

Annex L Price groups

1. This annex explains how years of programmes of study should be mapped to price groups, including guidance on special cases such as education, and sports science and leisure studies.

2. We fund similar activity at similar rates. For HEIs, the department(s) in which a student undertakes activity defines the cost of the activity. This means, for example, that a student on a science degree who is taught by both the science and business studies departments would be funded at a composite rate somewhere between the science and business studies rates. The rate depends on the balance of activity in each department. Data at this level are not available for FECs. For FECs, we use the mapping between Learndirect subject codes and price groups shown in the tables below with the exception of students aiming for QTS or those on INSET courses who hold QTS. Further guidance can be found in paragraphs 7 to 9. A full list of Learndirect codes and associated subject descriptions is available at www.hefce.ac.uk/learning/datacoll/heifes.

Learndirect subject codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)	Price group
A	D
B	D
C (except CE, CY.3, CY.4, CY.6, CY.7, CY.8, CY.9, CZ)	C
CE, CY.3, CY.4, CY.6, CY.7, CY.8, CY.9, CZ	Media studies
D (except DC)	D
DC	C
E	D
F (except FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.6, FN.7, FN.9)	D
FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.6, FN.7, FN.9	C
G [†]	C or D
H	D
J (except JA.11, JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE)	C
JA.11, JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE	D
K (except KB, KC)	Media studies
KB, KC	D
L (except LF, LG)	C
LF, LG	D
M [‡]	B, C or D
N (except NG, NK, NL [‡] , NM [‡] , NN)	C
NG, NK, NN	D
NL [‡] , NM [‡]	B, C or D

Learndirect subject codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)	Price group
P (except PA, PB, PC.1, PC.5, PE.6, PE.7, PF.1, PF.2, PG.1, PG.2)	C
PB, PC.1, PC.5, PE.6, PE.7, PF.1, PF.2, PG.1, PG.2	B
PA	D
Q (except QA.3, QB, QH, QJ)	C
QA.3, QH.6	B
QB, QH.1, QH.2, QH.3, QH.4, QH.5, QH.7, QH.8, QH.9, QJ	D
R (except RA.3, RA.5, RA.6, RB, RF.4, RG)	B
RA.3, RA.5, RA.6, RB, RF.4, RG	C
S (except SE, SF, SJ.5, SJ.61, SM, SN.4, SP, SQ)	B
SE.1, SN.4, SQ	C
SE.2, SE.3, SE.4, SE.5, SE.7, SE.8, SE.9, SF, SJ.5, SJ.61, SM, SP	D
T (except TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF, TL, TM)	C
TL, TM	B
TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF	D
U	D
V (except VE, VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.4, VF.5, VF.6, VG)	D
VE, VF.4, VG	B
VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.5, VF.6	C
W (except WA, WC.1, WC.2, WC.3, WC.4, WE)	C
WA, WC.1, WC.2, WC.3, WC.4, WE	B
X (except XA.13, XA.32, XD, XE, XF, XN, XS, XQ.45)	B
XA.13, XA.32, XD, XE, XF, XN, XS	C
XQ.45	D
Y (except YA, YB, YD.3)	B
YA, YB, YD.3	C
Z (except ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5)	C
ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5	D

† Learndirect code G (education) can be in either price group C or price group D depending on the course (see paragraphs 7 to 10 of this annex).

‡ Learndirect codes M, NL and NM (sports science and leisure studies) can be in price group B, C or D (see paragraph 11 of this annex).

Price group	Learndirect subject codes (including all sub-levels of the hierarchy)
B (Laboratory-based science, engineering and technology)	M [‡] , NL [‡] , NM [‡] , 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, SF, SJ.5, SJ.61, SM, SN.4, SP, SQ), TL, TM, VE, VF.4, VG, WA, WC.1, WC.2, WC.3, WC.4, WE, X (except XA.13, XA.32, XD, XE, XF, XN, XS, XQ.45), Y (except YA, YB, YD.3)
C (Other high-cost subjects with a studio, laboratory or fieldwork element)	C (except CE, CY.3, CY.4, CY.6, CY.7, CY.8, CY.9, CZ), DC, FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.6, FN.7, FN.9, G [†] , J (except JA.11, JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE), L (except LF, LG), 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, SE.1, SN.4, SQ, T (except TC.44, TC.5, TC.6, TF, TL, TM), VF.1, VF.2, VF.3, VF.5, VF.6, W (except WA, WC.1, WC.2, WC.3, WC.4, WE), XA.13, XA.32, XD, XE, XF, XN, XS, YA, YB, YD.3, Z (except ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5)
D (All other subjects)	A, B, D (except DC), E, F (except FN.3, FN.4, FN.5, FN.6, FN.7, FN.9), G [†] , H, JA.11, JA.22, JA.23, JA.32, JA.33, JA.34, JA.5, JA.7, JA.8, JD, JE, KB, KC, LF, LG, M [‡] , NG, NK, NL [‡] , NM [‡] , NN, PA, QB, QH.1, QH.2, QH.3, QH.4, QH.5, QH.7, QH.8, QH.9, QJ, SE.2, SE.3, SE.4, SE.5, SE.7, SE.8, SE.9, SF, SJ.5, SJ.61, 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), XQ.45, ZX.3, ZX.4, ZX.5
Media studies	CE, CY.3, CY.4, CY.6, CY.7, CY.8, CY.9, CZ, K (except KB, KC)
ITT (QTS)	Students on ITT courses leading to QTS
INSET (QTS)	Students who hold QTS on INSET courses

