrated – and therefore within the HEIFES population – only if it is done under a subcontractual arrangement from the provider offering the recognised higher education course.

Recognised higher education provided as part of an apprenticeship

7. Apprenticeships are programmes of study in which an apprentice is employed for a minimum of 30 hours a week while studying towards qualifications. They can be studied at several specific levels, including degree apprenticeships where apprentices study towards an undergraduate or postgraduate degree qualification.
8. Although apprenticeships are funded from a variety of sources, including the ESFA, this does not in itself affect whether years of course taken as part of an apprenticeship are included in HEIFES18,

or whether Home and EU students are reported as OfS-fundable or non-fundable. Recognised higher education qualifications or credit taken as part of an apprenticeship should be considered for inclusion in HEIFES18 in the same way as those that are not part of an apprenticeship.

9. The OfS provides funding to providers where such years of course meet the criteria for particular elements of teaching grant. OfS funding is treated as complementary to finance provided by the ESFA and employers, which is more analogous to finance that for other higher education provision would be provided through tuition fees or student support.
10. Only the activity within an apprenticeship that meets the definition of recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes given in this annex should be included. This means that a student who has commenced such an apprenticeship, but is not undertaking the recognised higher education part of that apprenticeship during the year of course, should not be included in HEIFES. For the purposes of determining a student's mode of study, only time spent in study or learning in the workplace that directly contributes to their recognised higher education qualification should be counted towards a student's activity.
11. The provider with responsibility for delivering the apprenticeship (usually contracted by the ESFA) is the lead provider, with contractual responsibility for students, and should report students in their data. Where a recognised higher education qualification or credit that is part of an apprenticeship is delivered by a different provider, this should be through a subcontractual arrangement with the lead provider (see Annex A for full definition).
12. Where colleges or subcontractual partners provide, as part of an apprenticeship, other qualifications or credits that are not recognised for OfS funding purposes, the lead provider should report two or more learning delivery entities on the Individualised Learner Record for each student on the apprenticeship:
 - a. One relating to study towards each qualification (or credits) meeting the definition of recognised higher education in this annex, which may be OfS-fundable.
 - b. The others relating to study towards any other qualification.

Annex C: Counting student activity

This annex gives the definition of a year of course and explains how to count them in HEIFES18. This includes the criteria for being able to count a year of course in HEIFES18, the definitions of standard and nonstandard years of course, a flow chart to aid with determining how years of course should be counted, and guidance on counting some short courses that are sometimes known as 'summer schools'.

Annex C contents

Definitions

- Year of course
 - Further notes on years of course
- Counting years of course

Guidance

- How to count years of course
 - Students who withdraw before the census date
 - Standard and nonstandard years
- New entrants
 - Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19 on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c
- Summer schools
 - Summer schools for potential higher education students
 - Access provision
 - Within-course periods of study in vacation time
 - Foundation degree bridging courses

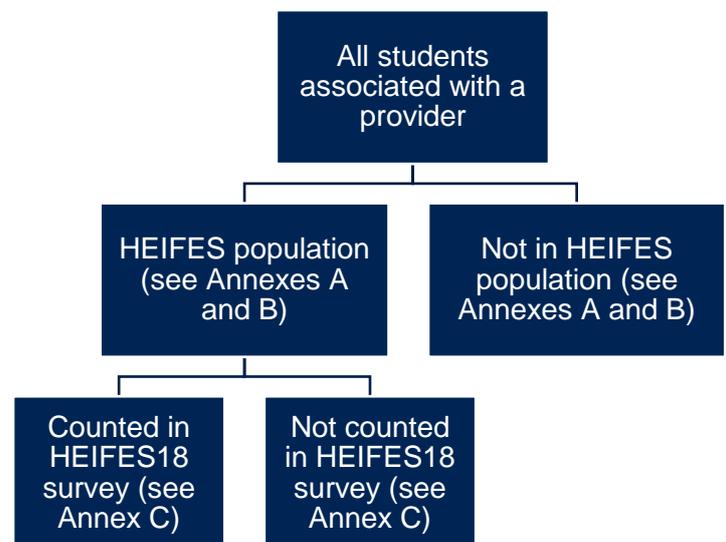
Examples

Good practice

Definitions

Year of course

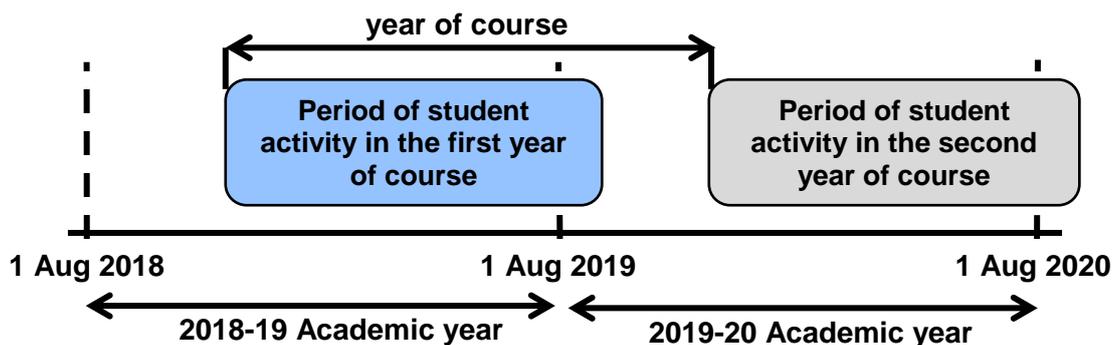
1. Students study towards courses over a period of time, which can be split into one or more years of course. The first year begins when the student starts studying towards the qualification; the second and subsequent years start on or near the anniversary of this date (allowing for minor variations in term dates). Figure C1 depicts a year of course.



Annex C: Counting student activity

2. A student may only be returned on HEIFES once for each year of course they undertake. This is referred to as counting years of course. When a student becomes countable on HEIFES depends on how their activity falls within each year of course. The start of a year of course is determined on an individual student basis and is the date when the student first started studying towards the qualification, or its anniversary. Therefore a student who starts their course later than others in the same cohort will start each year of course later than others on the course for each year of course throughout their studies.

Figure C1: Year of course



Further notes on years of course

3. Exceptionally, a student may be on two courses at the same time, aiming for two independent recognised higher education qualifications. If this is the case, the student should be treated as if they were two students, each aiming for one of the qualifications. However, a student studying for multiple credits at a provider that could count towards the same final qualification would generate only one year of course.
4. Where a student completes a foundation degree and then undertakes a foundation degree bridging course to enable them to join the final year of an honours degree, the foundation degree bridging course should be treated as an independent course which will generate its own year of course as explained in paragraph 26 of this annex.

Counting years of course

5. To be counted, a student within the HEIFES population for 2018-19 must also meet all the following criteria:
 - a. A tuition fee is charged for the year of course. Exceptionally, this fee may be waived for individual students based on their particular circumstances. Other than for sandwich year out students it should not be waived for all students on a course, and the criteria which determine whether the fees may be waived should not be tantamount to waiving them for all students. Where the fee has been waived for an individual student, evidence of the reason for this waiver must be retained. This criterion does not apply to students taking a recognised higher education qualification as part of an apprenticeship.
 - b. The full-time equivalence (FTE) for the year of course is at least 0.03.
 - c. The student is not writing up a thesis or similar piece of work throughout the whole of the year of course. Students are writing up where they have completed their research work and will not

undertake any significant additional research. It is common practice for such students to receive a small amount of supervision, and they may still have access to other facilities at the provider. However, such students should still be treated as writing up. Writing up is not considered to be 'study' for HEIFES purposes; therefore time spent writing up for part of a year of course should be taken into account and excluded when calculating the student's FTE.

- d. The student has not withdrawn, and is not forecast to withdraw, within two weeks of starting their course.
6. In some cases a fee may not be charged in the current year because a fee for the activity has already been paid in a previous year. This should not be treated as a fee waiver; rather, the student should be treated as having been charged a fee for the year.

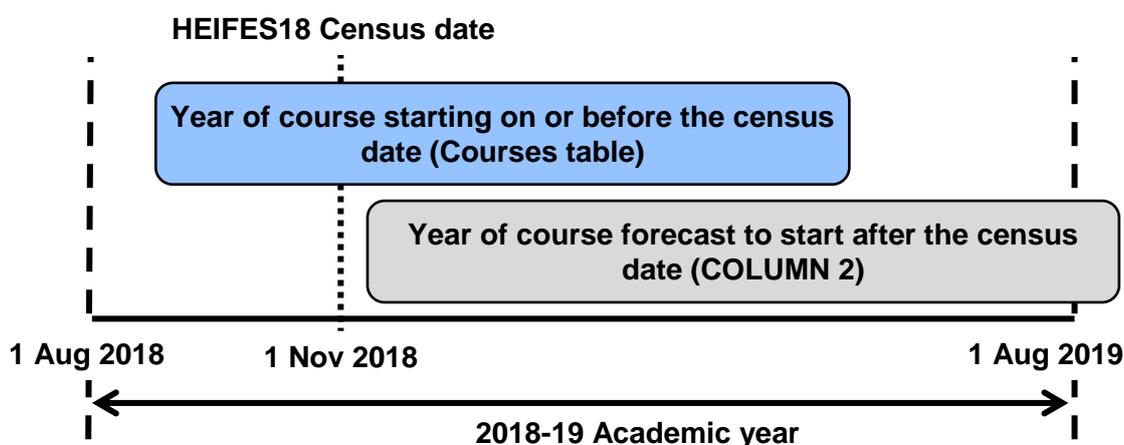
Guidance

How to count years of course in the HEIFES survey

7. To be counted in HEIFES18, a student's year of course must start in the 2018-19 academic year (1 August 2018 to 31 July 2019). The start date for the year of course is the date when the student first started studying towards the qualification, or its anniversary. This should then be compared with the HEIFES census date, which is 1 November 2018 for HEIFES18:
- a. If a year of course starts **on or before the census date** (between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018, inclusive), then that year of course should be recorded in the Courses table (which is used to populate **Column 1** of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5).
 - b. If a year of course starts **after the census date** (between 2 November 2018 and 31 July 2019, inclusive), then that year of course should be recorded in **Column 2** of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5.

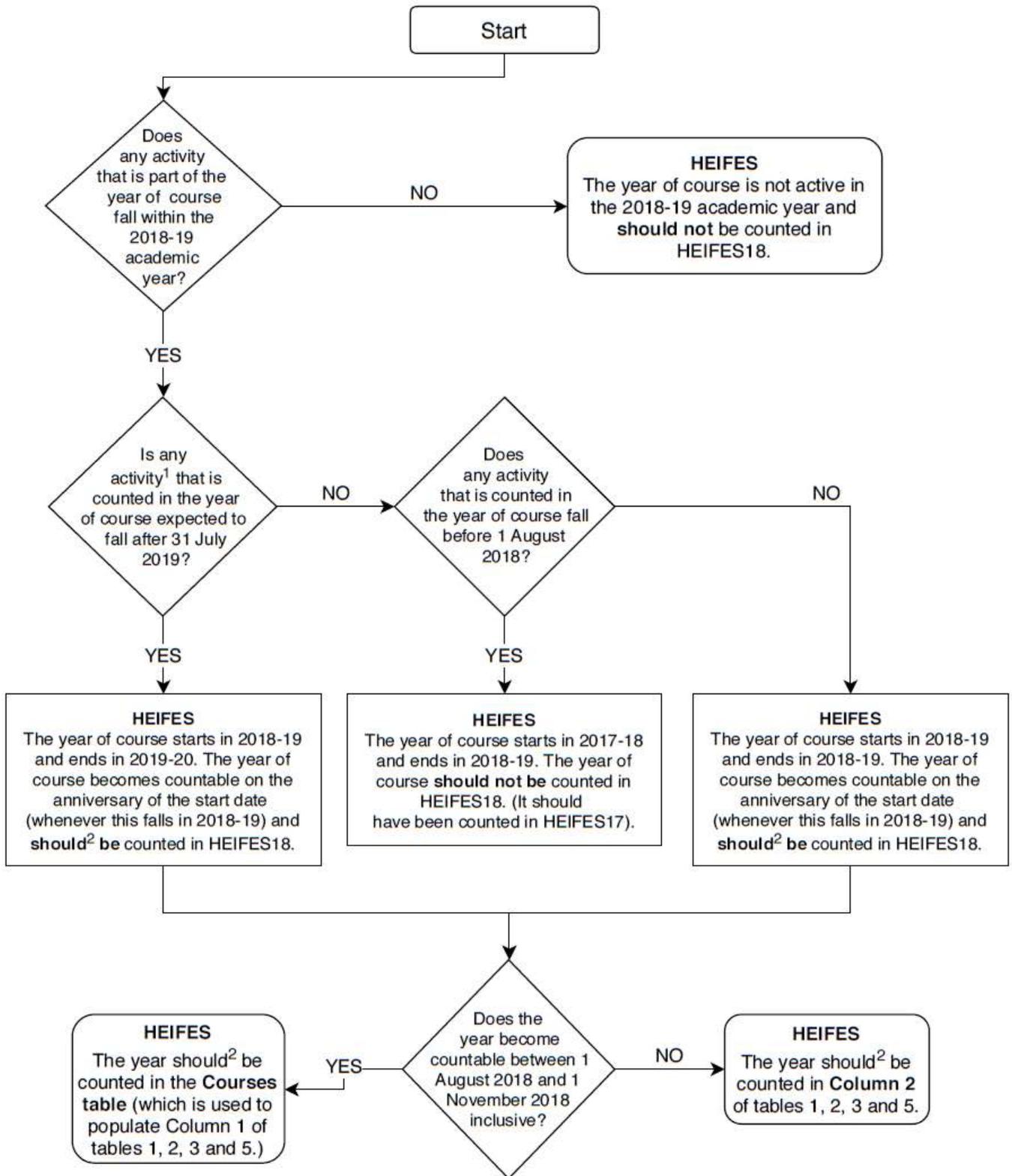
Figure C2 illustrates this concept.

Figure C2: Years of course recorded in the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5) or in Column 2 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5



8. The flow chart in Figure C3 can be used to determine whether the year of course should be counted in HEIFES18, and if so, whether it should be returned in the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5) or in Column 2 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5.

Figure C3: How to determine whether a year of course should be returned in HEIFES18, and whether in the Courses table or Column 2 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5



¹ For this purpose, periods of work experience that would cause the year of course to span academic years should be ignored.

² Subject to meeting the other conditions to be counted in HEIFES.

Annex C: Counting student activity

9. Students who have not completed the provider's registration process for the course, and for whom there is no evidence of activity by the census date, should not be included in the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5) of the HEIFES18 return. However, if there is evidence of activity, students should be included in the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5) of the return. Efforts should be made to ensure that all eligible students are fully registered by the census date.

Students who withdraw on or before the census date

10. If a student has withdrawn from their year of course entirely on or before 1 November 2018, their year of course should not be returned.

Standard and nonstandard years

11. There are two types of year of course, standard and nonstandard:
- A **standard year** is one where all activity for the year of course is entirely within one academic year (1 August to 31 July). Most undergraduate students are on standard years.
 - A **nonstandard year** is one where all activity for the year of course is **not** entirely within one academic year – that is, where the activity for the year of course crosses from one academic year into the next.

Students whose years of course are normally standard but who in one year undertake a period of work experience should not be treated as nonstandard solely because the work experience spans academic years.

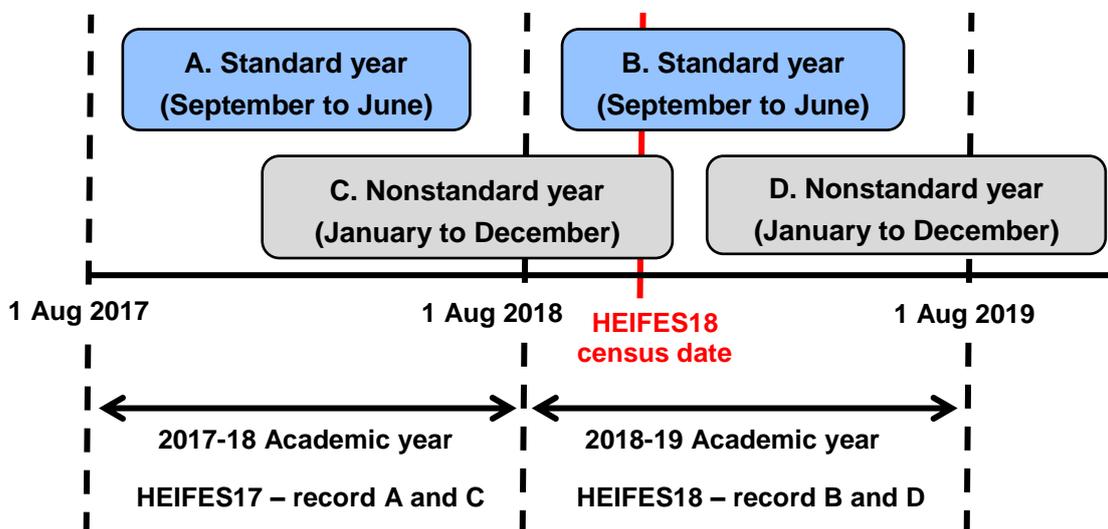
12. In both standard and nonstandard years, **students become countable at the start of each year of course**. The FTE returned should be the FTE for the whole year of course (See Annex E for further details).
- For students on standard years, the FTE for the whole year of course will usually be the same as the FTE for the academic year.
 - For students on nonstandard years, the FTE for the whole year of course will not necessarily be the same as the FTE for the academic year. The final academic year during which the student is active will not usually generate a countable year of course. It will do so, however, if a student undertakes a short period of activity after the anniversary of their commencement date and that activity ends in the same academic year.

13. Figure C4 shows how to count standard and nonstandard years in HEIFES18:

- Year of course A is a standard year that is completely within the 2017-18 academic year, and should have been recorded in HEIFES17.
- Year of course B is a standard year that starts before the census date in the 2018-19 academic year and is recorded in the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 and 5) of HEIFES18.

- c. Year of course C is a nonstandard year that spans the census date, but started in the 2017-18 academic year. It should have been recorded in HEIFES17, not HEIFES18.
- d. Year of course D is a nonstandard year that starts after the census date in the 2018-19 academic year and is recorded in Column 2 of Tables 1, 2 or 3 and Table 5 of HEIFES18.

Figure C4: How to record standard and nonstandard years



New entrants

14. For Tables 5 and 6, students should be classed as new entrants when they meet both of the following criteria:
- a. They first generate a countable year of course for a higher education course recognised for OfS funding purposes.
 - b. They have not been active at the same broad level (undergraduate or postgraduate) as a student of the same registering provider in either of the two previous academic years.

Students repeating the first year of a course should not therefore be included as new entrants, whereas those entering directly into the second or later year of a course could be. For merged providers the registered provider includes the previous constituent providers that merged to form the current one.

15. Where a student starts more than one instance at the same broad level in the same academic year and could be considered as a new entrant for each instance, they should be recorded as a new entrant for only one. If one such instance has an earlier start date than the others the student should be recorded as a new entrant for that instance.

Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19 on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c

16. In general, starters on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c are students starting study for the first time on a relevant pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19. In the paragraph that follows, **'the relevant date'** means:

Annex C: Counting student activity

- 1 August 2016 for an undergraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, other than one in dental hygiene or dental therapy
- 1 August 2017 for a postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course; or an undergraduate pre-registration dental hygiene or dental therapy course.

17. Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:

- a. **Include** students who transfer on or after the relevant date onto a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course from one that is not. The year for which they are treated as a starter is the year in which they transfer onto the pre-registration course. (Such a student transferring within a provider would not be a new entrant for the purposes of Tables 5 and 6).
- b. **Include** students who transfer between different types of pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, if their previous pre-registration course started on or after the relevant date. They should be recorded against the profession that applies to their current course, but they should be recorded as a starter in the year that their previous course started. (Such a student transferring within an institution would not be a new entrant for the purposes of Tables 5 and 6).
- c. **Exclude** students who transfer between different types of pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, if their previous such course started prior to the relevant date.
- d. **Exclude** students repeating the first year of a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course if their course started prior to the relevant date. Students repeating the first year of a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course that started on or after the relevant date, should be reported as starters in the year they started the course, and not when they repeated the first year.

18. Students classified as starters in 2018-19 will not necessarily be new entrants on Tables 5 and 6, though the two populations will overlap significantly.

