

Annex N: Level of study

This annex explains how to determine a student's level of study (undergraduate or postgraduate) for the purposes of HESES14. It also explains how the undergraduate data on Table 5 are split, and how to disaggregate postgraduate students between postgraduate taught and postgraduate research.

Undergraduate

1. Undergraduates are students studying towards a first degree (including foundation degree), higher education (HE) certificate, HE diploma or equivalent, or registered for an institutional HE-level credit that can be counted towards one of these qualifications.
2. The undergraduate data in Table 5 are split between:
 - students on Higher National Diploma (HND) courses
 - students on sub-degree level courses excluding HNDs (such as those aiming for an Higher National Certificate (HNC), Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) or Certificate in Education (CertEd))
 - students on foundation degree courses
 - students on another undergraduate degree (excluding foundation degrees but including foundation degree bridging courses).
3. Where a student registers, without stating a qualification aim, for credits which may count towards a qualification at either undergraduate degree or sub-degree level, they should be counted as sub-degree level.
4. Where students have stated multiple qualification aims as part of the same instance, they should be recorded against the lower aim. For example, a student registered for an HND and a degree should be recorded as HND.

Postgraduate

5. Postgraduate students are registered for courses or credits where a normal condition of entry is that entrants are already qualified to degree level: that is, already qualified at Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. There are two groups: research and taught.
 - a. Postgraduate research students are those whose qualification aim is a research-based higher degree. This is a postgraduate programme comprising a research component (including a requirement to produce original work) which is larger in terms of student effort than any accompanying taught component. The arrangements for assuring and maintaining the academic standards and enhancing the quality of these programmes should be fully compliant with Chapter B11 of the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education's UK Quality Code for Higher Education on postgraduate research programmes.

- b. Postgraduate taught students are postgraduates who do not meet the requirements to be a research student.
- 6. Postgraduates include those on graduate conversion courses and all on postgraduate initial teacher training courses such as PGCEs (whether Postgraduate or Professional Graduate Certificate in Education).
- 7. We disaggregate postgraduate taught students between those who are eligible under the undergraduate student support regime and all others. The former applies only to students aiming for a postgraduate initial teacher training qualification, and some students studying architecture.