[†] Learndirect code G (education) can be in either price group C or price group D depending on the course (see paragraphs 7 to 10 of this annex).

[‡] Learndirect codes M, NL and NM (sports science and leisure studies) can be in price group B, C or D (see paragraph 11 of this annex).

3. The Data Service's LARA (at <https://gateway.imservices.org.uk/sites/lara/Pages/Welcome.aspx>) returns up to three Learndirect codes under the Shared section for a particular learner aim. If there is no Learndirect code for a particular course, or the college thinks that the wrong Learndirect code has been assigned, the college should e-mail heifes@hefce.ac.uk as soon as possible (ideally as soon as the course has been added to the LARA), providing us with the learning aim reference, learning aim title, awarding body, Learndirect codes as displayed on the LARA (where present) and up to three main subject areas of the course in question. We shall then liaise with the Data Service on the college's behalf.

4. Some qualifications contain study in two distinct subject areas, for example, a chemistry and business course. Where the qualification has more than one Learndirect code on the LARA, the student should be split between the relevant price groups in proportion to the split between each subject for the course as a whole.
5. Media studies activity should be recorded in the media studies price group only. A review panel has determined the attribution of media studies students to price groups for funding purposes. Any split between subject weights for this provision will be carried out in the funding model.
6. Students on a sandwich year-out should be recorded in price group C, regardless of the Learndirect code of the course.

ITT, INSET and other education students

7. Students on ITT courses leading to QTS should be entirely attributed to the ITT (QTS) price group, irrespective of the subject of qualification aim. Students on ITT courses that do not lead to QTS, such as DTLLS, should be entirely attributed to price group C, irrespective of the subject of qualification aim.
8. INSET courses are defined as courses for which the primary (but not necessarily the only) purpose is to improve the effectiveness of teachers, lecturers or trainers. Students holding QTS on INSET courses should be entirely attributed to the INSET (QTS) price group, irrespective of the subject of qualification aim and whether or not the TDA is funding their provision. Students who do not hold QTS but are studying a PGCE for the post-compulsory education sector, CertEd or DTLLS as an INSET course should be recorded in price group C. Other students on INSET courses who do not hold QTS should be attributed to a price group according to the subject of qualification aim.
9. Students studying for a foundation degree to become a teaching assistant, whose course has been awarded as part of an additional student number (ASN) exercise, should be returned in price group C. Where students are studying for such a course and it has a high classroom-based element, but has not been awarded as part of an ASN exercise, colleges should seek our permission before recording them in price group C. All colleges seeking this permission should send details of the relevant course to heifes@hefce.ac.uk. Colleges should re-apply if there is a material change in the provision.
10. All other activity with Learndirect code G should be returned in price group D.

Sports science and leisure studies – Learndirect codes MA to MJ, NL and NM

11. Students on sports science courses with Learndirect codes MA to MJ, NL and NM should be allocated to price groups B, C or D according to the outcome of the HEFCE review carried out in 2004-05 or as subsequently agreed by HEFCE.

Audit issue

Media studies and sports science provision

12. As stated in paragraph 5 of this annex, media studies provision should be returned in the media studies price group only. Recent audits found examples where colleges had incorrectly returned media studies provision in price group B or C.

13. Examples were also found where colleges had returned sports science provision in incorrect price groups. Such provision should be recorded to reflect the outcome for the college of the HEFCE review, as noted in paragraph 11 of this annex. Where colleges submitted to the review in 2004-05, they were notified of the outcome in Derek Hicks' letter of 23 February 2005. Where colleges did not submit to the review, sports science students should be returned in price group D as a default.