Summer schools

19. Four types of short course are sometimes referred to as 'summer schools'. They are described in more detail below.

Summer schools for potential higher education students

20. These are intended for potential higher education students to experience a short period of study in a higher education environment, normally in the summer vacation. Such students are not included in the HEIFES population because the provision is not higher education.

Access provision

21. In some cases, providers offer short preparatory or access courses for individual students to facilitate progression to an initial higher education qualification. These courses are taken immediately before the start of their higher education qualification. Where such provision is an integrated part of a recognised higher education course for OfS funding purposes, the students are included in the HEIFES population: see paragraphs 6 and 7 of Annex B for when such provision is

considered integrated. The short access course and the first year of the higher education course will typically count as one year of course. This may result in the year of course being counted as long, as defined in Annex J.

22. If the access provision is not an integrated part of the recognised higher education course, it is not higher education and the students are not part of the HEIFES population.

Within-course periods of study in vacation time

23. These are short periods of study within a course which generally take place in vacation time, and are normally for students to catch up with others on the course. They usually fall between the normal periods of activity for years of course, but within a course. They are counted as part of the preceding year of course and may result in that year being counted as long, as defined in Annex J.
24. Where the short period of study occurs during the summer vacation, this may cause students who would normally be following standard years of course to generate a nonstandard year for the year that includes the short period. However, for data collection purposes these should be treated as standard years of course.

ILR notes

25. Short periods of study in vacation time should be returned on the ILR in the same way they are returned on HEIFES. That is, they should be included as part of the year of course preceding the short period of study.

Foundation degree bridging courses

26. These are short courses that come after a foundation degree has been completed, but before the final year of an honours degree course. They are not an integrated part of the course from which they are bridging. Progression is assured from successful completion of a foundation degree bridging course to the final year of an honours degree. For the purposes of HEIFES and the ILR, such a course is counted as a separate course and is returned as part-time with an FTE of 0.3. If the bridging course spans two academic years, it should be recorded in the academic year in which the bridging course begins.

ILR notes

27. Any foundation degree bridging courses should be returned as a separate record in the ILR with:
- a. Student load returned as 30 (Student Instance FTE = 030.0), except where the course spans two academic years, when the load should be proportionally split between them.
 - b. Mode returned as part-time (Mode of Study = 03).
 - c. A link to a learner aim on the Education and Skills Funding Agency's learning aims search with a 'learner aim type' code of 6001, 'Foundation degree bridging course'. (It may be necessary to request a specific learner aim for the bridging course).
 - d. A learner aim with appropriate Learndirect information on the Education and Skills Funding Agency's learning aims search.
 - e. A separate Student Instance Identifier (NUMHUS).

Examples

Counting years of course

Example 1: Standard year (Courses table and Column 1 of Tables 1 to 3)

28. A full-time student starts a degree programme on 22 September 2018, with each year of the course finishing at the end of June: each year is a standard year. The student becomes countable on 22 September 2018 and on or around the anniversary of this date each subsequent year.
29. As the first year of course becomes countable between 1 August 2018 and 1 November 2018, it would be included in the Full-time column of the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Table 1) in HEIFES18. Later years would similarly be returned in the Courses table of subsequent HEIFES returns.

Example 2: Standard year (Column 2)

30. A full-time student starts an HNC on 11 December 2018, with all activity for each year of the course completed before the end of July 2019; therefore each year is a standard year. The student becomes countable on 11 December 2018.
31. As the year of course becomes countable between 1 November 2018 and 31 July 2019, it would be included in Column 2 of Table 1 in HEIFES18.

Example 3: Nonstandard year

32. A full-time student starts a three-year degree programme on 18 January 2019 with each year of the course finishing in November; each year is a nonstandard year. The student becomes countable on 18 January 2019 and, on or around the anniversary of this date in each subsequent year.
33. As the year of course becomes countable between 1 November 2018 and 31 July 2019, it would be included in Column 2 of Table 1 in HEIFES18. Later years would similarly be returned in Column 2 of subsequent HEIFES returns.

Example 4: Nonstandard year, final year of course

34. In January 2019, a full-time student begins the final year of a degree programme they started on 18 January 2017. Each year of the course runs from January to November: each year is a nonstandard year.

35. The student initially became countable on 18 January 2017, the date they started their course. As they progressed through the course they were counted on or around the anniversary of this date in each subsequent year.
36. For HEIFES18, as the final year of instance becomes countable between 1 November 2018 and 31 July 2019, the student would be included in Column 2 of Table 1 in HEIFES18, as happened in HEIFES17 and HEIFES16. All activity for this final year would be recorded on HEIFES18.
37. If the student successfully completes their final year, no activity would be recorded on HEIFES19 (for the period from August to November 2019), as all activity would have been returned on HEIFES18.

Example 5: Standard year, student starting late

38. A full-time Higher National Diploma (HND) course starts on 10 October 2018 and runs from 10 October to 30 June each year. A student starts the HND programme late, on 10 January 2019, but intends to catch up with the rest of the students on the course and follow the same pattern of activity as them.
39. As that student's year of course starts on 10 January 2019 and on the anniversary of that date in subsequent years, the student should be included in Column 2 of Table 1 in HEIFES18, and similarly in subsequent HEIFES returns as they continue their studies. The student should be recorded with a full-time nonstandard year of course from January 2019 to January 2020. This will include activity from their first and second years of the course. Their second year of course will consist of the remaining activity for the period 10 January 2020 to 30 June 2020 and would be part-time as it does not meet the definition of full-time.

Example 6: Standard year, student who interrupts their course

40. A full-time student starts in September 2018 intending to study eight modules before June 2019. At the end of the first semester in February 2019, having completed four modules, they interrupt the course and return 12 months later to complete the remaining four modules by June 2020.
41. The first year of course becomes countable in September 2018 and is therefore returned in the Full-time column of the Courses table (which is used to populate Column 1 of Table 1) of HEIFES18. Data in Column 3 of Table 1 of HEIFES18 should reflect a forecast of such students in Column 1 or 2 who will intermit (and therefore non-complete) after 1 November 2018.
42. The second year of course becomes countable at the start of the year of course in September 2019 (and not in February 2020 when the student returns), and is therefore returned in the Part-time column of the Courses table (which will be used to populate Column 1 of Table 3) of HEIFES19 (because the activity in this second year of course does not meet the criteria to be classed as full-time as set out in paragraph 1 of Annex H).

New entrants on Tables 5 and 6

Example 7: Students topping up from a foundation degree (Table 5)

43. An OfS-fundable student studies full-time for a foundation degree at a college in the academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18, then tops up to a full-time bachelors' degree directly funded at the college in 2018-19:

- a. If the foundation degree was delivered by the college under a subcontractual arrangement from a university then the student is a student of that university for 2016-17 and 2017-18 and the college in 2018-19. Because the study is not at the same provider, the student should be reported as a new entrant on Table 5 when they top-up to a bachelors' degree in 2018-19.
- b. If the foundation degree was not delivered under a subcontractual arrangement, but was funded directly at the college, then the student would be considered to be studying at the same provider (the college) and at the same broad level throughout the period 2016-17 to 2018-19. Therefore they should not be reported as a new entrant for 2018-19 in Table 5.

Example 8: Students topping up from a foundation degree (Table 6)

44. An OfS-fundable student starts a full-time foundation degree at college A under a subcontractual arrangement from college B, intending to complete this in the academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20, and then topping up to a full-time bachelors' degree at college B in 2020-21.

45. As the foundation degree was delivered by college A under a subcontractual arrangement, the student is a registered student of college B for all academic years 2018-19 to 2020-21, and college B would have the responsibility for returning the student on its HEIFES return. As such, for academic years 2018-19 and 2019-20 college B would need to record the student as follows on Table 6:

- a. In 2018-19, college B would record the student in both Section A: All years and Section B: New entrants of Table 6.
- b. In 2019-20, college B would record the student in the Section A: All years column only.
- c. In 2020-21, the student would not be recorded on Table 6.

46. In each of the years, the students would also be returned on Table 1.

Example 9: Students who switch mode

47. A student started studying towards an HND on a part-time basis in 2016-17. In 2018-19 they switch to full-time study. The student is considered to be studying at the same provider and at the same broad level throughout the period 2016-17 to 2018-19. They should not therefore be reported as a new entrant for 2018-19 in Table 5.

Example 10: Students who start a new course at the same provider

48. A student completed a masters' course at a provider in 2016-17. In 2018-19 they start a foundation degree at the same provider. The student is considered to be generating their first countable year for that course and has not been active at the same broad level (undergraduate) at the registered provider in either of the two previous academic years. They should therefore be reported as a new entrant in Tables 5 and 6.

Example 11: Students who start more than one year of instance in the same academic year

49. A student is starting the first year of an undergraduate degree course at a provider on 1 September 2018. On 1 March 2019, and therefore in the same 2018-19 academic year the student also begins the first year of a part-time HNC course with the same provider. The student is therefore starting more than one year of instance in the same academic year and could be considered a new entrant for each. The student should only be recorded as a new entrant for one course. As the undergraduate course has the earlier start date the student would be recorded as a new entrant for the undergraduate course and not for the HNC course.

Summer schools

Example 12: Within-course periods of study in vacation time

50. A student studies full-time for a degree over three years, with activity for each year of course running from October to July. Between the second and third years, a short period of study – running from 25 July to 5 September – is undertaken to bring the student up to the standard of others on the course. This short period of study counts as part of the second year of the degree and is not a separate course.

Good practice

Removing duplicate records

51. Data held on the student record system should be reviewed before it is extracted for the return, to check for duplicate records. This should be normal practice throughout the year, particularly when new student records are being set up on the system. Exceptionally, there may be genuine reasons why a student has two records, and these will need to be documented. Where it is not correct for a student to have two records, the student record system should be amended at the earliest opportunity.
52. Part-time students are sometimes incorrectly counted as more than one headcount for different modules within the same instance. It is important that if students generate only one course they should only count as one headcount in the return. Processes should be designed to ensure this. This tends to be particularly relevant to continuing education students.

Evidence relating to fee waivers

53. Where the fee has been waived for an individual student, evidence of the reason for the waiver must be retained.

Annex D: Completion and non-completion

This annex explains how to determine the completion status of a year of course in HEIFES18.

Annex D contents

Definitions

- Module
- Final assessment
- Fees
- Completion

Guidance

- Estimates of non-completions

Special cases

- Mode changes
- Modules taken in addition to standard requirements
- Substituted or retaken modules
- Years of course with no formal assessment
- Changing study intentions within the year due to accredited prior learning

Examples

Good practice

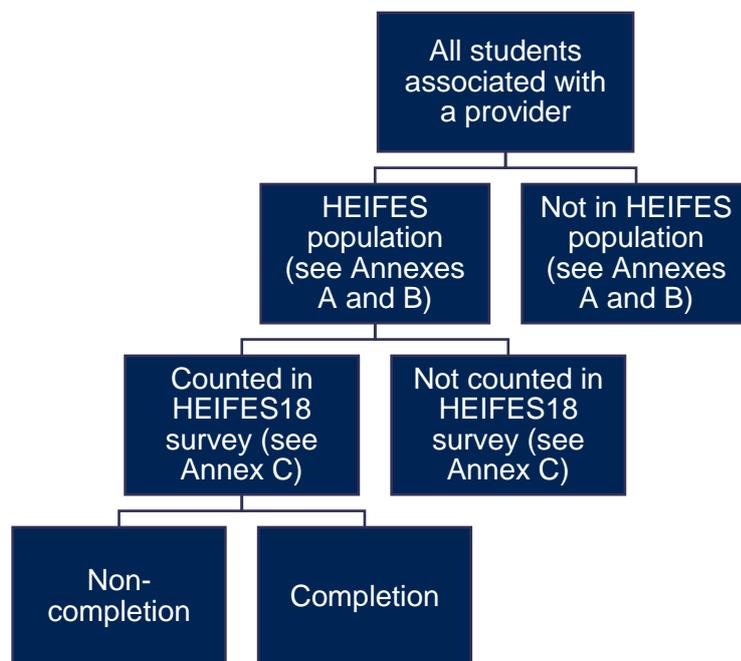
Definitions

Module

1. For the purposes of HEIFES18, a 'module' is taken to mean a discrete component within a course, sometimes referred to as a 'unit', or 'option'. Where a student is studying a number of modules that can all count towards the same qualification, this should be treated as a single course.

Final assessment

2. The final assessment for a module is the one that has its first occurrence on the latest normal due date: the timing of resits and coursework extensions should therefore be disregarded when determining the final assessment date. Whether an assessment is considered to be the final assessment does not depend on its associated weight. For example, if a module is assessed by an exam which accounts for 90 per cent of the marks, with the remainder assessed via coursework due



Annex D: Completion and non-completion

after the exam (and not solely because of an extension), the coursework rather than the exam, is the final assessment.

3. Where the last two assessments for the module are due on the same day, either one can be considered the final assessment.
4. Where the final assessments for a module comprise an assessment at a fixed date for all students (such as an exam) and another assessment at a variable date (such as a performance or presentation) which may be timetabled for individual students either before or after the fixed assessment, then the fixed assessment should be treated as the final assessment.

Fees

5. 'Fees' has the meaning set out in Section 41 of the Higher Education Act 2004 and in the Education (Student Fees) (Exceptions) (England) Regulations 1999, which continue to apply¹.

Determining a student's completion status

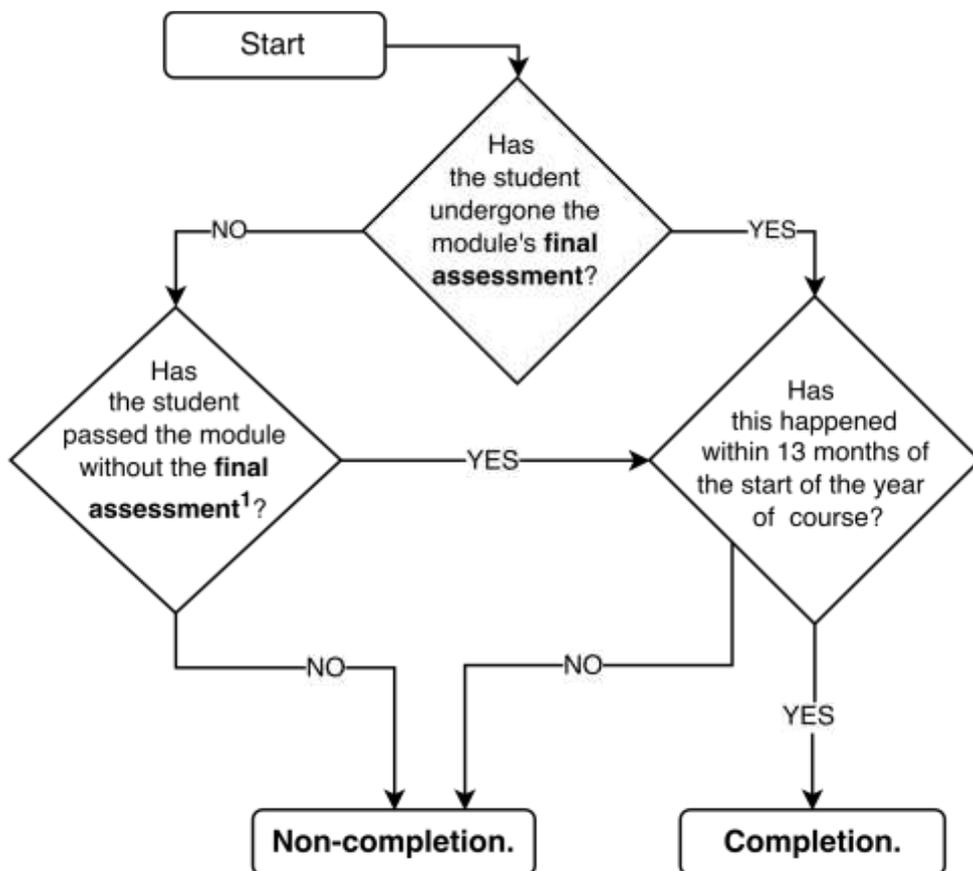
6. Where a student has a clear study intention at the start of the year of course of completing a specified activity within that year, completion is measured against this intention. To be counted as a completion (and thus be included in Column 4 of Tables 1, 2, 3, 7a, 7b or 7c), a student must complete all the modules they intended to complete in the year of course. They must do this within 13 calendar months of the start of the year of course: that is to say, within 13 calendar months of the anniversary of their commencement date, which defines the start of the year of course.
7. To complete a module, the student must do one of the following.
 - a. Undergo the final assessment of the module (this refers to the activity of the student in sitting an exam or submitting coursework rather than that of an assessment board in assessing the achievement of the student).or
 - b. Pass the module, where this can be achieved without undergoing the final assessment (because they have enough marks in that module to be awarded credit for it). In some cases, providers' regulations allow credit to be given because of the level attained in other modules: this would not be treated as completion for funding purposes, even though the college may allow the student to progress.
8. A student who fails to complete any module counted in the year of course is to be returned as a non-completion for all activity in that year. Thus, a student who starts the year intending to follow a certain pattern of activity, but does not complete all of it, would be a non-completion. Therefore colleges should collect information on students' initial study intentions for the year so that completion status can be assessed appropriately.
9. If a student has not formally withdrawn from the provider by the year end, this does not in itself qualify as a completion.

¹ Statutory Instrument 1999/2265, available at www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1999/2265/contents/made.

10. Continuation of study to the following year is **not** evidence of, or a proxy for, completion in the previous year.

11. The flowchart in Figure D1 can be used to determine a student's completion status for a module.

Figure D1: Determining a student's completion status for a module



¹ This should not be due to credit attained in other modules. See paragraph 7b for further detail.

Guidance

Estimating non-completions

12. When HEIFES18 is returned it will not be possible to determine definitively the completion status of most students. This means that colleges will need to make an estimate of the number of non-completions that are likely to occur.

13. Colleges should base these estimates on historical non-completion data from the previous three to five years, with due weight given to more recent figures. Where the non-completion rate used in the return differs significantly from past data, there should be a clear rationale for the change; colleges may be asked for evidence of this during data verification of HEIFES18. We would not expect estimates to be adjusted in line with aspirations or targets.

14. Colleges should ensure that the historical data used to make their estimates of non-completion are not skewed by exceptional circumstances, such as industrial action affecting exams. However,

Annex D: Completion and non-completion

colleges should ensure that the completion status of students on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) reflects their actual completion status.

15. Colleges should note that non-completion rates will typically vary by course, year of course and mode of study. Colleges should therefore ensure that such variation is accounted for in their estimates, with non-completion rates based on data for equivalent students in previous academic years. For example, non-completion rates for first years of a course are typically higher than later years, and non-completion estimates should reflect this difference. Similarly, non-completion rates for distance-learning courses are often much higher than other provision, and estimates should therefore be based only on other distance-learning courses.
16. Where the number of students on a course is small, or the course is new, colleges should base the estimates for each year of a course on (groups of) similar courses, to ensure that estimates are robust.
17. Colleges should not use previous years' HEIFES estimates as a basis for determining estimates for the current year. To ensure the most accurate data is returned, if ILR data is used, colleges should make adjustments for students whose completion status was unknown (FUNDCOMP = 3) when the ILR data was submitted. For example, as some students recorded as FUNDCOMP = 3 in the ILR return will not subsequently complete, colleges' calculations of non-completion rates should allow for such non-completions in the FUNDCOMP = 3 population.

Special cases

Mode changes

18. If a student formally switches mode from full-time to part-time as defined in paragraph 13 of Annex H, their completion status should be determined with reference to their revised study intentions.

Modules taken in addition to the standard requirements

19. Occasionally, students may study modules as part of a course in addition to the standard requirements for full-time study. In this case, a student who completes the number of modules normally required in the year for full-time study may be treated as a completion for the year of course, even if they fail to complete other modules.

Substituted or retaken modules

20. Within their overall study intentions, students may substitute or retake modules without affecting their completion status. For substitute or retaken modules to be counted and the original modules to be disregarded in assessing completion and full-time equivalence, both the following criteria must apply.
 - a. The total number of credit points in any substituted modules would need to be greater than or equal to that of the original module or modules.
 - b. Either the fees charged remain the same (this will commonly be the case for full-time students), or the entire fee for the original module or modules is refunded and a separate fee charged for the substitute or retaken module or modules.

Annex D: Completion and non-completion

21. Exceptionally, a student may take a module in two years of course and complete the module for the second year of course within 13 months of the start of the first year of course. In this case the college may count the module in either but not both of the years.

