

Appendix 3

Problems of fit with the HEIFES04 re-creation algorithms

Purpose

1. This appendix describes known problems of fit with the re-creation of HEIFES04 when using 2004-05 ILR F04 data.
2. It is aimed at expert readers with in-depth knowledge of the data. Readers are advised to have a copy of 'Specification of the individualised learner record for 2004/05' (available from the LSC) and 'HEIFES04: Higher Education in Further Education: Students Survey 2004-05' (HEFCE 2004/32) to hand when using this appendix.
3. Throughout this appendix, fields taken from the 2004-05 ILR F04 return or derived as part of the re-creation are shown in capitals using the names given in Tables 3 and 4 of Appendix 1 respectively.
4. Where a problem of fit occurs, an override file to rectify the problem of fit may be submitted. Details of the nature of the problem of fit and override file should be explained in the action plan. We will only apply overrides where we agree that they are appropriate. The override file should only contain changes to derived fields. Further details are provided under each of the following descriptions of problems of fit. Annex H contains details of the format of the override files.

Differences between HEIFES04 and 2004-05 ILR F04 data

5. Due to problems of fit with ILR data, some of the data returned in HEIFES04 cannot be re-created exactly using the data supplied to the LSC. In such cases, reasonable approximations have to be made. Listed below are the specific areas where there may be uncertainty about the correspondence of 2004-05 ILR F04 data to HEIFES04. Where possible, we have indicated the likely effects of the uncertainties.

Description of problems of fit in algorithms

Part-time load

6. The calculation of HEFESFTE may result in differences between the two data sources for students on non-standard academic years. This is due to an assumption that years of programme of study are in a steady state. The following assumptions are made:
 - a. For students not in their final year we assume that the load reported for the academic year is the same as for the year of programme of study being counted.
 - b. For students in their final year, where we are unable to link between years to establish the FTE, or where a link is made but the intensity of the course varies, we assume the average load of similar students who are in their first year (see paragraph 33 of Appendix 1 for further details). This may affect the load for part-time students where HQ_PYTYP(H13) = 2, 5 and QA_EN_DA (A31) ≤ 31 July 2005.
7. In both cases, where the intensity of the course varies over time, the FTE will not accurately reflect the FTE for the year of programme of study. However, over the programme of study as a whole the FTE will be consistent.
8. Where the intensity of study in the first year of programme of study changes over time, the use of AVRGLOAD to estimate FTE in the final year will result in inconsistencies between the FTE on HEIFES and on the ILR return when summed over the whole programme of study.

9. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'part-time load' and the field to be over-written is HEFESFTE.

Price groups

10. For the HEIFES04 re-creation we have mapped activity to price groups using Superclass II codes. Therefore price groups may differ for the activity where the learndirect code maps to a different price group than the Superclass II code.

11. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'price groups' and the fields to be over-written are PRGB, PRGC, PRGD, PRGMEDIA, PRGPSYCH, PRGITT, PRGINSET.

Fundability status

12. We assume that students are non-fundable if they are not recorded as HEFCE-funded or independently funded and their domicile is the EU. This assumption means that we may identify island and overseas students as non-fundable.

13. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Fundability status' and the field to be over-written is HEFTYPE.

Two years of programme of study – first year

14. Where two years of programme of study are generated we have assumed some programme of study attributes from 2003-04 ILR data for the first year. See paragraphs 17-19 of Appendix 1 for further information. In general, data returned to the LSC should reflect the student status at the end of the academic year; therefore 2004-05 ILR F04 data relate to the second year of programme of study when two years are generated.

15. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Programme of study'. Please contact Anne Southworth (e-mail ilr_heifes_stats@hefce.ac.uk) to discuss the nature of the override and to agree the derived fields to override.

Non-completions

16. We make an assumption that all students returned with year of programme of study not yet completed, but not failed to complete (HQ_COMPY(H16) = 3), have completed. Hence the number of non-completions may be understated.

17. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Non-completions' and the field to be over-written is HEFCOMP.

NHS bursaries

18. The assumptions we make when identifying NHS bursaried courses means we may not identify all pre-registration students of nursing, midwifery and the allied health professions, dental auxiliaries, audiologists and operating department practitioners.

19. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'NHS bursaries' and the field to be over-written is HEFFEELV.