

Annex B Summary of changes and clarifications since HESES10

Changes

1. 'Advance notification of changes to HESES and HEIFES for 2011-12' (HEFCE Circular letter 17/2011) notified institutions of a number of changes intended for implementation in HESES11. The changes to be implemented in HESES11 are:

a. The way students on non-standard years of study are recorded (those that span two academic years) is changing for Tables 1 to 5. In HESES10, these were recorded in the academic year in which the year of study ended. From HESES11 they should be recorded in the academic year in which the year of study begins. This change will make the recording of such students more consistent with Table 6. See Annex A of Circular letter 17/2011, paragraphs 12 to 13 of Annex D, and paragraphs 11 to 19 of Annex H.

b. We will no longer disaggregate HEFCE-fundable students between HEFCE-funded and independently funded. The latter category has always been an optional one within HEFCE-fundable, used by institutions to help them avoid moving below the tolerance band. From 2010-11, we have suspended the conditions that apply to the lower limit of the tolerance band in order to accommodate student places allocated through the University Modernisation Fund. From 2012-13, we intend to calculate teaching funding, including for the phase-out of mainstream grant, for all HEFCE-fundable students. We do not therefore see a need to collect information separately on HEFCE-funded and independently funded students.

c. Table 4 (the Home and EU fees table) is to be disaggregated between each of the different price groups. This will enable us to calculate more accurately average rates of 2011-12 HEFCE funding for each 'funding cell' (that is, a combination of price group x mode of study x level of study). See HEFCE Circular letter 17/2011 and paragraphs 21 to 25 of Annex D.

d. A new Table 7 asks institutions to forecast the numbers of HEFCE-fundable countable years and full-time equivalents (FTEs) they expect to have in 2012-13 by price group, mode and level, and disaggregated between:

- students that would be treated as continuing under the current fees and funding regime, and
- students that would be treated for funding purposes as subject to the new fees and funding regime being introduced from 2012-13.

See Annex A of Circular letter 17/2011, paragraphs 39 to 46 of Annex D, and Annex Q. Institutions in Northern Ireland are not required to complete the new Table 7, nor (as last year) Table 6.

2. Since publication of HEFCE Circular letter 17/2011, we have revised the definition of an end-on course, which is used in determining whether a student is treated as coming under the old or new fee and funding regime. This change has been made to ensure greater consistency with the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 (statutory instrument 2011 No. 1986). The revised definition is provided in Annex Q, paragraphs 11 and 12.

3. As announced in 2010 in paragraph 15 of HEFCE Circular letter 10/2010, 'Advance notification of changes to HESES and HEIFES for 2010-11 and later years', foundation years and other provision commonly referred to as 'Level 0', will be classed as part of a 'recognised HE course' only if they are an integrated part of a recognised HE qualification, such that:

- students are already registered for the recognised HE qualification at the same institution, and
- progression to the recognised HE qualification is guaranteed, subject to satisfactory completion of the foundation year.

See paragraphs 4 and 5 of Annex G.

4. The guidance on how to treat students who start an instance at a date different to the usual start date and who aim to catch up to the rest of the cohort has changed. In previous years, these students were treated as if they had joined with the rest of the cohort, so that the start date of the year of instance was the same as that for the rest of the cohort. This has been modified so that the start date for the year of instance is the actual date that the student started. See Example 3, paragraph 17 of Annex H. This change ensures greater alignment between HESES and the HESES re-creation based on HESA data.

Clarifications

5. We have clarified that students aiming for a postgraduate research qualification are exempt from the equivalent or lower qualification policy. See sub-paragraph 17k of Annex K.

6. We have clarified the guidance that viva-voce examinations should not be treated as the final assessment for the purposes of determining completion status unless all students are required to undertake one. See paragraph 13 of Annex I.

7. We have clarified that students who switch mode from full-time to part-time as defined in paragraph 9 of Annex M, should have their completion status determined with reference to their revised study intentions. See paragraph 3 of Annex I.

8. We have clarified that, where a student's study intentions change partway through the year of instance due to being awarded accredited prior experiential learning (APEL) equivalent to one or more modules, the student's completion status should be judged against these revised study intentions. See paragraph 18 of Annex I.

Process changes

9. We stated last year that we intended to create future HESES survey workbooks (including HESES11) in Excel 2007 format (file extension .xlsx). This will however not be possible in time for the HESES11 survey, and therefore we will continue to use Excel 2003 format (file extension .xls).