Years of course with no formal assessment

22. In some cases, a year of course which counts towards a qualification taken over several years may not contain any formal assessment, for example where assessment will take place at the end of a later year. In this case, where there is no such assessment opportunity within 13 calendar months of the start of the year of course, continued attendance throughout the year of course constitutes completion. Colleges should therefore ensure that adequate evidence of attendance exists, such as class registers.

Completion of one-year courses and short extensions

23. If a course is considered as taking one year to complete, we would expect all activity for that course to be completed within one year of instance. Where the course exceeds one year of instance, for example because a final submission date falls after 12 months, we would expect a second year of instance to be recorded in HEIFES and the ILR (provided all the conditions of Annexes A and C are met). In such cases, completion for the first year of instance should be assessed by looking only at any formal assessments that fall within that first year of instance.

24. Many postgraduate taught courses are long and the final assessment will be a dissertation whose target submission date is on, or very close to, the anniversary of the start date. In such cases it is often common to grant students a short extension to continue writing-up their dissertation. Provided such postgraduate students submit their dissertation within four months of the initial due date they may be counted as a completion if all other conditions are met.

Modules where assessment is optional

25. When a student undertakes a module that can lead to a qualification or credit, but does not undergo assessment for that module, in general that student will be treated as a non-completion for all their activity in the year. This applies where assessment is optional (for example on open programmes, including continuing education provision). However, an exception is allowed where the student has entered into a binding and irreversible commitment before the commencement of the module that they will not undergo assessment for it. In this case, the module will not be reported at all in HEIFES, and the completion status of the student will not be affected by their completion or non-completion of the unassessed module.

Withdrawing from a module before it starts

26. Where the pattern of activity within the year is not specified, students will occasionally register for a module then withdraw before it starts. Provided the fee for this module is refunded in full, the module should not be reported at all in HEIFES, and should be disregarded in determining completion and FTE. Full-time students will not fall into this category, as it will not be possible to refund the fee while retaining the full-time fee status of the student.

Changing study intentions within the year due to accredited prior learning

27. Where a student's study intentions change partway through the year of course because they are awarded accredited prior (experiential) learning equivalent to one or more modules, their completion status should be judged against these revised study intentions. In some cases the reduced study

intentions might mean that the student no longer meets the full-time attendance requirements. Provided the student meets the requirements to be treated as a mode switcher (see paragraph 13, Annex H) they should be treated as a part-time student with completion judged against their revised study intentions.

Examples

Example 1: Final assessment retaken within 13 months

28. A standard year of course commenced on 29 September 2016. Final assessment for a particular module counted within the year of course took place in June 2017, with an opportunity to resit or resubmit in September 2017. The student did not take the assessment in June 2017, but did so for the first time at the resit or resubmission opportunity in September 2017. The module is treated as completed, because the assessment was taken within 13 calendar months of 29 September 2016, the start of the year of course.

Example 2: Final assessment retaken after 13 months

29. A standard year course commenced on 29 September 2016. Final assessment for a particular module counted during the year of course takes place only in June each year. The student did not take the assessment in June 2017 and has not otherwise passed the module, but did take the assessment at the next opportunity in June 2018. The module is treated as not completed, because the assessment was not taken within 13 calendar months of 29 September 2016, the start of the year of course. This would be the case whether or not the student had been given permission to defer their assessment for a year.

30. In the following examples, unless otherwise specified, final assessments were taken within 13 calendar months of the start of the year of course.

Example 3: Module already passed without taking final assessment

31. A student studies for eight modules during a year of course. They undergo the final assessments in seven modules, but do not undergo the final assessment in one, on the basis that they know that they have already passed the module, based on the marks already achieved in that module. In this case, the student is treated as a completion, because they underwent the final assessments in seven modules and passed the remaining module, where it was possible to pass without undergoing the final assessment.

Example 4: Undertaking all final assessments, but failing a module

32. A student studies for eight modules during a year of course. They undergo the final assessments for all modules, but in one module their performance is insufficient to meet the academic standards required to pass that module. In this case, the year of course would be treated as a completion, because they underwent the final assessments in all modules.

Example 5: Progression to the following year where the student did not take a final assessment

33. A student studies for eight modules during a year of course. They undergo the final assessments for seven modules, but not the eighth, with the consequence that they do not have enough marks in that module to be awarded credit for it. Whether or not the college allows a student to progress (continue) to the following year of course, the student is treated as a non-completion for funding purposes for all activity in the year, because they did not undergo the final assessment in a module.

Example 6: Substituted modules

34. A full-time student has a clear intention of studying for eight modules during a year of course. Their intention initially was to include one particular module (A), but although they started the module they decided to switch to a different module (B) of equal value. The completion status for the year of course depends on completion of module B (rather than module A), together with the other seven modules taken by the student.

Example 7: Break in study

35. A full-time student starts in September intending to study eight modules during a year of course. At the end of the first semester they interrupt the course having completed four modules and return 12 months later to complete the remaining four modules. The student is a full-time non-completion for the first year of course, because they did not complete four of the modules that they intended to take within the year of course. They will be a completion for the second year of course – though normally this will be part-time because they will not meet the attendance requirements to be full-time.

Example 8: Repeating modules

36. A student on a standard year of course begins a module in October, but withdraws from it after undertaking some activity and before completing the final assessment. The following February (within the same year of course) the student retakes the module and completes it. Providing no

additional fee is charged, the first attempt at the module from October would not be reported at all in HEIFES, and should be disregarded in determining the completion status for the year of course.

Example 9: Failure to complete overall study intentions

37. A full-time student on a standard year of course has a clear intention of completing eight modules within the year. One particular module that they start in the first semester is not completed, but the student retakes it in the second semester in place of another one, and completes it. In this case, the year of course would be a non-completion, because the student completed only seven modules, rather than their overall study intention of eight.

ILR notes

38. In completing the ILR, it should be noted that some students may still have opportunities after 31 July to undergo the final assessment within 13 months of the start of their year of course. Wherever possible, the college should seek to update its ILR to reflect the latest known completion status of the student. In doing so, colleges will need to have due regard to the Education and Skills Funding Agency's data collection timescales and the need to ensure high-quality returns. We may seek further information from colleges that have high numbers of students with undetermined completion status. Students should be recorded with undetermined completion status only where an opportunity still exists for the student to undergo the final assessment within 13 months. They should not be treated as having undetermined completion status simply because the 13 months have not fully elapsed.

Good practice

Determining non-completion status

39. Non-completion status should be established in a timely fashion, and the student record system updated to reflect the student's change in status. This includes those students for whom this is only possible at a date after the submission of the college's final ILR data (these cases would have been recorded as FUNDCOMP=3). This ensures accurate data on which to base forecasts of non-completion rates in their HEIFES return.
40. Often registers are maintained to assist with the updating of the student record system. The information obtained from these registers should be used to follow up missing students. Reconciliations should be made with the student record system, to ensure that it is up to date and accurately reflects what is being reported in the registers.
41. Use of a central database, rather than separate records held locally at departmental, school or faculty level, will help to ensure that the main student record is up to date and useful as a management tool.
42. Sufficient data should be recorded at the module level on the main student record system to allow accurate assessment of a student's completion status. This should include, but not necessarily be limited to, identifying the final assessment and the student's submission to it, and the overall

outcome for the module. Coding should distinguish between non-submission to an assessment and a very low mark for poor academic performance or misconduct. This level of detail should be readily available to ensure accurate reporting of a student's completion status.

Assessment of headcount and completion status for part-time students

43. Assessment of completion status for part-time students should normally take account of all modules undertaken by an individual student within the year. Headcount and completion status of part-time students (particularly those on continuing education courses) should not be based on an individual module extract, as this does not take into account that a student may be taking more than one module during the year.

Estimation of non-completion rates

44. In addition to maintaining updated information on student's non-completion status, colleges should keep documentation in support of their estimates of non-completions recorded in HEIFES, along with other documentation relating to the return, for a minimum of five years. Colleges may be asked to provide this as part of audit or other data assurance activity.
45. A review of actual non-completion rates compared with the estimate made in the HEIFES return should be made at the year end, and reasons sought for any discrepancies. This knowledge can then be used to inform the estimate for the following year.

Annex E: Full-time equivalence for part-time students

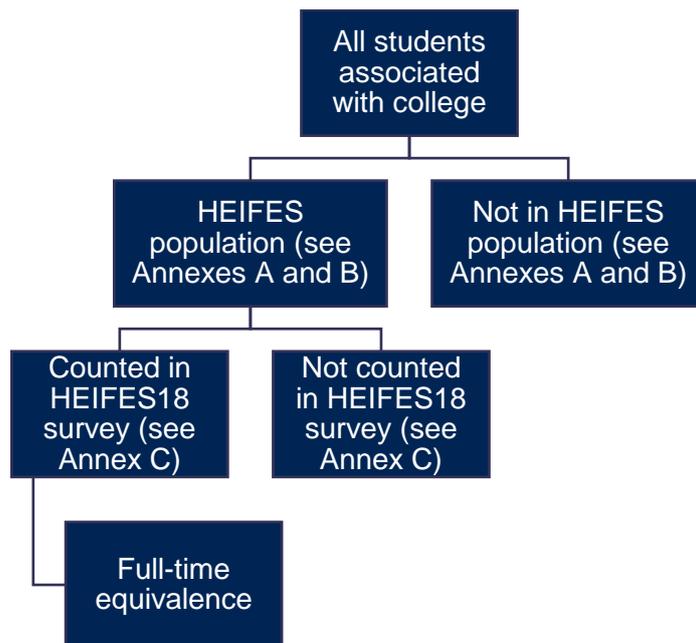
This annex explains how full-time equivalence for part-time students should be calculated in HEIFES18. This includes guidance on how to treat students who are exempt from part of a course and full-time students who change mode within a year of course to become part-time students

Annex E contents

Definitions

- Estimates for flexible part-time study (including distance-learning courses)

Examples



Definitions

1. Full-time equivalence (FTE) for part-time students is defined with reference to an equivalent full-time course, where such a course exists.
2. Calculation of the FTE can be based on either of the following:
 - credit points studied
 - duration of the course. This should be used only where the intensity of study for the whole course is uniform across each year of course.

In both cases, when viewed as a whole, the total FTE for a part-time course should equal the total FTE of the equivalent full-time course. Where the duration of the course is used, the calculation should be based on the number of years of instance.

3. Where no equivalent full-time course exists at the provider, a reasonable academic judgement should be made of the FTE relative to a full-time student, based on a typical full-time pattern of 120 credit points per standard year (or 180 credit points for a long year) When determining FTE, the number of guided learning hours the student undertakes is irrelevant.

Annex E: Full-time equivalence for part-time students

4. Credit awarded based on accredited prior learning modules should be excluded from the calculation of the FTE. However, activity that is preparation of a portfolio of evidence for accredited prior learning may be counted (in such cases, a nominal FTE may be included to reflect such activity). This may mean that a student is on a full-time programme but because of accredited prior learning may be studying only at a part-time rate.
5. Figure E1 shows the FTE per year against the total FTE for a given course, depending on the number of years over which the course is taken and on the basis that study intensity is uniform across each year. For a part-time course, the FTE summed over the whole course should be equal to that shown in the table below. Where the amount of study in each year is known to be different, the FTE in each year should be adjusted to reflect this but should still sum to the total FTE given below.
6. The FTE for a foundation degree bridging course is 0.3, as defined in Annex C paragraph 26.

Figure E1: Estimates of FTE from duration of course.

Total FTE	Duration in years									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.00				1.00	0.80	0.67	0.57	0.5	0.44	0.40
3.00			1.00	0.75	0.60	0.50	0.43	0.38	0.33	0.30
2.00		1.00	0.67	0.50	0.40	0.33	0.29	0.25	0.22	0.20
1.00	1.00	0.50	0.33	0.25	0.20	0.17	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.10

7. Figure E2 shows the typical lengths of various types of higher education qualifications, although it may not be appropriate to use this where the qualification offered differs significantly from the norm for qualifications with that title. Other than for an integrated masters' degree, we would not expect the FTE for a part-time degree to be calculated with reference to a four-year programme.

Figure E2: Typical lengths of full-time higher education qualification aims

Total FTE	Higher education qualification aims
4.00	Integrated masters
3.00	Degree
2.00	Foundation degree HND DipHE
1.00	HNC HNC to HND top-up CertEd/Level 5 Diploma in Education and Training PGCE PGDip Postgraduate masters

Note: 'HND' = 'Higher National Diploma'; 'DipHE' = 'Diploma of Higher Education'; 'HNC' = 'Higher National Certificate'; 'CertEd' = 'Certificate in Education'; 'PGCE' = 'Postgraduate Certificate in Education'; 'PGDip' = 'Postgraduate Diploma'

Annex E: Full-time equivalence for part-time students

8. Where a student repeats a year or enters the second, or later, year of the course directly, the total FTE returned for that student should be increased or decreased to reflect this (see examples 3 and 4 (paragraphs 19 to 22) in this annex).
9. For apprenticeships, only activity that directly contributes to their recognised higher education qualification should be counted towards a student's FTE. We do not expect this to include all the apprentice's time in the workplace.
10. Writing up is not considered to be 'study' for HEIFES purposes; therefore time spent writing up for part of a year of course should be excluded when calculating the student's FTE.
11. Where a student does not complete a year of course, their FTE should not be recorded on HEIFES. This differs from the treatment of the FTE returned on the ILR student record. When comparing the ILR student record with HEIFES, we will make adjustments to the FTE returned on the ILR to reflect years not completed.
12. Where students change mode during a year of course to become part-time students (see Annex H, paragraph 13), their FTE should be calculated in the usual way, by comparison with the equivalent full-time course.

Estimates for flexible part-time study (including distance-learning courses)

13. For flexible part-time study programmes where students can study at their own pace, colleges should ensure that estimates of the FTE are supported by historical data. Any data used in this way should not be skewed by exceptional circumstances. Colleges should ensure that the FTE of students on the ILR reflects their actual activity for the academic year.
14. Estimates of the FTE for a particular year of a course should normally be based on the average FTE for an equivalent flexible course from the previous academic year. Colleges should note that rates of study for flexible courses will often vary from course to course, and should therefore ensure that such variation is accounted for in their estimates. Colleges should ensure that over the course, the total FTE is equal to the total FTE for a full-time course leading to the same qualification.
15. Where the number of students on a course is small, or the course is new, colleges should base the estimates for each year of the course on (groups of) similar courses to ensure that estimates are robust.
16. Colleges should not use previous years' HEIFES estimates as a basis for determining the estimates for the current year. Colleges should be able to demonstrate the validity of their estimates by analysing the FTE for different courses over three to five years. This will help to identify trends, and years where the result is atypical compared with the trend. Where the FTE used differs significantly from past data, there should be a clear rationale for the change; colleges may be asked for evidence of this during data verification of HEIFES18.

Examples

Example 1: Calculating FTE based on credit points

17. A full-time course is studied over three years, with 120 credits taken each year. The equivalent part-time course lasts six years. In each of the first three years 90 credits are studied, and 30 credits in each of the final three. The FTE would be 0.75 in each of the first three years and 0.25 in each of the final three.

Example 2: Calculating FTE based on duration of the course

18. A full-time course is studied over three years, so has a total FTE of 3. The equivalent part-time course is studied evenly over six years, so would have an FTE of 0.5 in each year.

Example 3: Calculating FTE where no equivalent full-time course exists

19. A part-time masters' degree is studied over two years, with year one consisting of taught modules worth a total of 120 credits, and year two consisting of a 60-credit taught module.

20. No equivalent full-time course exists, so FTE is calculated relative to a typical full-time pattern of 180 credit points for a long year. This judgement is based on a group of similar full-time long courses that are well established at the college. The rationale is fully recorded for audit purposes.

21. Students studying on the part-time masters' course should be returned in Table 3 Part-time, with length recorded as long. They will have an FTE of 0.67 for their first year of instance, and FTE of 0.33 for the second year of instance, equalling FTE of 1 in total.

Example 4: Repeating a year

22. As in Example 2, but the student resits year two. The FTE returned each time the student becomes countable is still 0.5; the student becomes countable seven times, so the total FTE returned over all years is $7 \times 0.5 = 3.5$ (returned on more than one year's HEIFES).

Example 5: Student with accredited prior learning

23. As in Example 2, but the student has accredited prior learning and enters directly onto year three of the part-time course. The FTE returned each time the student becomes countable is still 0.5. The student becomes countable four times, so the total FTE returned over all years is $4 \times 0.5 = 2$ (returned on more than one year's HEIFES).

Example 6: Changing from full-time to part-time within the year

24. A student starts off as full-time but changes to part-time in the second term of the year of course, studying at the same rate as a part-time student with an FTE of 0.5 per year of course. They should be returned in the part-time table with an FTE of 0.67. This is made up of 0.33 for the first term and $0.5 \div 3 = 0.17$ for each of the second and third terms, totalling 0.67 for the year of course.

Example 7: Calculating FTE where some students take longer than expected

25. A 1.0 FTE part-time course is normally studied over two years. However, each year a small proportion of the students take three years to complete. If there are 100 students on the course and 10 take an extra year to complete, the FTE should be $((90 \times 0.5) + (10 \times 0.33)) \div 100 = 0.48$, and not 0.5.

Annex F: Residential and fundability status

This annex provides guidance on identifying the residential and fundability status of a student for the purposes of HEIFES18. It includes guidance on:

- which students should be classified as Home and European Union (EU), and which are Island and overseas
- categorising Home and EU students as OfS-fundable or non-fundable
- how to determine the fundability status of students aiming for equivalent or lower qualifications (ELQ), and of those supported from other EU public sources

Annex F contents

Definitions

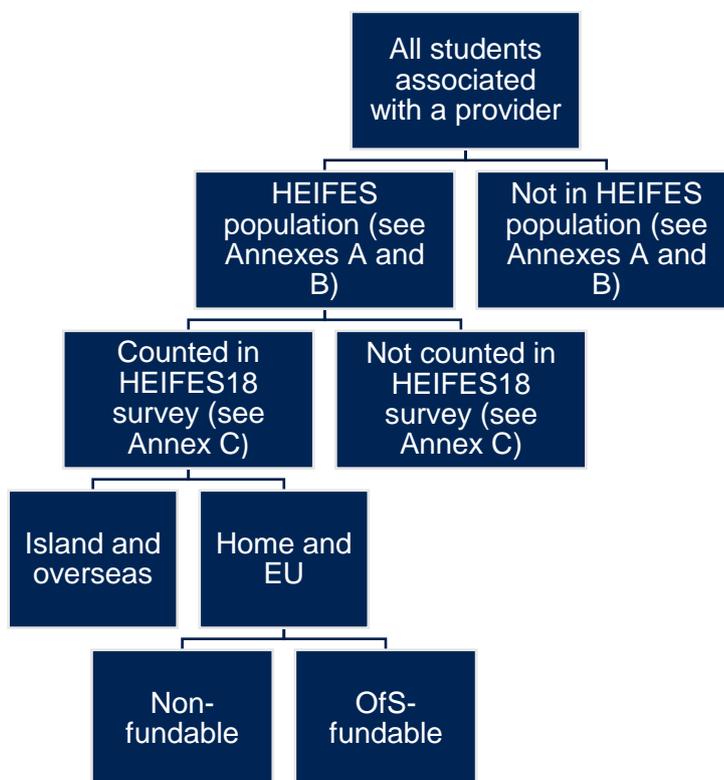
- Home and EU students
- Island and overseas students
- OfS-fundable students
- Non-fundable students

Students aiming for ELQs

- Identifying entry qualifications through other sources
- Students with multiple stated qualification aims
- Students exempt from ELQ policy for OfS funding purposes
- Determining level of qualification
- Reviewing ELQ status
- Relationship to fee regulations

Examples

Good practice



Definitions

Home and EU students

1. Students are classified as 'Home and EU' if they can be regarded as eligible students as defined in Schedule 1 of the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 (Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 779), as amended¹. These regulations can be found on the website www.legislation.gov.uk by entering the year and number for the statutory instruments in the section 'Search All Legislation'. Students from specified overseas territories may be classified as Home and EU if they meet the criteria set out in these regulations. A list of these overseas territories and countries is available on the OfS website².

Where a country accedes to the EU during the year

2. Where a country accedes to the EU during the academic year, years of course for students from that country should be treated as overseas if they commence before the date of accession, and as Home and EU if they commence on or after the date of accession.

Other students treated as EU nationals

3. Students from Gibraltar should be treated as if they were from a country in the EU.
4. Turkish Cypriots who are recognised by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus as being Cypriot nationals are eligible to be treated as EU nationals irrespective of where they live in Cyprus. Therefore, providing they hold a Republic of Cyprus passport and meet the residency requirements, they are considered as Home and EU students.
5. Students from those countries that are in the European Economic Area but not the EU (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) will be considered in the same way as Home and EU students only if they meet the criteria laid down in the regulations mentioned in paragraph 1 of this annex.
6. Students from Switzerland should be treated as if they were from a country that is in the European Economic Area but not the EU.

Obtaining guidance on fee eligibility

7. Student Finance England provides a practitioners' helpline for detailed information about policy, regulations or for help with more complex questions about assessment, eligibility or circumstance. If you are unsure if an individual student meets the eligibility requirements as set out in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this annex, call the practitioners' helpline on 0300 100 0618. If Student Finance England says that the student is eligible, this means that the student is also regarded as 'Home and EU' for HEIFES purposes.

¹ Amendments have recently been made in two Statutory Instruments:

- Statutory Instrument 2018 No. 137 – a new eligible category has been introduced from 1 August 2018 for persons granted stateless leave and their family members
- Statutory Instrument 2016 No. 584 – a new eligible category has been introduced from 1 August 2016 for students who are not settled in the UK but have been residing in the UK for a long time: this category has been further amended in Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 114

² See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-collection/

UK-domiciled in Table 5 and courses table

8. For the purposes of Table 5 and the Courses table, UK-domiciled students are those entitled to pay Home and EU fees and whose 'Country of domicile' field on the Individualised Learner Record (ILR) is coded as XF, XG, XH, XI or XK for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales or UK not otherwise specified, respectively.

Island and overseas students

9. All students who fall outside the definition of 'Home and EU' in paragraphs 1 to 6 of this annex should be recorded as 'Island and overseas'. This will include students ordinarily resident in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

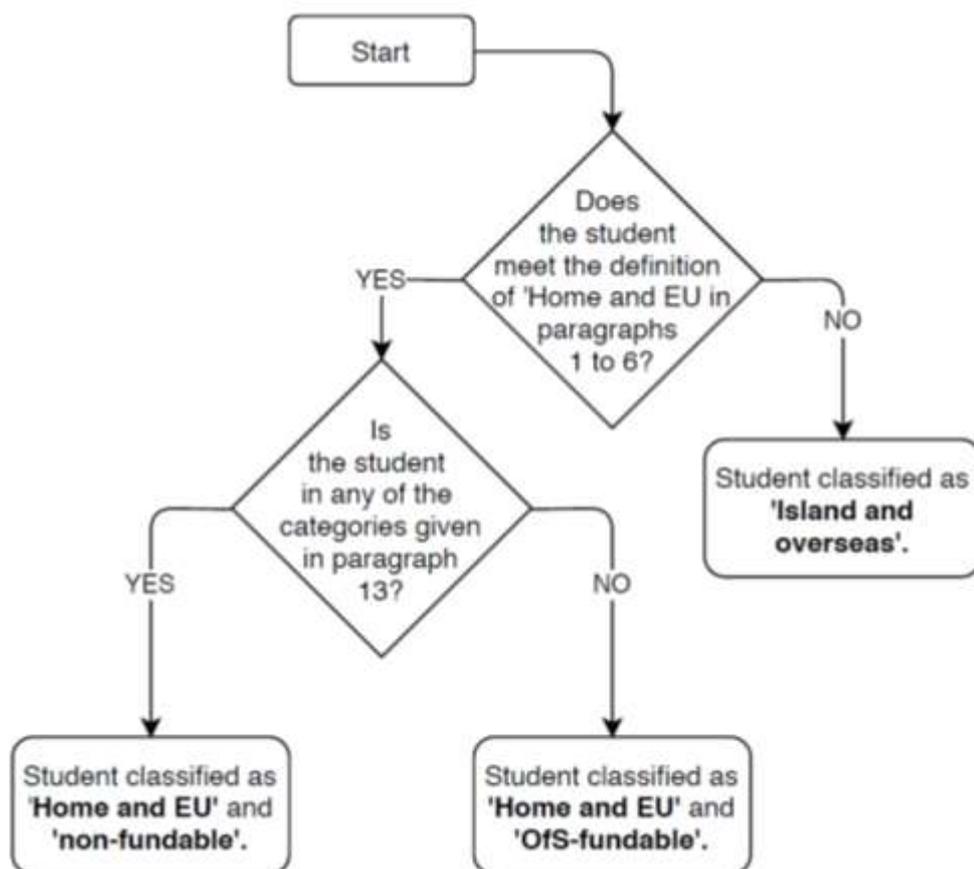
OfS-fundable students

10. Home and EU students are eligible to be counted towards OfS recurrent funds for teaching (OfS-fundable) if they are in the HEIFES population, as defined in Annex A, and do not meet any of the criteria in paragraph 13 of this annex. Island and overseas students are not OfS-fundable. Further guidance on the fundability status of Home and EU students on nursing, midwifery and allied health professions is provided in paragraph 14.

11. Where a source other than an EU public source is paying the fee, the level of the fee paid does not affect the eligibility of the student to count as OfS-fundable.

12. The flowchart in Figure F1 can be used to determine a student's residential and fundability status.

Figure F1: Classifying students in the HEIFES population



Non-fundable students

13. Home and EU students meeting any of the following criteria should be recorded as non-fundable:

- a. Postgraduate research students. These are students whose qualification aim is a research-based higher degree, such as a PhD or MPhil. A research degree is a postgraduate programme comprising a research component (including a requirement to produce original work) which is larger than any accompanying taught component when measured by student effort.
- b. Students on initial teacher training (ITT) courses leading to qualified teacher status (QTS) or to early years teacher status (EYTS), and all students holding QTS who are on an in-service education and training (INSET) course.
- c. Students on courses that on successful completion lead to first registration as a professional in nursing, midwifery, dietetics, speech and language therapy, podiatry and chiropody, or orthotics and prosthetics, and which are either of the following:
 - i. Postgraduate courses that the students started prior to 1 August 2018.
 - ii. Undergraduate courses that the students started prior to 1 August 2017.
- d. Students on courses provided under a contract with an NHS organisation that on successful completion lead to first registration as a professional in occupational therapy, operating department practice, orthoptics, physiotherapy, radiography or radiotherapy, and which are either:
 - i. Postgraduate courses that students commenced prior to 1 August 2018.
 - ii. Undergraduate courses that students commenced prior to 1 August 2017.
- e. Students on courses that started prior to 1 August 2018 provided under a contract with an NHS organisation that on successful completion lead to first registration as a professional in dental hygiene or dental therapy.
- f. Students on courses commissioned and funded by an NHS organisation, where the tuition fee charged to the student is zero because an NHS organisation is meeting the full tuition costs of the course. This does not include students on courses studied as part of an apprenticeship, which remain fundable as long as all other fundability criteria are met. A course is commissioned by an NHS organisation if there is a contractual agreement with it that the provider will provide a certain number of places on the course. Other students on the same course who are not funded by an NHS organisation should be returned as fundable where they meet all other relevant criteria.
- g. Postgraduate students on a course, other than an ITT course, funded by another EU public source, where the tuition fee charged to the student is zero because that source is meeting the tuition costs.
- h. Students on closed courses. These are courses that are not generally available to any suitably qualified candidate, but only to employees of particular companies or organisations that are meeting the costs of students' studies. This being the case, few students on such courses will be claiming student support. Closed courses will not commonly be marketed or advertised in general prospectuses or in course searches on an provider's main website,

because enrolment on them is not open to the general public. The content of such courses will also commonly be tailored towards the needs of the employers concerned. Recognised higher education qualifications taken as part of an apprenticeship should not be treated as closed courses. Years of course taken as part of an apprenticeship may therefore be treated as OfS-fundable, subject to meeting all other criteria necessary for that status.

- i. Students who are aiming for an Equivalent or Lower Qualification (ELQ), unless they are exempt from the ELQ policy as defined in paragraphs 15 to 36 of this annex.

Fundability status of Home and EU students starting pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions from 2016-17

14. Figure F2 describes how Home and EU students starting pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions should be assigned a fundability status (OfS-fundable or non-fundable) with reference to the definitions in in sub-paragraphs 13c, 13d, 13e and 13f of this annex. In Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, data cannot be entered in cells where a particular fundability status is not possible, but the guidance in Figures F2 and F3 applies to all HEIFES tables. The definition of 'starters' is given in Annex L, paragraph 7.

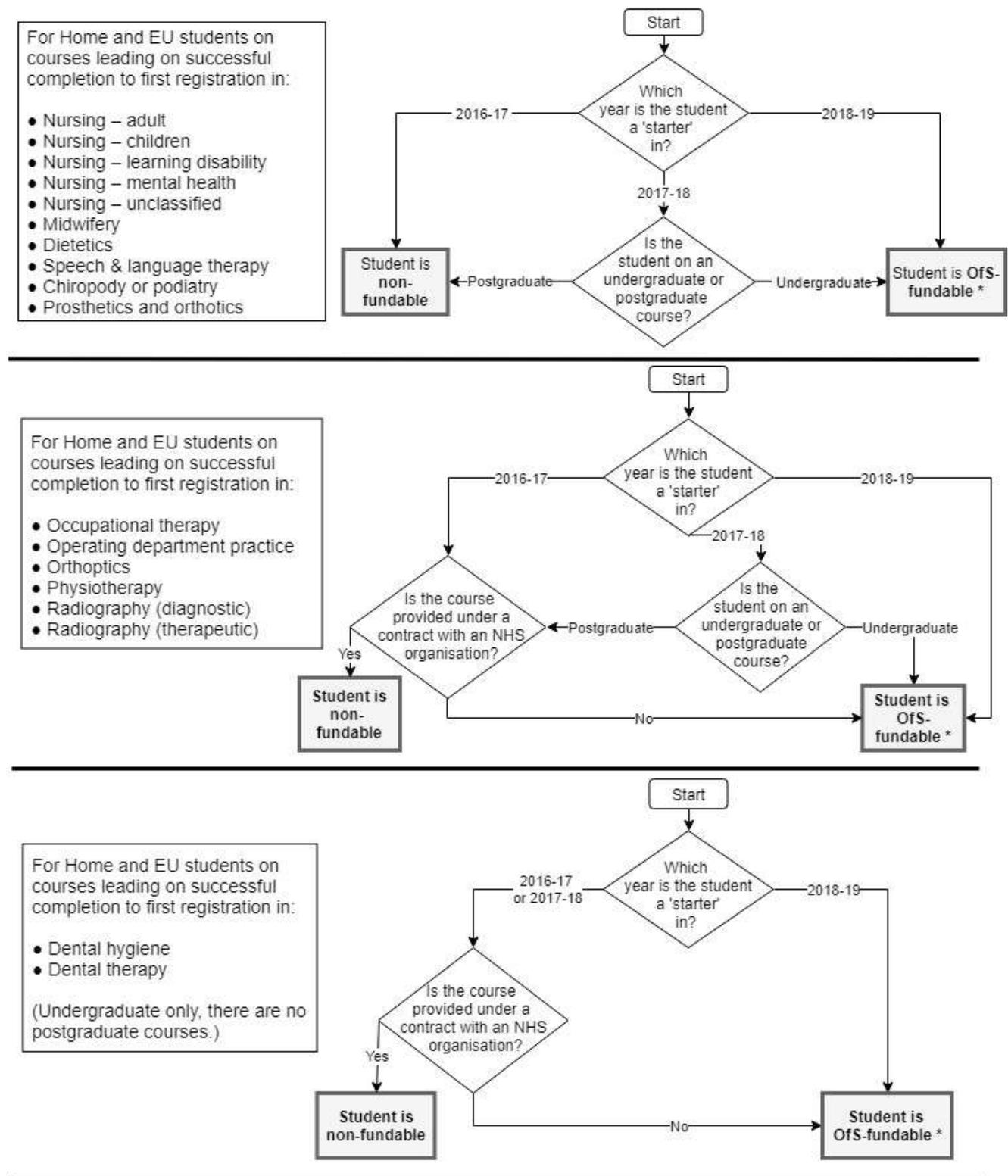
Figure F2: Fundability status for Home and EU students starting pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions from 2016-17

Courses leading on successful completion to first registration in:	Level of course	Home and EU starters in 2016-17	Home and EU starters in 2017-18	Home and EU starters in 2018-19
Nursing – adult Nursing – children Nursing – learning disability Nursing – mental health Nursing – unclassified	Undergraduate	All students are non-fundable by HEIFES17 Annex F paragraph 13cii	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies
Midwifery Dietetics Speech and language therapy Podiatry and chiropody Orthotics and prosthetics	Postgraduate	All students are non-fundable by paragraph 13ci Data not required in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c	All students are non-fundable by paragraph 13ci	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies
Occupational therapy Operating department practice Orthoptics Physiotherapy	Undergraduate	Students will be non-fundable if they meet the criteria in paragraph 13dii. Otherwise they will be OfS-fundable	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies
Radiography (diagnostic) Radiography (therapeutic)	Postgraduate	Students will be non-fundable if they meet the criteria in paragraph 13di. Otherwise they will be OfS-fundable Data not required in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c	Students will be non-fundable if they meet the criteria in paragraph 13di. Otherwise they will be OfS-fundable	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies

Annex F: Residential and fundability status

Courses leading on successful completion to first registration in:	Level of course	Home and EU starters in 2016-17	Home and EU starters in 2017-18	Home and EU starters in 2018-19
Dental hygiene Dental therapy	Undergraduate (there are no postgraduate courses)	Students will be non-fundable if they meet the criteria in paragraph 13e. Otherwise they will be OfS-fundable Data not required in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c	Students will be non-fundable if they meet the criteria in paragraph 13e. Otherwise they will be OfS-fundable	All students are OfS-fundable unless paragraph 13f applies

Figure F3: Flowchart to determine fundability status for Home and EU students starting pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions from 2016-17



NOTE: Students at the Open University who are studying in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland should be excluded from Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, as funding responsibility for them rests with the devolved administrations. They should, however, still be included as appropriate in the other HESES tables

* Unless paragraph 13f applies

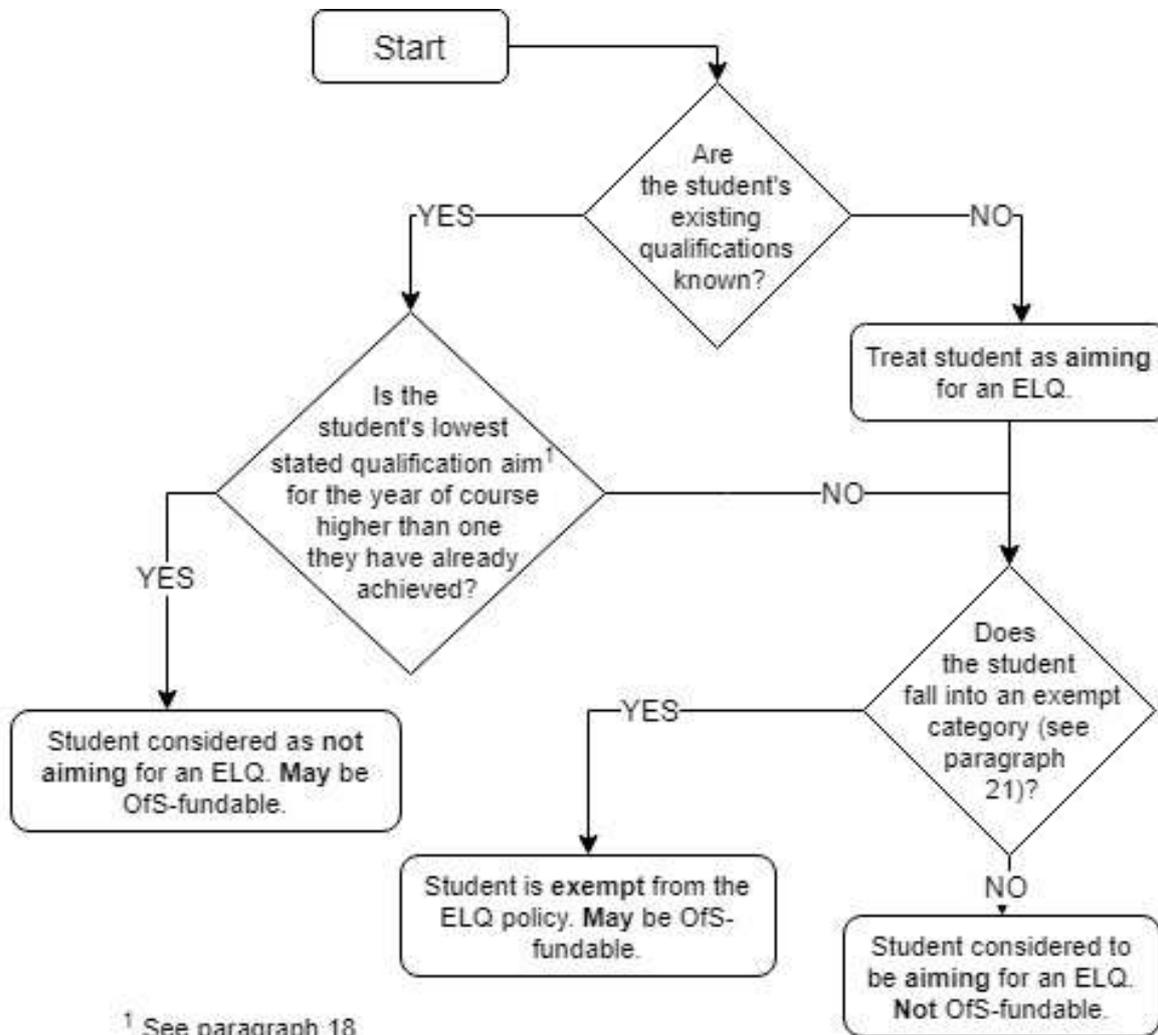
Students aiming for ELQs

15. An ELQ is a qualification that is no higher than one that a given student has already achieved. The two key considerations in determining if a student is aiming for an ELQ are the academic

levels of the qualifications already awarded to the student and the academic levels of the qualifications that the student has stated they are aiming for. If the qualifications already achieved are not known, the student should be treated as if aiming for an ELQ.

16. The flowchart in Figure F4 can be used to determine the ELQ status of a student.

Figure F4: Establishing ELQ status



Identifying entry qualifications through other sources

17. Colleges should take reasonable steps to test the accuracy of the entry qualifications reported by their students, taking into account the availability of other sources of information such as data from UCAS, the Learning Records Service, the Student Loans Company, application forms and students' certificates. This does not require a college to test the qualifications achieved by all its students. For many students, the data provided by UCAS through the awarding body linking (often referred to as ABL) will be sufficient. However, this will not apply in some cases, such as students who achieved Level 3 qualifications some time ago, or whose qualification types are not included. In these circumstances we expect colleges to verify entry qualifications using the Learning Records Service. Otherwise, colleges should use a random sample to test the overall accuracy of their entry qualifications data, plus selective samples where doubts exist about the entry qualifications reported by individual students, or where there is a higher possibility that the student is aiming for an ELQ.

Students with multiple stated qualification aims

18. As explained in Annex I, where students currently have multiple recognised higher education qualification aims stated as part of the same course, they should be recorded against the lower aim. Where the student's currently stated qualification aim for that course is at a higher level than their highest existing qualification, then the year of course should not be treated as an ELQ, even where a given year is at the same or lower level than a qualification already achieved.
19. The ELQ policy applies regardless of where a student's previous qualifications were obtained, or how they were financed.
20. In some courses, a student may not be formally awarded a qualification which they have stated as their aim and to which they are entitled, having completed all the necessary work for that qualification. This may occur because, for example, while the student has been assessed as eligible for the award, they have not completed the formal process of receiving it. In such cases, the student should be treated for ELQ purposes as if they had been awarded the qualification. The achievement and award of credit should not be treated as a qualification for these purposes.

Students exempt from ELQ policy for OfS funding purposes

21. Students falling into one of the following categories are exempt from the ELQ policy, and therefore may be reported as OfS-fundable provided they meet all other relevant criteria:
 - a. They receive Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) for at least some of their year of course reported in the HEIFES return. Colleges should make estimates for HEIFES purposes of the numbers of students whose receipt of the DSA for the year of course will be confirmed after 1 November 2018.
 - b. They have stated that their qualification aim is a foundation degree.
 - c. They are on a course of initial or in-service teacher training (in any mode or level of study). In-service teacher training courses are defined as courses whose primary (but not necessarily only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of teachers, lecturers or trainers.
 - d. They are on a year of course (in any mode or level of study) for which an NHS bursary is payable. More information on NHS bursaries can be found on the OfS website³.
 - e. They are on an undergraduate or postgraduate course (in any mode of study) that on successful completion leads to first registration as a professional with one of the following.
 - i. General Medical Council.
 - ii. General Dental Council for the professions of:
 - 1) Dentistry.
 - 2) Dental therapy.
 - 3) Dental hygiene.
 - iii. Nursing and Midwifery Council.

³ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-collection/

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iv. Health and Care Professions Council for the professions of:

- 1) Podiatrist or chiropodist.
- 2) Dietician.
- 3) Occupational therapist.
- 4) Operating department practitioner.
- 5) Orthoptist.
- 6) Paramedic.
- 7) Physiotherapist.
- 8) Prosthetist or orthoptist.
- 9) Radiographer.
- 10) Social worker.
- 11) Speech and language therapist.

v. Scottish Social Services Council.

vi. Care Council for Wales.

vii. Northern Ireland Social Care Council.

viii. Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

- f. They are on an undergraduate course (in any mode of study) whose primary (but not necessarily only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of practitioners registered with one of the professional bodies listed in sub-paragraph 21e. In the case of the Health and Care Professions Council, this must additionally relate to practitioners in the professions listed in sub-paragraph 21e.iv.
- g. They are on an undergraduate course (in any mode of study) which leads to a professional qualification that has been professionally validated by the National Youth Agency or the Youth Council for Northern Ireland. These are courses leading to qualification to practise as a youth and community worker.
- h. They are on an undergraduate course (in any mode of study) whose primary (but not necessarily only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of professionally qualified youth and community workers.
- i. They are on a full-time course (for student support purposes) which leads towards registration with the Architects Registration Board.

22. All exemptions listed above, except that for students in receipt of DSA mentioned in paragraph 21a, are an attribute of the course not of the individual student.

Determining level of qualification

23. It is not possible to provide a full hierarchical list of the qualifications that are awarded in the UK, or indeed elsewhere. In most cases, whether or not a student will be aiming for an ELQ will be clear. However, in a minority of cases, providers will need to make a reasonable academic judgement about whether or not a student's qualification aim is at a higher level than their highest

existing qualification achieved. Providers should bear in mind the guidance in paragraphs 24 to 36 of this annex.

Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies

24. 'The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualification of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies' (FHEQ, available at www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/the-existing-uk-quality-code/part-a-setting-and-maintaining-academic-standards) should generally be used to determine a basic hierarchy of qualifications, and any revisions should be reflected as they are introduced. Further guidance on the use of the frameworks is provided below.
25. In general, providers should treat qualifications that fall within the same level in the frameworks as being equivalent. However, it may be appropriate in certain circumstances to consider a hierarchy of qualifications within a single level, especially where students are progressing through a succession of qualifications. In particular:
- a. Within Level 7 on the FHEQ, it may be appropriate to consider a masters' qualification to be at a higher level than a postgraduate diploma, which in turn may be at a higher level than a postgraduate certificate. However, this may not apply in all cases and will depend on the nomenclature adopted by different awarding bodies.
 - b. Within Level 6 on the FHEQ, it will normally be appropriate to consider a bachelors' degree with honours to be at a higher level than a bachelors' degree without honours.
 - c. Within Level 5 on the FHEQ, it will normally be appropriate to consider a foundation degree bridging course (which gives access to the final year of an honours degree) to be at a higher level than a foundation degree.
26. For a student who already holds an honours degree, their classification in HEIFES as either undergraduate or postgraduate should not in itself determine whether or not they are aiming for an ELQ. The ELQ policy is about the academic level of qualifications, so the level of the final qualification for which the student is aiming will determine their ELQ status. By contrast, whether or not a student is recorded as postgraduate in HEIFES is determined by whether or not a degree is a normal condition of entry to their course, and does not necessarily indicate the academic level of their study or final qualification aim. In particular, the following considerations will apply to any student whose highest qualification already achieved is an honours degree:
- a. Where they are undertaking a graduate conversion course, they should be recorded as a postgraduate student, but also considered as aiming for an ELQ. In this context, a graduate conversion course is one for which a normal condition of entry is an honours degree, but whose academic level is no higher than Level 6 on the FHEQ. Some such courses may be designed to enable access to postgraduate courses for those whose first degree was in a different subject area.
 - b. Where they are undertaking an integrated masters' programme (such as a four-year Master of Engineering (MEng), Master of Physics (MPhys) or Master of Chemistry (MChem)), they should be recorded at undergraduate level in HEIFES, because a degree is not a normal entry requirement for such study. However, with the exception of the Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) (see paragraph 28), they should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ, because the academic level of the final qualification of the integrated masters' programme is at Level 7 on the FHEQ. This also means that (again with the exception of students who hold an MPharm) a student who holds an integrated masters' qualification and who wishes to enrol on a taught

postgraduate masters' qualification (such as a Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Business Administration (MBA)) should be treated as aiming for an ELQ.

27. As is stated in the frameworks, MAs granted by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are not academic qualifications. Students holding such awards should be treated as holding Level 6 qualifications on the FHEQ (reflecting also if these qualifications are degrees with honours for the purpose of the guidance at sub-paragraph 25b of this annex). A number of universities in Scotland also have a tradition of awarding MAs as opposed to Bachelors of Art (BAs) at undergraduate degree level. These should also be treated in the same way as bachelors' degrees, reflecting also whether they are with honours.

Exceptions to the FHEQ

28. The MPharm should be treated as a Level 6 qualification on the FHEQ for ELQ purposes. This means that the following hold true.

- a. A student whose highest qualification already achieved is a bachelors' degree with honours and who is studying for an MPharm should be treated as aiming for an ELQ.
- b. A student who holds an MPharm as their highest qualification already achieved and is now studying for a postgraduate masters' qualification at Level 7 (such as an MA or MBA) should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ.

29. All postgraduate initial teacher training courses, such as PGCEs (whether Postgraduate Certificates in Education or Professional Graduate Certificates in Education) should be treated, for the purpose of the ELQ policy only, as being equivalent to Level 6. This means that a student whose highest qualification already achieved is a PGCE, and who has no other postgraduate qualification, would not be treated as aiming for an ELQ if they enrolled on a postgraduate masters' qualification. Students on a postgraduate initial teacher training course are exempt from the ELQ policy, as explained in sub-paragraph 21c of this annex.

30. Where students do not have a stated qualification aim and are studying by accumulating credit on a succession of 'courses' or modules, they should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ if they do not have a previous higher education qualification. Such accumulation of credit should be treated as progression towards a final undergraduate qualification. However, if the student has a higher education level qualification (as well as having potentially accumulated undergraduate level credit from recent study), then the student would be treated as aiming for an ELQ if that qualification is at a level equivalent to, or higher than, the credit towards which they are now studying. A similar approach should be adopted where students are accumulating credit at postgraduate level: credit previously achieved should not generally be used to determine that a student aiming for further postgraduate credit is aiming for an ELQ, but a previous postgraduate-level qualification generally should.

Professional qualifications and qualifications awarded abroad

31. Providers may wish to take advice from the National Recognition Information Centre for the UK (UK NARIC, www.naric.org.uk/naric/) about the relative level of professional qualifications and those awarded abroad. UK NARIC is the national agency responsible for providing information, advice and expert opinion on vocational, academic and professional skills and qualifications from over 180 countries worldwide.

32. There may be cases where UK NARIC advises, for example, that the academic level of a degree awarded in another country is below that of a degree in the UK. In such a case, it is acceptable to

Annex F: Residential and fundability status

treat a student whose highest higher education qualification is a degree from that country, and who is studying for a degree in the UK, as not aiming for an ELQ. Other sources of information that may help in determining the academic level of qualifications can be found on the OfS website.

Reviewing ELQ status

33. In general, whether or not a student is aiming for an ELQ should be reviewed annually, at the start of each year of course. This is necessary to take account of changing student circumstances, such as where a student:

- while following two separate programmes of study receives a qualification for one before the other is complete
- changes their qualification aim
- begins to receive the DSA.

In general, and subject to the guidance in sub-paragraph 21a, we would not expect providers to change the ELQ status of their students within a year of course.

Relationship of OfS policy on ELQs to fee regulations

34. The Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) (England) Regulations (Statutory Instrument 2007 No. 778, as amended in particular by Statutory Instrument 2008 No. 1640 for the ELQ policy) define which categories of students and courses are covered by the regulated undergraduate fee regime – that is, those for whom providers cannot charge a fee that exceeds prescribed limits, including the limits stated in their access agreements up to 2018-19.

35. The Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument 2011 No. 1986), as amended, define entitlements to student support. Statutory instrument 2011 No. 1986 contains a definition of ELQs.

36. There are some differences in the treatment of students for ELQ purposes between if they may be recorded as OfS-fundable following the guidance in HEIFES; and whether or not they are liable to regulated tuition fees or are eligible for student support. In particular, there will be cases where a student can be treated as exempt from the ELQ policy for OfS funding purposes, but where they are not covered by the Student Fees (Qualifying Courses and Persons) Regulations – thus they can, if the provider chooses, be charged a non-regulated tuition fee. We do not, however, expect there to be cases where a student is non-fundable by the OfS because of their ELQ status, but where the provider is still restricted to charging a regulated tuition fee. Any questions about these statutory instruments should be raised with the Student Finance England practitioners' helpline on 0300 100 0618.

Examples

Example 1: Student aiming for both HND and degree

37. A student with a stated aim of both a Higher National Diploma (HND) and a degree as part of the same course should be treated as aiming for an HND for ELQ purposes.

Example 2: Student acquiring undergraduate certificate (not a stated aim)

38. A student aiming for a first degree has a Higher National Certificate (HNC) as their highest existing higher education qualification. The student will be awarded an undergraduate certificate if they successfully complete their first year, but this is not a stated aim. The student should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ for any of their years of course (including the first), because the undergraduate certificate that they will acquire is not a stated qualification aim.

Example 3: Student aiming for honours degree with foundation degree as highest qualification

39. A student enters with a foundation degree as their highest qualification already achieved, and has a stated qualification aim of an honours degree. The student should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ. This would apply whether the honours degree involves three years of full time study or the student is aiming for the honours degree through, for example, a one-year top-up from the foundation degree.

Example 4: Student with honours degree studying for foundation degree and then topping up to a second degree

40. A student enters already holding an honours degree as their highest qualification, and intends to study for a foundation degree over two years and then top up to an honours degree in one year. If they have a stated qualification aim of both a foundation degree and an honours degree as part of the same course, then the student is exempt from the ELQ policy in the first two years when studying for the foundation degree. However, when topping up to an honours degree in the final year, the student will be treated as aiming for an ELQ.

Example 5: Student studying a succession of continuing education courses

41. A student without any prior higher education qualification is undertaking a succession of 20 credit-point undergraduate continuing education courses, all at the same academic level. After successful completion of such a course, the student is permitted to be awarded a provider certificate. If the student completes 120 credit points from such courses, they can be awarded a Certificate of Higher Education. In this example:

- a. A student who has successfully completed a 20 credit-point course, but has not been awarded the provider certificate, should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ for any study towards another 20 credit-point course.
- b. Where the student has been awarded a provider certificate for successfully completing a 20 credit-point course, then:
 - i. They should be treated as aiming for an ELQ if they are taking another 20 credit-point course, and either have a stated qualification aim of a provider certificate or have not stated a qualification aim (that is, they are assumed to be studying towards further credit at the same level as a qualification already awarded).

- ii. They should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ if they are taking another 20 credit-point course, but have a sole qualification aim of a Certificate of Higher Education. This is because, on the basis of the guidance at paragraph 25, the Certificate of Higher Education would be considered a higher qualification than the university certificate already achieved. If the student has stated qualification aims of both a university certificate and the Certificate of Higher Education, then they would be treated as aiming for an ELQ, by virtue of sub-paragraph 41b.i.

Example 6: Student who acquires ELQ status part way through a course

42. A student with no previous higher education qualifications is concurrently aiming for a first degree and a part time two-year HNC. The student completes the degree midway through the first year of the HNC. In this example, the student should not be treated as aiming for an ELQ for the first year of the HNC. However, the student should be treated as aiming for an ELQ in their second year of course for the HNC, because their ELQ status should be reviewed annually to take account of any newly achieved higher education qualifications.

Example 7: Student already registered with a regulatory body for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, who enrolls on a pre-registration course for one of the professions

43. A student is already registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a nurse but enrolls on a pre-registration midwifery course. As the midwifery course leads to a first registration for the profession 'midwifery', the student is exempt from the ELQ policy regardless of already being registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council as a nurse. The exemption from the ELQ policy is an attribute of the course, not of the individual student.

Good practice

Collecting qualification data from students

44. Providers should ask students to confirm annually that they have not achieved any new qualifications since they last enrolled.
45. Colleges should ensure that their data protection notices allow them, the government or their respective agents to check the accuracy of personal information provided by students against external data sources, including the Student Loans Company and Learning Records Service. For example, they should permit the college to test if the student has been reported on earlier Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) or ILR returns of other providers, and to contact these other providers to confirm any qualifications obtained.

Keeping records of how students aiming for ELQs have been identified

46. In all cases, colleges should keep records for audit purposes of how they are identifying students as aiming for an ELQ. This should set out the broad approach adopted by the college. Where there may be uncertainty as to whether an individual student is aiming for an ELQ, the college should also keep a record of how it has determined their ELQ status.

Recording of non-exempt students aiming for an ELQ

47. Home and EU students aiming for an ELQ and not covered by an exemption should be clearly identified on the student record system, and returned in the 'non-fundable' columns.

Annex G: Price groups

This annex explains how years of course should be mapped to price groups for the purposes of HEIFES18, including guidance on the specific cases of sandwich years out, nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, and education

Annex G contents

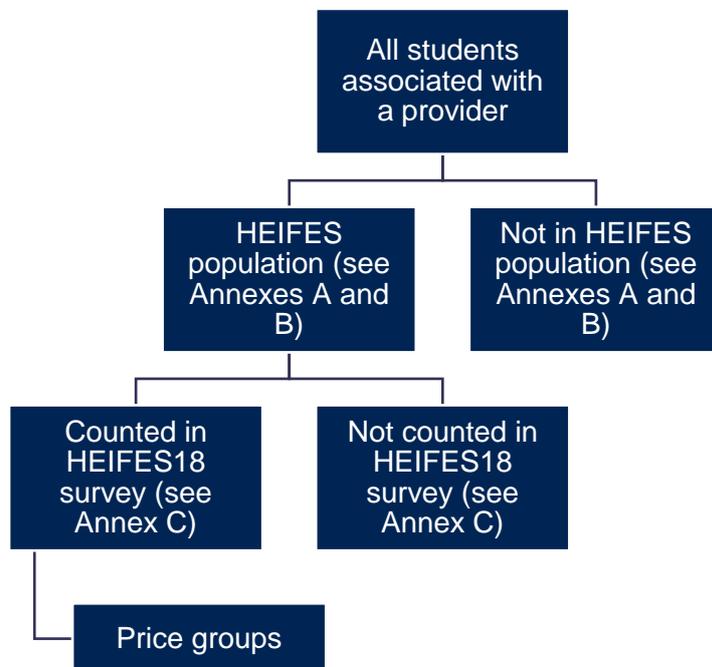
Assigning years of course to price groups

Specific cases

- Sandwich years out
- Pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions
- ITT, INSET and other education students

Tables showing relationship of LDCS codes to price groups

Examples



Assigning years of course to price groups

1. Certain years of course are assigned to price groups based on the particular courses that students are studying. (See specific cases in paragraphs 2-10. All other years of course are assigned to price groups based on the Learn Direct Classification System (LDCS) code of the course. (See paragraphs 11 onwards).

Specific cases

Sandwich years out

2. Regardless of other specific cases listed below or the LDCS code of the course, students on a sandwich year out should be recorded in price group C2.

Pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions

3. Students on pre-registration courses, that on successful completion lead to first registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) as a professional in nursing (all specialisms), should be entirely attributed to price group C1, irrespective of how the LDCS code(s) maps to a price group. However, we understand that no colleges offer such courses.
4. Students on pre-registration courses that on successful completion lead to first registration with a relevant recognised regulatory body as a professional in midwifery, dietetics, speech and language therapy, podiatry and chiropody, orthotics and prosthetics, occupational therapy, operating department practice, orthoptics, physiotherapy, and radiography will be entirely

Annex G: Price groups

attributed to price group B, irrespective of how the LDCS code(s) maps to a price group. We understand that only two colleges offer such courses, both being in podiatry.

5. For the purposes of paragraph 4, the relevant recognised regulatory bodies are the NMC for midwifery and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) for all other professions listed.
6. All other activity with LDCS codes beginning with P should be assigned to price groups according to the mappings shown in Table G1.

ITT, INSET and other education students

7. Students on initial teacher training (ITT) courses, whether leading to qualified teacher status (recognised), qualified teacher learning and skills (QTLS), or early years teacher status (EYTS), should be entirely attributed to price group C2, irrespective of the subject of their qualification aim. All Home & EU students on ITT courses leading to QTS or EYTS should be reported as non-fundable.
8. In-service education and training (INSET) courses are defined as courses whose primary (but not necessarily only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of teachers, lecturers or trainers. Students who do not hold QTS, QTLS or EYTS but are studying for an ITT qualification via an INSET course should be recorded in price group C2. Other students on INSET courses should be attributed to a price group according to the subject of qualification aim. Home & EU students holding or aiming for QTS on INSET courses should be returned as non-fundable.
9. Students studying for a foundation degree to become a teaching assistant should be returned in price group C2.
10. All other activity with LDCS code G should be returned in price group D.

Tables showing relationship of LDCS codes to price groups

11. Only where **none** of the specific cases defined in paragraphs 2 to 10 apply, years of course should be assigned to price groups using the mapping between LDCS codes and price groups shown in Tables G1 and G2 below. The Education and Skills Funding Agency's learning aims search facility on the Information Management Hub (<https://hub.imservices.org.uk/LearningAims/Pages/default.aspx>) returns up to three LDCS codes under the 'Other information' tab 'Shared information' section for each learning aim.
12. Some qualifications contain study in two or more distinct subject areas, for example a chemistry and business course. Where the qualification has more than one LDCS code on the Education and Skills Funding Agency's learning aims search, the student should be split between the relevant price groups in proportion to the split between each subject for the course as a whole.
13. If there is no LDCS code for a particular course, or the college thinks that the wrong LDCS code has been assigned, the college should email heifes@officeforstudents.org.uk as soon as possible (ideally as soon as the course has been added to the Hub). Colleges should provide us with:
 - the learning aim reference
 - the learning aim title

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- the awarding body
- the LDCS codes as displayed on the learning aims search (where present)
- up to three main subject areas of the course in question.

A full list of LDCS codes and associated subject descriptions is available at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20180405121147/http://www.hefce.ac.uk/data/collect/HEIFES/> under 'Frequently asked questions'.

14. LDCS codes contain up to six characters which indicate a hierarchy of subject specialism. The top level of the hierarchy is represented by a single character (a letter). Each additional character represents a (further) sub-level. In Tables G1 and G2, the mapping of LDCS codes to price groups includes all sub-levels of each code, unless stated otherwise. For example, 'A' includes all LDCS codes that begin with A, 'PA' includes all codes that begin with PA and 'FN.1' includes all codes that begin with FN.1. Alternatively the Courses table in the HEIFES workbook can be used to look up a price group or groups by entering the learning aim reference for a course.

Table G1: Sorted by LDCS code

LDCS codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)	Price group(s)
A	D
B	D
C	C1
DC	C1
D (other than above)	D
E	D
FN.1, FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.7, FN.8, FN.9	C2
F (other than above)	D
G*	D*
H	D
JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE	D
J (other than above)	C1
KB, KC	D
K (other than above)	C1
LF, LG	D
L (other than above)	C1
M	C2
NG, NK, NN	D
N (other than above)	C2
PB, PC.1, PC.5, PE.6, PE.7, PF.1, PF.2, PG.1, PG.2	B
PA	D
P (other than above) †	C2†

LDCS codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)	Price group(s)
QA.3, QH.6	B
QB, QH (except for QH.6), QJ	D
Q (other than above)	C2
RA.3, RA.5, RA.6, RB, RF.4, RG	C2
R (other than above)	B
SE	C1
SN.3, SN.4, SN.6, SQ	C2
SJ.5, SM, SP	D
S (other than above)	B
TK, TL, TM	B
TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF	D
T (other than above)	C2
U	D
VE, VF.4, VG	B
VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.5, VF.6	C1
V (other than above)	D
WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WG	B
WM	C2
W (other than above)	C1
XA.13, XA.32, XN, XS	C2
X (other than above)	B
Y	B
ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5	D
Z (other than above)	C2

* LDCS code G (education) should be assigned to price group D unless courses meet the specific criteria in paragraphs 7 to 9 of this annex to be assigned to price group C2

† LDCS codes beginning with P (health care/medicine/health and safety), other than those listed separately in Tables G1 and G2, should be assigned to price group C2 unless courses meet the specific criteria in paragraphs 3 to 5 of this annex to be assigned to either B or C1. In practice, we understand that only two FECs offer courses with an LDCS code beginning with P that would meet the criteria to be recorded in a price group other than C2; in both cases being pre-registration courses in podiatry which would be recorded in price group B.

Table G2: Sorted by price group

Price group	Learn Direct Classification System codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)
B	PB, PC.1, PC.5, PE.6, PE.7, PF.1, PF.2, PG.1, PG.2, QA.3, QH.6, R (except RA.3, RA.5, RA.6, RB, RF.4, RG), S (except SE, SJ.5, SM, SN.3, SN.4, SN.6, SP, SQ), TK, TL, TM, VE, VF.4, VG, WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WG, X (except XA.13, XA.32, XN, XS), Y
C1	C, DC, J (except JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE), K (except KB, KC), L (except LF, LG), SE, VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.5, VF.6, W (except WA, WB, WC, WD, WE, WG, WM)

Price group	Learn Direct Classification System codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)
C2	FN.1, FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.7, FN.8, FN.9, M, N (except NG, NK, NN), P (except PA, PB, PC.1, PC.5, PE.6, PE.7, PF.1, PF.2, PG.1, PG.2) [†] , Q (except QA.3, QB, QH, QJ), RA.3, RA.5, RA.6, RB, RF.4, RG, SN.3, SN.4, SN.6, SQ, T (except TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF, TK, TL, TM), WM, XA.13, XA.32, XN, XS, Z (except ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5)
D	A, B, D (except DC), E, F (except FN.1, FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.7, FN.8, FN.9), G*, H, JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE, KB, KC, LF, LG, NG, NK, NN, PA, QB, QH (except QH.6), QJ, SJ.5, SM, SP, TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF, U, V (except VE, VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.4, VF.5, VF.6, VG), ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5

* LDCS code G (education) should be assigned to price group D unless courses meet the specific criteria in paragraphs 7 to 9 of this annex to be assigned to price group C2.

† LDCS codes beginning with P (health care/medicine/health and safety), other than those listed separately in Tables G1 and G2, should be assigned to price group C2 unless courses meet the specific criteria in paragraphs 3 to 5 of this annex to be assigned to either B or C1. In practice, we understand that only two FECs offer courses with an LDCS code beginning with P that would meet the criteria to be recorded in a price group other than C2, in both cases being pre-registration courses in podiatry which would be recorded in price group B.

Examples

Example 1: Identifying price group from LDCS code

15. Two students studying for different undergraduate degrees have respective LDCS codes of FN.12 and FN.213.

- FN.213 is a sub-level of FN.2 (and so also a sub-level of F). Table G1 shows that this will be returned as price group D.
- FN.12 is a sub-level of FN.1, which is shown in Table G1 as an exception to F. This means that it will be returned as price group C2.

16. The table below shows the structure for these LDCS codes, with a description for each sub-level and the appropriate price group.

LDCS code 1	LDCS code 1 description	Price group 1	LDCS code 2	LDCS code 2 description	Price group 2
F	Area studies / cultural studies / languages / literature	D	F	Area studies / cultural studies / languages / literature	D
FN	Languages	D	FN	Languages	D
FN.1	Language studies	C2	FN.2	English language	D
FN.12	Modern languages	C2	FN.21	English language of specific periods	D
			FN.213	Middle English	D

Example 2: Split price groups

17. A student is studying for an undergraduate degree in fine art and history of art. When entered into the learning aims search, this returns two LDCS codes which correspond to different price groups:

- JA.3 (fine art) – price group C1
- JA.331 (art history) – price group D.

18. For this course, the fine art component consists of 60 per cent of the course, with art history comprising the remaining 40 per cent. On the HEIFES return, the student should be split with 0.6 FTE in price group C1 and 0.4 in price group D.

Example 3: Split price groups where proportional split differs across years of course

19. A college offers an HNC in Construction and the built environment. When entered into the learning aims search, this returns two LDCS codes which correspond to different price groups:

- TL.1 (civil engineering) – price group B
- TE.1 (construction studies) – price group C2.

20. For this course, in the first year the civil engineering component consists of 30 per cent of the course, with construction studies comprising the remaining 70 per cent. In the second year the civil engineering component consists of 50 per cent of the course, with construction studies comprising the remaining 50 per cent. This could be recorded as two separate entries on the Courses table of the HEIFES return:

- for the first year of study the proportional split would be 30 per cent in price group B, and 70 per cent in price group C2
- in the second year of study the proportional split would be 50 per cent in price group B, and 50 per cent in price group C2.

21. Alternatively this can be recorded as one single entry with an average applied of the proportional split across the two years.

Example 4: Split price groups where 100 per cent activity is in one price group

22. A college offers a course in BSc (Hons) Horticulture and garden design. When entered into the learning aims search, this returns two LDCS codes which correspond to different price groups:

- SA.2 (horticulture (general)) – price group B
- SE.92 (garden design) – price group C1

23. For this course, in the first year of study the proportional split is 100 per cent horticulture (general) and 0 per cent garden design, as students do not undertake any modules in garden design until the second year of the course.

24. For the first year of the course the proportional split should be recorded accurately as 100 per cent in price group B and 0 percent in price group C1.

25. As leaving the proportional split for price group C1 at 0 per cent will automatically generate a credibility warning, the college should include detail in their initial explanations to explain this.

Annex H: Mode of study

This annex explains how to determine for the purposes of HEIFES17 the mode of study for a year of course (full-time, sandwich year out or part-time), including guidance on how to treat learning in the workplace and work experience when determining mode of study. In general, all students on a given course with a broadly similar pattern of activity, for a given year of course, should be recorded as having the same mode

Annex H contents

Full-time

- Part-time students in receipt of full-time student support
- Accredited prior learning

Sandwich year out

Part-time

Additional guidance on mode of study

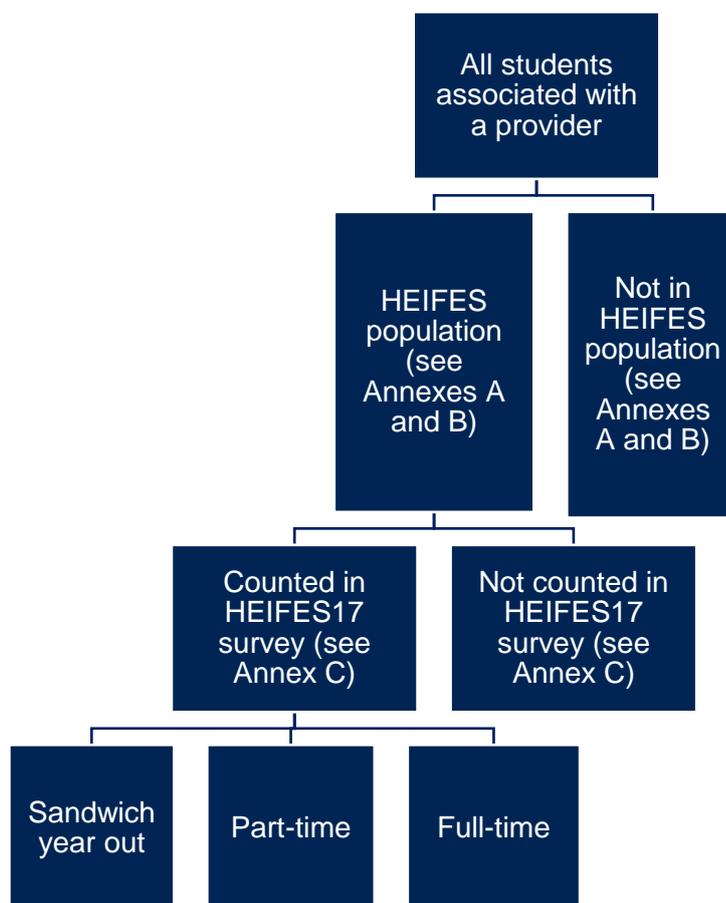
- Apprenticeships
- Students only active for part of a year
- Students who change from full-time to part-time within a year of course
- Treatment of learning in the workplace and work experience for the purposes of determining mode of study

Examples

Full-time

1. A year of course is counted as full-time if it meets **all** of the following criteria:

- The student is normally required to attend the college, or elsewhere, for periods amounting to at least 24 weeks within the year of course, and during that time they are expected to undertake periods of study, tuition, learning in the workplace or sandwich work placement that does not meet the criteria to be sandwich year out, which amount to an average of at least 21 hours per week. (Guided learning hours should not be used in isolation to determine how many hours each week a student spends studying. All guided learning hours count towards this total, but it is expected that higher education students will spend a



significant amount of time each week in self-led individual learning, and an estimate of this time should also be included.)

- b. Full-time fees are chargeable for the course for the year. Exceptionally, all or part of the fee may be waived for individual students based on their particular personal rather than course-related circumstances. This does not include cases where fees are reduced because students are studying less intensively than is normally expected for a full-time student. It should not be waived for all students on a course, and the criteria that determine if fees may be waived should not be tantamount to waiving them for all students.
2. The full-time category includes all full-time, sandwich and year abroad students, other than those falling within the definition of 'sandwich year out' given below.

Part-time students in receipt of full-time student support

3. Some students may receive full-time student support, but not meet the criteria given in paragraph 1a. Such students should be returned as part-time, unless they fall under the definition of sandwich year out given below.

Accredited prior learning

4. Students who are on a full-time programme, but because of accredited prior learning do not meet the attendance requirements to be full-time, should be returned as part-time.

Sandwich year out

5. A year of course is counted as a 'sandwich year out' if the course includes a period of work-based experience and meets the following criteria.
 - a. The course falls within the definition of a 'sandwich' course in Regulation 2 (10) of the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (Statutory Instrument 2011 No. 1986), as amended, or the year of course is an Erasmus+ year abroad spent working.
 - b. It is a year of course:
 - i. During which any periods of full-time study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks; or
 - ii. For which, in respect of that year of course and any previous year(s) of course, the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of full-time study (disregarding intervening vacations) exceeds 30 weeks.
 - c. A reduced fee is chargeable for the course for the year, compared with what would be chargeable if the student were studying full-time in the year.
6. Students spending a full year abroad working, including under the Erasmus scheme, should be returned as sandwich year out. This includes students under the British Council's Language Assistants scheme.
7. Students on pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses who are on a sandwich year out are also recorded on Table 7b. Such sandwich year out students can only be entered as starters in 2016-17 or 2017-18, as we do not expect students to be on a sandwich year out in 2018-19 if it is the first year of their course (see Annex L paragraph 10).

Part-time

8. A student is counted as part-time if the year of course does not meet the requirements to be either full-time or a sandwich year out. This includes Higher National Certificate (HNC) students who are expected to complete in one year, but whose course is not subject to full-time regulated fees and student support.

Additional guidance on mode of study

9. In some cases a student's mode of study changes between years. For example, the mode of a student on a full-time 18-month course would change from full-time in year one to part-time in year two, if the second year does not have 24 weeks of study.

Apprenticeships

10. Where students are studying for a recognised higher education qualification as part of an apprenticeship they will normally be dividing their time between work and study. As such, we would expect years of instance for these students to be part-time. For apprenticeships, only activity that directly relates to their recognised higher education qualification should be counted. We do not expect this to include all the apprentice's time in the workplace, including for the purpose of determining whether the attendance requirements for categorisation as a full-time year of course are met.
11. We recognise that the concept of a full-time fee may not be meaningful for recognised higher education undertaken as part of an apprenticeship. Where this is the case, the criterion in paragraph 1b can be disregarded for the purpose of determining whether a year of course for an apprentice should be classified as full-time. However, years of course for any recognised higher education studied as part of an apprenticeship should not be categorised as full-time unless, when compared to the equivalent full-time course not taken as part of an apprenticeship:
 - the duration of the course is the same
 - the number of credits studied per year is the same.

Where no such course exists, the duration should be assessed against the typical length of a similar qualification, as noted in Annex E, paragraph 7.

Students only active for part of a year

12. In general, where a student plans to study at a full-time rate for a portion of the year – for example only for the first semester – they will be part-time, even though they are 'full-time' for that period of study. The mode of attendance must be established with reference to the intended activity for the whole year of course.

Students who change from full-time to part-time within a year of course

13. Where full-time students change mode within a year of course to become part-time, the year of course should be recorded as part-time only. This applies only when the student continues to study actively on their year of course, where there is a formal process for agreeing the change in mode, including confirmation by the student and a recalculation of their tuition fee to reflect their part-time status. It may also result in the student losing entitlement to full-time student

support. Their full-time equivalence should be calculated in the usual way, by comparison with the equivalent full-time course.

Treatment of learning in the workplace and work experience for the purposes of determining mode of study

14. For the purposes of meeting the attendance definition for a full-time course, full-time study can include learning in the workplace, where this is a course requirement. Such learning is frequently a feature of foundation degrees and may also occur in other programmes. Learning in the workplace is a structured academic programme, controlled by the higher or further education provider, and delivered in the workplace by the academic staff of the college, staff of the employer, or both.
15. Unlike work experience, which is one element of a course such as a sandwich placement (whether for all or part of a year), learning in the workplace is at the heart of a student's learning programme and must be subject to the same level of academic supervision and rigour as any other form of assessed learning. It includes:
- the imparting of relevant knowledge and skills to students
 - opportunities for students to discuss knowledge and skills with their tutors
 - assessment of students' acquisition of knowledge and skills by the provider's academic staff, perhaps jointly with an employer.
16. Learning in the workplace should be regarded as substituting for learning that under other circumstances would normally take place within the provider. The inclusion of an element of learning in the workplace should not, therefore, extend the normal duration of a course.

Examples

Example 1: Student intermitting their studies

17. A student intends to study full-time in 2018-19 for the second year of their course. They complete all modules in term one, but then intermit their studies for a year. They return to full-time study in term two of 2019-20 and complete all remaining modules.
- a. For 2018-19, the student would have a full-time mode of study for the year of course, though they would be considered a non-completion.
 - b. For 2019-20, the student would have a part-time mode of study for the year of course, as they would not meet the criteria given in paragraph 1a.

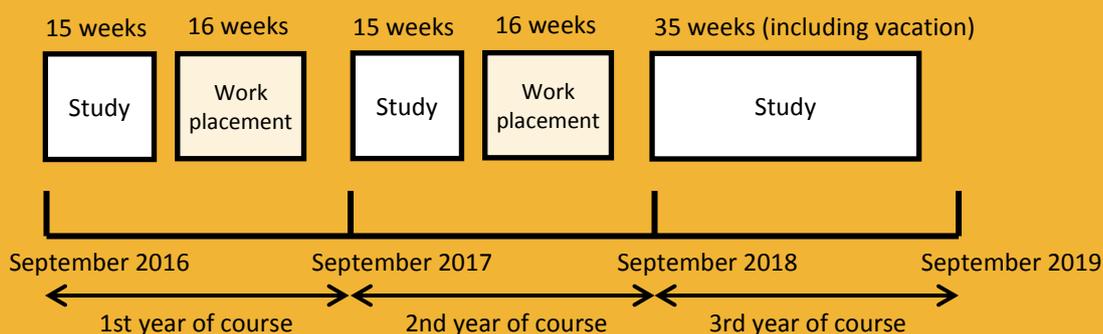
Example 2: Student on the final year of a full-time course

18. A student is studying on the final year of a full-time course, which is ordinarily completed in less than 24 weeks. The student would have a part-time mode of study for the year.

Example 3: Student repeating part of the year

19. A student is studying full-time in 2017-18, but fails three modules. In 2018-19 the student repeats these modules on a part-time basis, studying for an average of seven hours per week. The student is still eligible to claim full-time student support. As the year of course would not meet the criteria given in paragraph 1a, the student would have a part-time mode of study for the year.

Example 4: Year in which total sandwich placement exceeds 30 weeks



20. A student studies for a HNC over three years. This includes two periods of work placement, taken in the first and second years of the course.

- a. The first year of course is full-time, as the period of full-time study is more than 10 weeks, the cumulative period on work placement to date is less than 30 weeks and the total attendance is greater than 24 weeks.
- b. The second year of course is a sandwich year out. Though the pattern of activity is the same as for the first year, the cumulative period on work placement exceeds 30 weeks (16 + 16 = 32 weeks total work placement). This meets the definition in paragraph 5b(ii).

Example 5: Degree apprenticeship

21. A college is currently offering a three-year course in pre-registration nursing. Starting in the next academic year, it will also offer the course as a four-year degree apprenticeship. During the year, apprenticeship students will be studying at the college for 30 weeks in the year, at an average of 22 hours of study per week.

22. We would expect students doing the four-year degree apprenticeship course to be recorded as part-time because the duration of the course is longer than the equivalent full-time course.

Annex I: Level of study

This annex explains how to determine a student’s level of study (undergraduate or postgraduate) for the purposes of HEIFES18. It also explains how the undergraduate data on Table 5 is split into sub-levels

Annex I contents

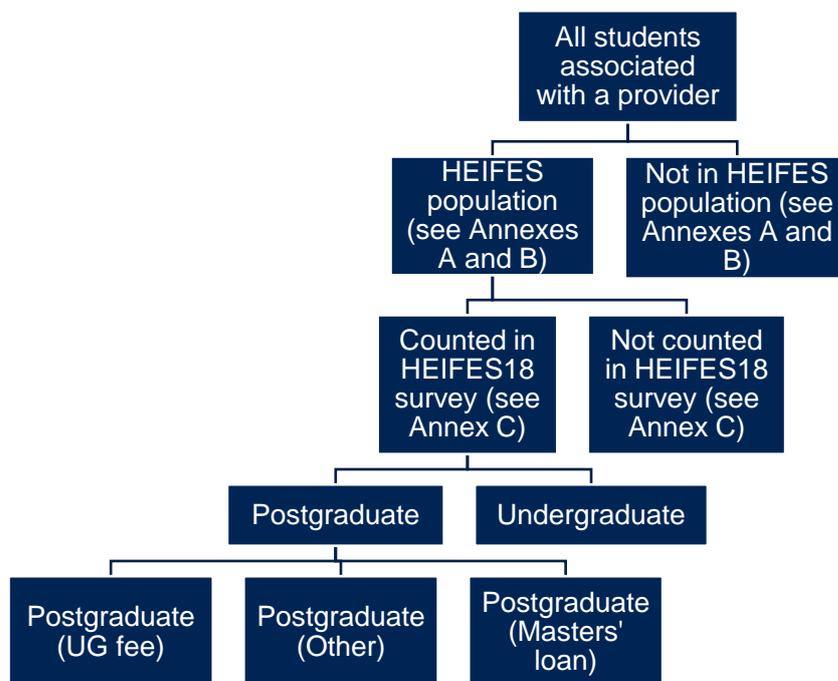
Undergraduate (UG)

- Undergraduate sub-levels on Table 5

Postgraduate

- Postgraduate (undergraduate fee) (PG (UG fee))
- Postgraduate (Masters’ loan) (PG (Masters’ loan))
- Postgraduate (other) (PG (Other))

Examples



Undergraduate (UG)

1. Undergraduates are students on higher education courses for which it is not a normal condition of entry that they are already qualified to degree level: that is, not already qualified at Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)¹. They may be studying towards a first degree (including foundation degree), integrated masters’ programme (such as a four-year Master of Engineering (MEng)), higher education certificate, higher education diploma or equivalent, or registered for a higher education-level credit that can be counted towards one of these qualifications.

¹ www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/the-existing-uk-quality-code/part-a-setting-and-maintaining-academic-standards.

Undergraduate sub-levels on Table 5 (apprenticeships)

2. On Table 5 only, undergraduate data is further split into three sub-levels, so that we can separately count years of instance taken as part of an apprenticeship. These sub-levels record:
 - a. Students on apprenticeships containing a higher education element at Level 4 or 5 of the FHEQ. Further guidance regarding the FHEQ can be found in Annex F paragraph 25.
 - b. Students on apprenticeships containing a higher education element at FHEQ Level 6 or above.
 - c. All other undergraduate (non-apprenticeship) students.

Postgraduate (PG)

3. Postgraduate students are registered for courses where a normal condition of entry is that entrants are already qualified to degree level: that is, they are already qualified at Level 6 of the FHEQ.
4. Postgraduates include those on graduate conversion courses and all on postgraduate initial teacher training courses such as Postgraduate or Professional Graduate Certificates in Education (PGCEs). We split postgraduate students between those who are on courses that are eligible under the undergraduate student support regime, those who are on courses that are eligible under masters' loan arrangements, and all others.
5. As with all PG students, those on apprenticeships should be split between the three categories of PG (UG fee), PG (Masters' loan) and PG (Other) according to the characteristics of their recognised higher education course, rather than their own personal eligibility for any such student support.

Postgraduate (undergraduate fee) (PG (UG fee))

6. This category is for postgraduate students on courses that are designated under the undergraduate student support regime and all others. It applies only to:
 - a. Students aiming for a postgraduate initial teacher training qualification.
 - b. Some students studying architecture – specifically those on Part 2 of the qualification leading towards registration with the Architects Registration Board.
 - c. Students on postgraduate, pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health courses, as defined in Annex L. We do not believe any colleges completing HEIFES18 offer such courses.
7. In Table 5 there are two sub-levels to PG (UG fee):
 - students on apprenticeships containing an element of recognised higher education
 - all other PG (UG fee).

Postgraduate (Masters' loan) (PG (Masters' loan))

8. Inclusion in this category depends on the eligibility of the course, rather than the student's own characteristics. The PG (Masters' Loan) category applies only to postgraduate students on courses that are designated under Regulation 4 of The Education (Postgraduate Master's Degree Loans)

Regulations 2016 (Statutory Instrument 2016/606)², as amended. However, it excludes students on postgraduate courses that may also be designated under the undergraduate student support arrangements, such as postgraduate, pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health courses – these should be recorded in the PG (UG fee) category. In particular, the PG (Masters' loan) category applies to courses that are one of the following:

- a. A full-time course of one or two academic years in duration.
 - b. A part-time course which it is ordinarily possible to complete in no more than twice the period ordinarily required to complete its one or two academic year full-time equivalent.
 - c. A part-time course that does not have a full-time equivalent and which it is ordinarily possible to complete in up to three academic years.
9. Masters' loans are available only where the student is undertaking a full stand-alone masters' course, not a partial masters' course requiring a lesser number of credits, be that as a result of either the student's previous study or their experience³. Therefore, students who are topping up to a masters' qualification from another postgraduate qualification, such as a diploma or certificate, should not be recorded against this category. Because assignment to this category is not dependent on the characteristics of the student, it includes those who are not personally eligible for a masters' loan because of, for example:
- their age
 - their nationality or domicile
 - their status as a student aiming for an equivalent or lower qualification (ELQ)
 - their having started their course prior to 1 August 2016
 - any intention they may have to take longer to complete a part-time course than the definition of designated courses allows as being 'ordinarily possible'.
10. On Table 5 there are two sub-levels to PG (Masters' loan):
- students on apprenticeships containing an element of recognised higher education
 - all other PG (Masters' loan).

Postgraduate (Other) (PG (Other))

11. PG students who do not fall under the previous two categories should be recorded as PG (Other).

12. On Table 5 there are two sub-levels to PG (Other):

² Available from www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2016/606/contents/made.

³ See the section on 'Previous study' on page 19 of the 2018/19 guidance on postgraduate loans for masters' courses available from www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/media/1662/pgl-masters-guidance-1819-v10.pdf.

- students on apprenticeships containing an element of recognised higher education
- all other PG (Other).

Examples

Example 1: Student topping up to a masters' qualification from another postgraduate qualification

13. A student registers for a 60-credit postgraduate certificate (PGCert). Upon successful completion of the PGCert, they then register for a 120-credit postgraduate diploma (PGDip), for which the 60-credit PGCert counts towards the PGDip credit requirement. Upon successful completion of the PGDip, they then register for a 180 credit masters, for which the 120-credit PGDip already counts towards the masters' credit requirement.
14. In this case the student would be recorded as PG (Other) throughout their studies. This is because while studying for the PGCert and PGDip, they are not explicitly studying for a masters; and when they do finally register for a masters, they are using PG credit previously achieved to top up.

Example 2: Student registering for a masters, but instead completing a PGDip

15. A student registers for a 180-credit masters, with no previously achieved credit being used to count towards it. They do not complete the full course, but complete sufficient to be awarded a 120-credit PGDip.
16. The student would be recorded as PG (Masters' loan), because they are aiming for a full PG masters' qualification.

Example 3: Student awarded an intermediate qualification

17. A student registers for a 180-credit masters, with no previously achieved credit being used to count towards it, and while continuing to study towards it they are awarded an intermediate qualification (of a PGCert or PGDip).
18. They will continue to be reported as PG (Masters' loan), even after being awarded the intermediate qualification, because they are continuing on the same masters' course. However, if the intermediate qualification was awarded because the student formally withdrew from the masters' course at that point, and the student then returned (perhaps after a break) to register afresh to top up the intermediate qualification to a masters, they would be reported as PG (Other) for the top-up study.

Annex J: Long years of course

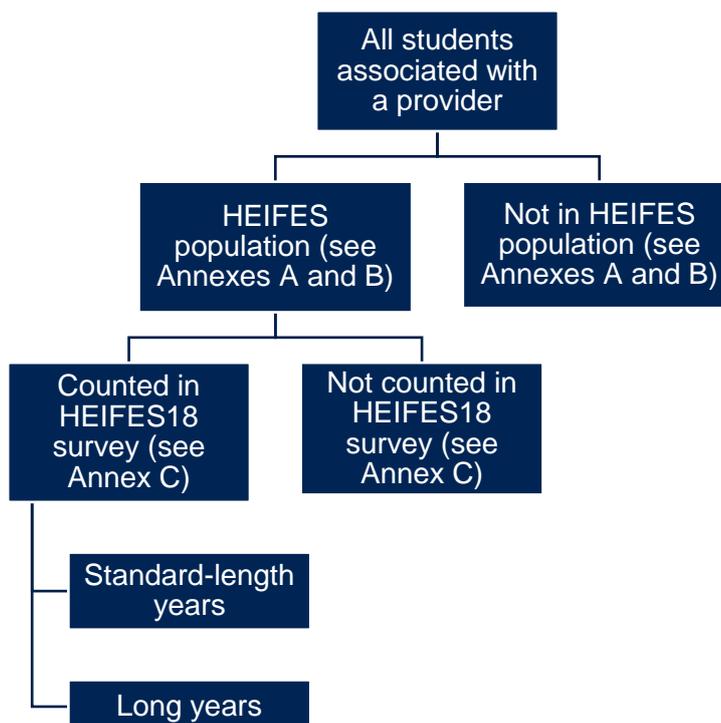
This annex explains how to determine if a full-time or part-time year of course should be classed as 'long' for the purposes of HEIFES18. It also contains guidance on how to treat learning in the workplace and work experience when determining the length of a year of course, as well as examples of how to treat mixed-length courses

Annex J contents

Definitions

- Full-time long years of course
- Part-time long years of course
- Mixed-length courses

Examples



Definitions

Full-time long years of course

1. For full-time courses, students will be classified as being on 'long' years of course for our purposes if students are normally required to attend for 45 weeks or more within that year of course.
2. When determining length, students are deemed to be attending the college if they are actively pursuing full-time studies towards the qualification. Years of course that are not long are referred to as standard-length.
3. If the year of course is 45 weeks or more in length because of a period of work-based study, then the year of course is not counted as long. This applies to both learning in the workplace and work experience, including work placements. Sandwich years out cannot therefore be recorded as long, nor would we generally expect foundation degrees; qualifications taken as part of an apprenticeship; or years of instance for pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health to be recorded as long.

4. For undergraduate students, long years of course typically occur in accelerated courses where the qualification is achieved in a much shorter time than normal. The following are not criteria in defining a long year of course for HEIFES reporting purposes:
 - a. The number of credit points studied in the year.
 - b. The eligibility of a full-time student under the undergraduate student support arrangements for a 'long courses loan'.
5. For postgraduate students, most long years of course will be for higher degrees such as a masters'.

Part-time long years of course

6. For part-time courses, the distinction will depend on the length of each year for an equivalent full-time course. The number of weeks attended within the year of course for part-time students is irrelevant in determining if the year of course is long. The equivalent full-time course used should be the same as that used in calculating the full-time equivalence (FTE) (see paragraphs 1 and 2 of Annex E).
7. If an equivalent full-time course does not exist, the method for determining if a part-time year of course is long should be consistent with the approach taken to determine the FTE, following the guidance in paragraph 3 of Annex E. The rationale for such a judgement should be recorded for audit purposes.

Mixed-length courses

8. In some cases a full-time course may have one or more years of course which are long, and one or more standard-length years. When determining which FTE to return as long for the equivalent part-time course, the following two principles should be applied:
 - a. The FTE over the entire part-time course should be identical to that of the full-time course.
 - b. The proportion of the FTE recorded as long should be the same on both the full-time and part-time courses.

Examples

Example 1: Foundation degree with work-based study

9. A full-time student on a foundation degree studies for 47 weeks in the year of course, 10 of which are work-based study. The year of course is not counted as long, because without the work-based study the number of weeks studied within the year of course is 37.
10. Similarly, a full-time student on a foundation degree studies for 47 weeks in the year of course entirely in the workplace. The year of course is not counted as long.

Example 2: Calculating the length of year for a part-time course from the full-time equivalent

11. A full-time, one-year course has a 30-week year of course; the equivalent part-time course lasts for two years, each with a 45-week year of course. The part-time course would not be long.
12. Conversely, if each year of the part-time course lasted for 30 weeks, but the year of course for the full-time course was 45 weeks, then the part-time course would be classified as long. The FTE for the part-time course would be 0.5 in both cases.

Example 3: Taking a foundation degree bridging course after a foundation degree

13. A student completes a two-year, full-time foundation degree, then chooses to undertake a foundation degree bridging course over the summer in order to enrol full-time on the third year of an honours degree. In this case, both years of the foundation degree and the third year of the honours degree should be recorded as standard-length, and the foundation degree bridging course should be recorded separately as a standalone, part-time course with an FTE of 0.3.

Example 4: Length of a part-time course where the full-time equivalent has long and standard-length years.

14. A two-year, full-time course has year one long and year two standard-length. The equivalent part-time course runs over four years. The first two years of the part-time course should be recorded as long, with the remaining two recorded as standard-length. The FTE would be 0.5 in each of the four years.

Example 5: Podiatry course including significant work placement.

15. A provider has a full-time course in podiatry lasting three years. During this time, students study at the provider on a modular basis for 45 weeks of the year. Students are required to spend 50 per cent of the course in theoretical learning and the remaining 50 percent of the course in a practice setting.
16. Though a student would be engaged in study or work-based learning for 45 weeks of the year, this is due to the presence of the practice placement. As such the year would therefore not meet the definition of long and would be recorded as standard-length.

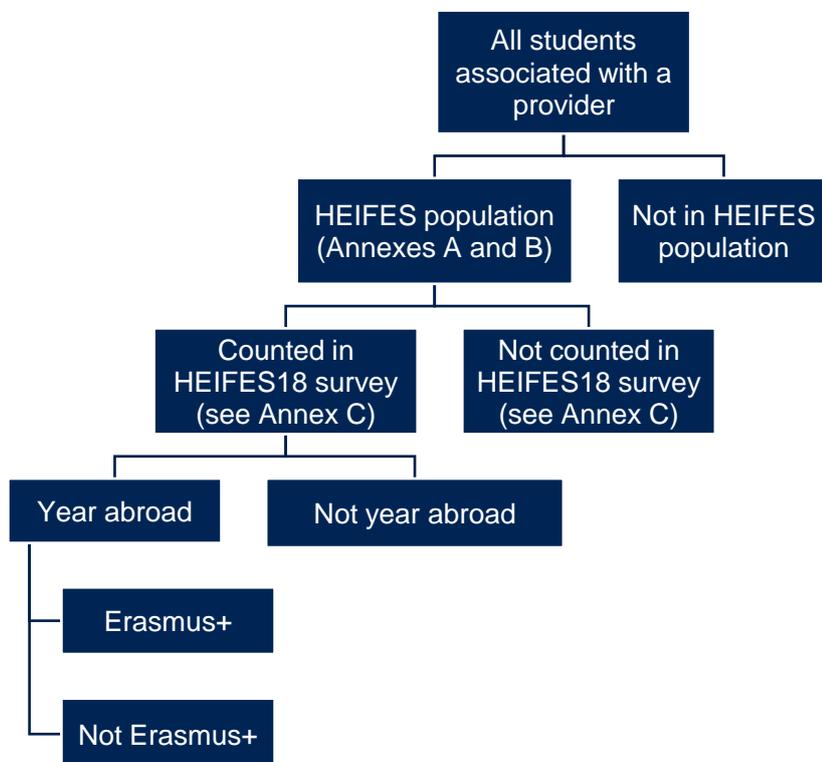
Annex K: Year abroad categories in Table 4

This annex provides guidance on how to assign years of course to the appropriate category of year abroad in Table 4 of HEIFES18.

Annex K contents

Year abroad

Erasmus+



1. Table 4 collects information about a subset of Home and EU undergraduate students included in Columns 1 and 2 of Tables 1 and 2: those undergraduates taking a year abroad in 2018-19 as part of their course.
2. We will use the information on Table 4 to determine allocations of funding for 2019-20 to support colleges' participation in Erasmus+ and other higher education student mobility programmes.

Year abroad

3. A full-time year of course is a year abroad if it is provided in conjunction with an overseas educational provider and either:
 - a. During which any periods of full-time study at the provider in the United Kingdom are in aggregate less than 10 weeks.
 - b. For which, in respect of that academic year and any previous academic year(s) of the course the aggregate of any one or more periods of attendance which are not periods of full-time study at the provider in the United Kingdom (disregarding intervening vacations) exceeds 30 weeks.

Annex K: Year abroad categories in Table 4

4. A 'sandwich year' of course is a year abroad if it meets the definition of a sandwich year out and to which one of the following applies:
 - a. All periods of attendance that are not full-time study are spent outside the United Kingdom.
 - b. At least one period of attendance in the year of course that is not full-time study is taken under the Erasmus+ programme.
5. Some years abroad may comprise a combination of work experience and full-time study at a provider outside the United Kingdom. Where the period of work experience is not sufficient for the year of course to meet the definition of sandwich year out, it should be categorised as a full-time year abroad.

Erasmus+

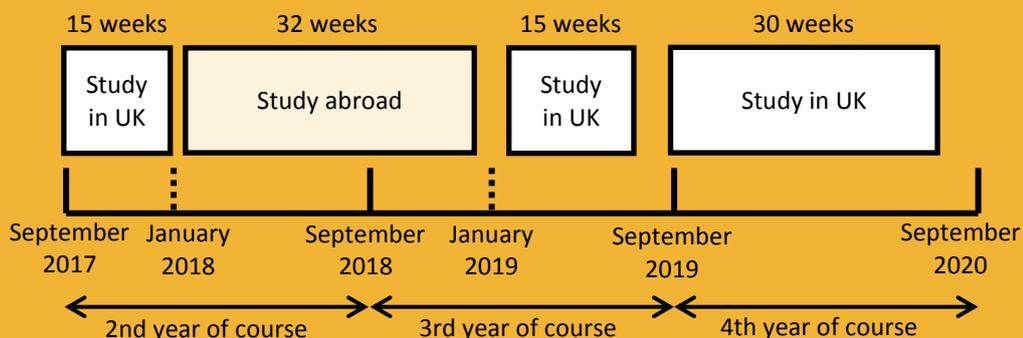
6. Years abroad are split between those taken under the Erasmus+ programme and other years abroad¹. An Erasmus+ year abroad is an Erasmus year as defined in 'The Education (Student Support and European University Institute) (Amendment) Regulations 2013', statutory instrument 2013/1728, Regulation 4(b)². If a year abroad comprises more than one period of study or work placement abroad, not all of which are taken under the Erasmus+ programme, the year of course should be recorded as follows:
 - a. As an Erasmus+ year abroad if at least one study or work placement is taken under the Erasmus+ programme during the current year of course.
 - b. As a non-Erasmus+ year abroad otherwise. This may include cases where an Erasmus+ study or work placement, which counts towards categorising the current year of course as a year abroad, was taken in a previous year of course, but not in the current one.

¹ Erasmus+ is the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period from 2014 to 2020. Further information about it can be found at: www.erasmusplus.org.uk/ and the Erasmus+ programme guide, available online at www.erasmusplus.org.uk/key-resources.

² See www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/1728/regulation/4/made.

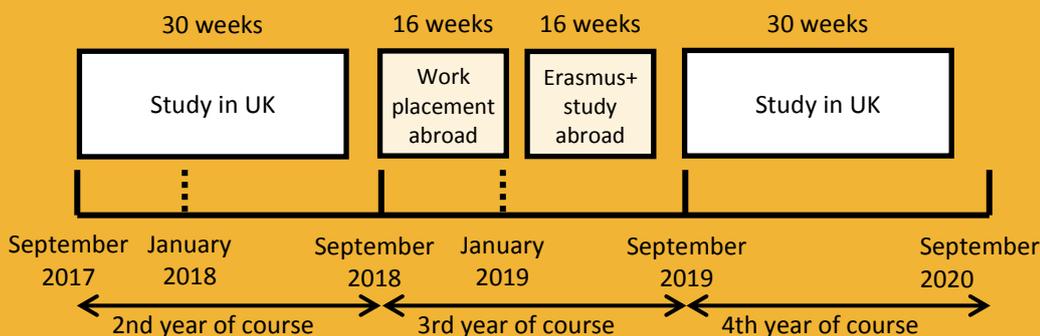
Examples

Example 1: Student spending a calendar year abroad



7. A student studies a four-year full-time undergraduate course from September 2016 to June 2020. The student spends a year abroad studying at an overseas provider for calendar year 2018, which incorporates parts of their second and third years of course. All other study is in the UK.
8. The second year of course does not meet the definition of a year abroad, because the student has spent at least 10 weeks studying at their UK provider between September and December 2017, and they have not yet spent over 30 weeks studying abroad by the end of the year of course.
9. The third year of course meets the definition of a year abroad, because (including the time abroad during their second year of course) the student will have spent over 30 weeks studying abroad by the end of that year. If the year abroad is taken under the Erasmus+ programme, the year of course should be identified as a full-time Erasmus+ year abroad.

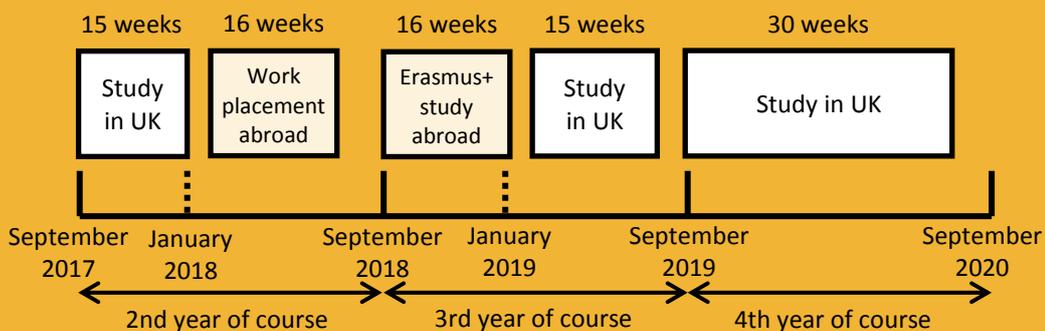
Example 2: Student spending an academic year abroad



10. A student studies a four-year full-time undergraduate course from September 2016 to June 2020. The student spends a year abroad between September 2018 and June 2019, contained entirely within their third year of course. All other study is in the UK. The year abroad comprises one semester which is a 16-week work placement not taken under the Erasmus+ programme, and another semester which is a 16-week study placement at an overseas university which is taken under the Erasmus+ programme.

11. The work placement is not in itself sufficient for the year of course to count as a sandwich year out. Because at least one study or work placement is taken under the Erasmus+ programme in the current year of course, the year is categorised as a full-time Erasmus+ year abroad.

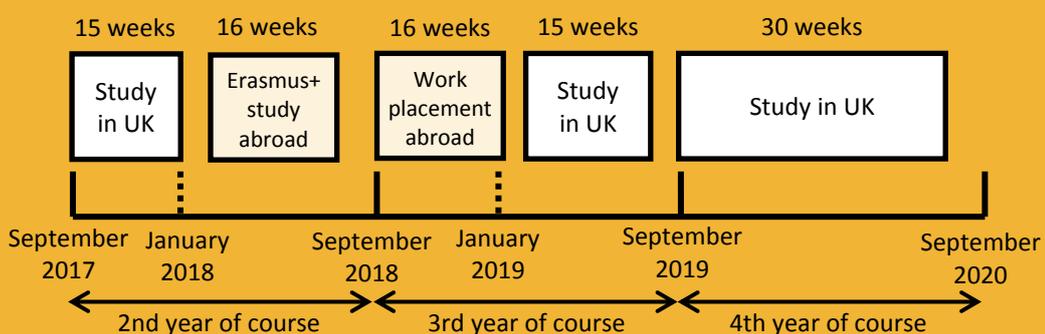
Example 3: Work then study abroad under Erasmus+



12. As in Example 1, but the calendar year abroad comprises: one 16-week semester (taken at the end of the second year of course) which is a work placement abroad not taken under the Erasmus+ programme; and another 16-week semester (at the start of the third year of course) which is a study period at an overseas provider taken under the Erasmus+ programme. As with Example 1, the second year of course does not meet the definition of a year abroad.

13. The third year of course meets the definition of a year abroad, but the work placement is not in itself sufficient for any year of course to count as a sandwich year out. Because at least one period of study or work placement in the current year of course is taken under the Erasmus+ programme, that year counts as a full-time Erasmus+ year abroad.

Example 4: Erasmus+ study then work abroad



14. As in Example 3, but the semesters are reversed: the calendar year abroad comprises one 16-week semester (taken at the end of the second year of course) which is a study period at an overseas provider taken under the Erasmus+ programme, and another 16-week semester (at the start of the third year of course) which is a work placement abroad not taken under the Erasmus+ programme. As in examples 1 and 3, the second year of course would not meet the definition of a year abroad.

15. The third year of course still meets the definition of a year abroad. The work placement is not in itself sufficient for the year of course to count as a sandwich year out. No study or work placement in the current year of course is taken under the Erasmus+ programme (even though one was in the previous year of course). Therefore the third year of course counts as a full-time non-Erasmus+ year abroad.

Annex L: Pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health courses including guidance for Tables 7a, 7b and 7c

This annex defines the pre-registration healthcare profession courses which must be included in HEIFES18. It also details definitions specific to Table 7a, 7b and 7c. Only providers delivering these courses in 2018-19 need to complete these tables

Annex L contents

Definitions

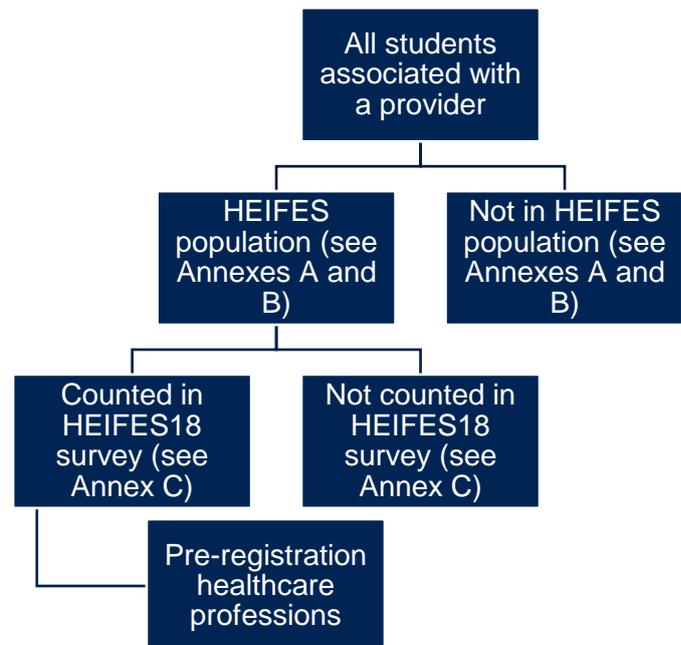
- HEIFES nursing, midwifery and allied health professions population for 2018-19
- Healthcare professions
- Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19

Guidance

- Mode
- Length

Examples

Good practice



1. For undergraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health courses, other than those in dental hygiene and dental therapy, the transfer of funding responsibility from the Department of Health and Social Care took effect from 2017-18. Transfer of funding responsibility for undergraduate dental hygiene and dental therapy, and postgraduate pre-registration courses took effect from 2018-19. Tables 7a, 7b and 7c therefore collect data separately according to whether students started courses in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19. The fundability status of students may therefore vary according to when a student started their course, the level of the course and, for some professions, whether or not the course was previously provided under a contract with an NHS organisation. Guidance on fundability status is provided in Annex F. The differences between the data collected in HEIFES18 and the data collected in 2017-18 are described under 'Summary of changes and clarifications since HEIFES17'.
2. We understand that few colleges offer relevant pre-registration courses in nursing, midwifery and allied health professions, and therefore HEIFES18 Tables 7a, 7b and 7c and the guidance in this annex **will not be relevant** to the very large majority of colleges. However, should you have any questions regarding the information collected in these tables contact recurrentgrant@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Definitions

HEIFES nursing, midwifery and allied health professions population for 2018-19

3. The HEIFES18 population for Tables 7a, 7b and 7c comprises years of course for Home and European Union (EU) for students on pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession courses (defined below) who started their courses in academic years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. This information will be used to inform funding allocations for providers in 2019-20.
4. These years should continue to be included in Tables 1 to 6 as Home and EU, either as fundable or non-fundable, as appropriate (see Annex F).

Healthcare professions

5. For the professions listed in Figure L1, only pre-registration courses at English providers that are approved by the relevant regulatory body should be included. These are:
 - for nursing and midwifery, the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)
 - for dental hygiene and dental therapy, the General Dental Council (GDC)
 - for all other professions listed, the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).
6. 'Pre-registration' is an attribute of the course, not of the individual student. If a pre-registration course leads to a first registration for that specific profession, the student is recorded in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, regardless of whether the student is already registered with the regulatory body for another profession. Courses that do not meet the definition of pre-registration (and will therefore not be recorded on Tables 7a, 7b or 7c) should still be recorded in Tables 1 to 3.

Figure L1: Courses for which activity should be included in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c

Pre-registration courses in:	Leading to registration with:
Nursing – adult	Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.nmc.org.uk/education/approved-programmes/ by selecting the relevant course type from the drop-down menu headed 'Course'. In general these are, respectively: 'Pre-registration nursing – Adult' 'Pre-registration nursing – Child' 'Pre-registration nursing – Learning Disabilities' 'Pre-registration nursing – Mental Health' In addition, the NMC website identifies six types of 'Dual award – pre-registration nursing' courses (for each possible combination of two of the four specialisms). Years of course or course for students on such courses should also be included on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, but split equally between the two nursing specialisms concerned. For example, for a course identified on the NMC website as 'Dual award – pre-registration nursing – mental health/child', years of course should be split equally on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c between the categories 'Nursing – children' and 'Nursing – mental health'.
Nursing – children	
Nursing – learning disability	
Nursing – mental health	

Pre-registration courses in:	Leading to registration with:
Nursing – unclassified	NMC. In some cases, pre-registration nursing courses may share a common first year, during which students will choose their nursing specialism for later years of the course. Any such years of course that cannot yet be assigned to one of the nursing specialisms above should be recorded under ‘Nursing – unclassified’. They must, however be part of a pre-registration course listed at www.nmc.org.uk/education/approved-programmes/ by selecting the relevant course type from the drop-down menu headed ‘Course’.
Midwifery	NMC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.nmc.org.uk/education/approved-programmes/ by selecting ‘Pre-registration midwifery – three-year programme – 18 month programme’ from the drop-down menu headed ‘Course’
Dietetics	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Dieticians’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Occupational therapy	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Occupational therapists’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Operating department practice	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Operating department practitioners’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Orthoptics	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Orthoptists’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Orthotics and prosthetics	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Prosthetists / orthotists’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Physiotherapy	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Physiotherapists’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Podiatry and chiropody	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Chiropodists / podiatrists’ from the listing under ‘Profession’.
Radiography (diagnostic)	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Radiographers’ from the listing under ‘Profession’. Institutions will then need to distinguish between the two types of radiography according to the aim and content of their particular courses.
Radiography (therapeutic)	
Speech and language therapy	HCPC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.hcpc-uk.org/education/programmes/register/ by selecting ‘Speech and language therapists’ from the drop-down menu under ‘Profession’.

Pre-registration courses in:	Leading to registration with:
Dental hygiene	GDC. Relevant courses are those at English providers listed at www.gdc-uk.org/professionals/education/recent-inspections/inspections-dental-therapy . Providers will then need to distinguish between the two types of programme reflecting the courses they offer and the qualification aim of their students. Where a student has a single aim for a qualification in dental hygiene, they should be recorded under dental hygiene. Otherwise, they should be recorded under dental therapy (including where they are aiming for qualifications in both dental hygiene and therapy).
Dental therapy	

Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19

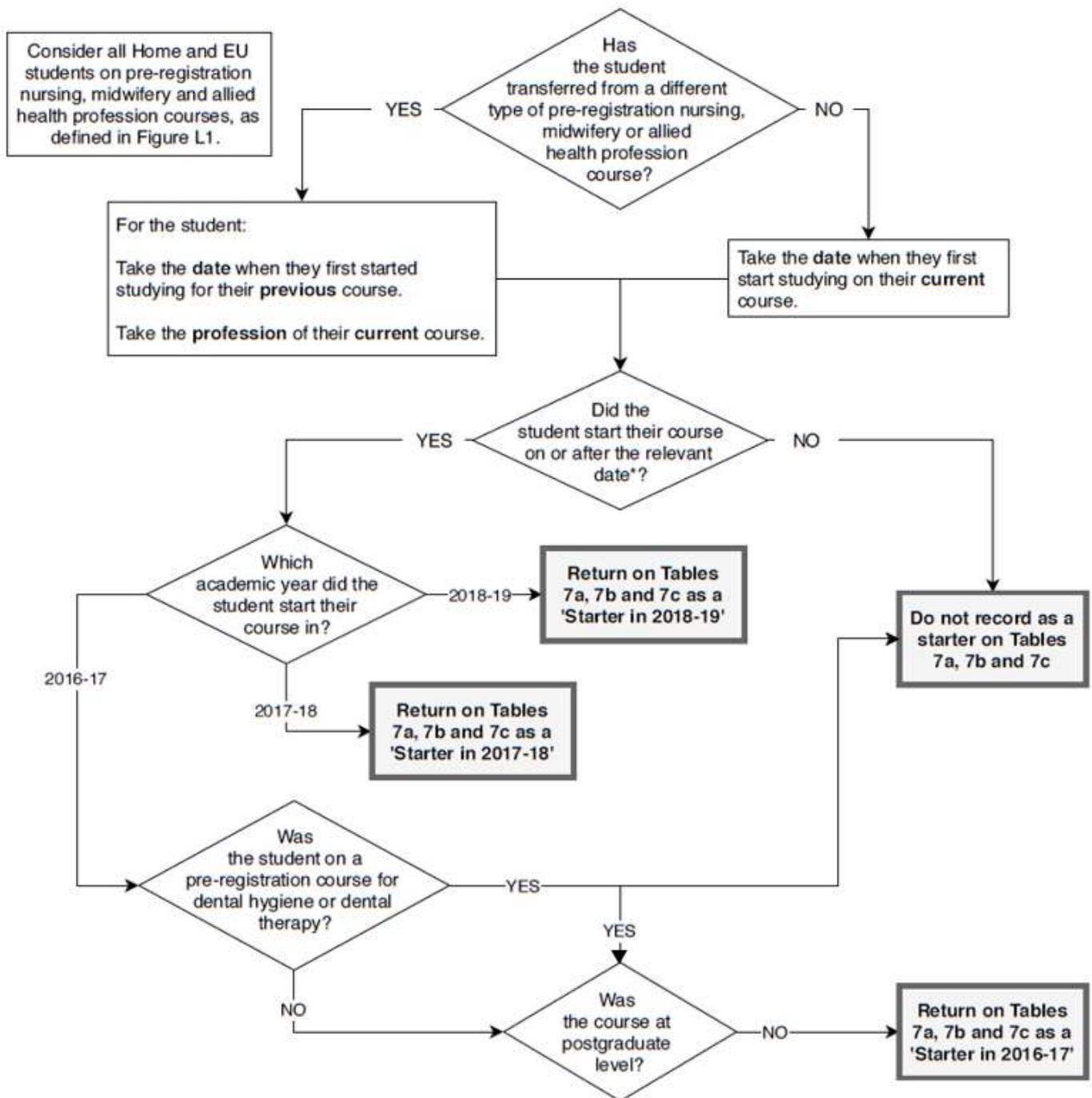
7. In Tables 7a, 7b and 7c, the definition of starters is not the same as for new entrants in Tables 5 and 6. In general, starters on Tables 7a, 7b and 7c are students starting study for the first time on a relevant pre-registration course in 2016-17, 2017-18 or 2018-19. In the paragraph that follows, ‘**the relevant date**’ means:

- 1 August 2016 for an undergraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, other than one in dental hygiene or dental therapy
- 1 August 2017 for a postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course; or an undergraduate pre-registration dental hygiene or dental therapy course.

8. Starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19:

- a. **Include** students who transfer on or after the relevant date onto a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course from one that is not. The year for which they are treated as a starter is the year in which they transfer onto the pre-registration course.
- b. **Include** students who transfer between different types of pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, if their previous pre-registration course started on or after the relevant date. They should be recorded against the profession that applies to their current course, but they should be recorded as a starter in the year that their previous course started.
- c. **Exclude** students who transfer between different types of pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health course, if their previous course started prior to the relevant date.
- d. **Exclude** students repeating a year of a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, if their course started prior to the relevant date. Students repeating the first year of a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course that started on or after the relevant date, should be reported as starters in the year they started the course, and not when they repeated the first year.

Figure L2: Identifying starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19



*'The relevant date' means:

- 1 August 2016 for an undergraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course, other than one in dental hygiene or dental therapy
- 1 August 2017 for an postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course; or an undergraduate pre-registration dental hygiene or dental therapy course.

9. We require data in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c on starters in 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19 for undergraduate pre-registration courses, other than dental hygiene and dental therapy, for which the transfer of funding responsibility began in 2017-18. We require data in Tables 7a, 7b and 7c on

starters in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for postgraduate pre-registration courses, and dental hygiene and dental therapy courses for which transfer of funding responsibility began in 2018-19.

Guidance

Mode

10. The definitions of mode for Tables 7a (full-time), 7b (sandwich year out) and 7c (part-time) are in Annex H. However, sandwich year out students on Table 7b can only be entered as starters in 2016-17 and 2017-18 (we do not expect students to be on a sandwich year out in 2018-19 if it is the first year of their course). The vast majority of students on pre-registration courses will undertake learning in the workplace, which can count towards full-time study and will therefore not meet the definition of a sandwich year out.

Length

11. Years of course can either be standard-length or long, as defined in Annex J. We do not generally expect years of course for pre-registration courses to meet the definition of 'long', because periods of work-based study, including placements, should not be counted in determining whether such years meet the minimum 45-week attendance requirement in the year (see Annex J). Postgraduate masters courses may be an exception to this.

Level

12. All postgraduate taught students studying a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course are now to be recorded in HEIFES as postgraduate (undergraduate fee) (PG (UG fee)). This applies irrespective of when they started their course or their own personal eligibility for undergraduate student support.

Examples

Example 1: Student who transfers between different types of pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course

13. A student started a pre-registration course in 'Nursing – children' in September 2017. The student transfers to a pre-registration course in midwifery in September 2018. The student is recorded against the profession 'midwifery', but is recorded as a starter in 2017-18, the year that their previous pre-registration course started.

Example 2: Student who transfers onto a pre-registration nursing, midwifery or allied health profession course from one that is not

14. A student studied at a college for a full-time bachelors' degree in biological sciences in 2016-17 and 2017-18, and completed the first two years of the bachelors' degree. However, in September 2018, the student transfers to a full-time pre-registration midwifery course at the same college. The student is reported as a starter for 2018-19 in Table 7a.

15. However, such a student transferring within a college would not be a 'new entrant' for the purposes of Tables 5 and 6, as they are studying at the same provider and at the same broad level.

Example 3: Student studying on a dental hygiene course in 2018-19

16. A student started a full-time pre-registration course in dental hygiene in 2016-17. They repeat their first year in 2017-18 and progress onto the second year of course (their third year of instance) in 2018-19. The student is a starter in 2016-17 (when they first started the course) and not in 2017-18. They are excluded from Table 7a because starters in 2016-17 are not required for pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy courses. However, the year of instance will be included in Tables 1 and 5.

Example 4: Students starting a course in podiatry in January 2018 or January 2019

17. A student is undertaking a pre-registration course in podiatry. They are recorded against the profession 'podiatry and chiropody', and:
- a. If they started the course in January 2018 they are recorded as a starter in 2017-18 (as they began the first-year of their pre-registration course during the 2017-18 academic year), and:
 - i. OfS-fundable if the course is undergraduate and not commissioned and funded by an NHS organisation (as the course started after the 1 August 2017 transfer of funding – see Annex F, paragraphs 13c and 13f).
 - ii. Non-fundable if the course is postgraduate (as the course started prior to the 1 August 2018 transfer of funding – see Annex F, paragraph 13c).
 - b. If they started the course in January 2019 they are recorded as a starter in 2018-19 (as they began the first-year of their pre-registration course during the 2018-19 academic year), and OfS-fundable, as long as all other fundability criteria are met.

Example 5: Student already registered with the NMC, who enrolls on a pre-registration midwifery course in 2018-19

18. A student previously trained as a nurse (Nursing – child) and registered as a nurse with the NMC in 2016. The student starts a full-time pre-registration midwifery course in October 2018. The midwifery course is listed as a pre-registration course by the NMC.

19. As the midwifery course leads to a first registration for the profession 'midwifery', the student is recorded in Table 7a against the profession 'midwifery' as a starter in 2018-19, regardless of already being registered with the NMC as a nurse.

Example 6: Student starting a specialist nursing course in September 2018

20. A student previously trained as a nurse (Nursing – adult) and registered as a nurse with the NMC in 2016. The student starts a full-time undergraduate bachelors' degree in Specialist nursing – health visiting at a college in September 2018. This course is listed as an approved course by the NMC with course entry requirements that specify applicants should have active registration on Part one or Part two of the NMC Register.
21. The student is not recorded in Table 7a because the course is post-registration. The Specialist nursing – health visiting course does **not** lead to a first registration for the profession 'nursing', This course leads to registration on Part three of the NMC register for specialist community public health nurses.

Example 7: Nursing course including significant work placement

22. A provider has a full-time BSc course in Nursing – Mental health lasting three years. This includes mandatory learning in the workplace, which comprises approximately 60 per cent of the course being spent on clinical placements each year, with the remainder being student learning hours.
23. Though a student would be engaged in study or work-based learning for 45 weeks of the year, this is due to the presence of the clinical placements. The year would therefore not meet the definition of long and would be recorded as standard-length.

Annex M: List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
CertEd	Certificate in Education
CertHE	Certificate of Higher Education
DipHE	Diploma of Higher Education
DSA	Disabled Students' Allowances
ELQ	Equivalent or lower qualification
ESFA	Education and Skills Funding Agency
EU	European Union
EYTS	Early Years Teacher Status
FHEQ	The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies
FTE	Full-time equivalence
HEIFES	Higher Education in Further Education: Students survey
HESA	Higher Education Statistics Agency
HESES	Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey
HESF	Higher Education Student Forecast Survey
HNC	Higher National Certificate
HND	Higher National Diploma
ILR	Individualised Learner Record
INSET	In-service education and training
ITT	Initial teacher training
LDCS	Learn Direct Classification System
OfS	Office for Students
PG	Postgraduate
PGCE	Postgraduate Certificate in Education or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education
QTS	Qualified teacher status (OfS non-fundable)
QTLS	Qualified teacher learning and skills (OfS fundable)
UCAS	Universities and Colleges Admissions Service
UG	Undergraduate
UK NARIC	UK National Recognition Information Centre
UKPRN	UK Provider Reference Number



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