

Appendix 3

Problems of fit with the HESES03 re-creation algorithms

Purpose

1. This appendix describes known problems of fit with the re-creation of HESES03 when using HESA 2003-04 student data.
2. This appendix is aimed at expert readers with in-depth knowledge of the data. Readers are advised to have a copy of the 2003-04 HESA student record coding manual and the 'Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey 2003-04' (HEFCE 2003/44) to hand when using this appendix.
3. Throughout this appendix, fields taken from the HESA 2003-04 student return are shown in capitals using the names given in Table 3 and Table 4 of Appendix 1.
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 and Annex J contains details about the format of the override files.

Differences between HESES03 and HESA 2003-04 student data

5. As a result of the revision of the 1998-99 HESA record, the HESES data can be more accurately re-created. However, because of problems of fit with the data, some of the data returned in HESES03 cannot be re-created exactly using the data supplied to HESA. In such cases, reasonable approximations have to be made. Listed below are the specific areas where there may be uncertainty about the correspondence of HESA to HESES records. 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 HESESFTE for institutions using the split FTE method of returning load on their HESA record 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. This may affect the load for part-time students where FTE_TYPE = 2 and TYPEYR = 2, 4, 5. 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, we assume the average load of similar students who are in their first year (see paragraph 50 of Appendix 1 for further details).
7. In both cases, where the intensity of the course varies over time the FTE will not be an accurate reflection of 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 HESES and HESA 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 HESESFTE.

NHS bursaries

10. We are only able to identify NHS bursaried courses for undergraduates. This may understate the number of students on NHS bursaried courses in the re-creation.

11. We are unable to identify those students that are not eligible for an NHS bursary because their total income in any year from scholarships and employment (minus income tax and social security contributions) exceeds the maximum bursary available. This may inflate the number of students on NHS bursaried courses in the re-creation.

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

Writing-up students

13. Students writing-up a thesis or similar piece of work for the whole of the year do not generate countable years on HESES, whereas students are only excluded from the re-creation if a link was made and the mode in the previous year was MODE = 43, 44 or the expected end date for the course is before the start of the academic year. This may cause a discrepancy where MODE = 43, 44 and the student was active during part of the academic year.

14. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Writing-up students' and the field to be over-written is MODEYPS.

Non-completions

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

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

Fundability status

17. We assume that students that are not recorded as HEFCE- or independently funded

(FUNDCODE = 1, 4) and whose fee eligibility has not been assessed (FEEELIG = 3) are non-fundable. This assumption means that we may identify island and overseas students as non-fundable.

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

Two countable years of programme of study – first countable year

19. In general, data returned to HESA should reflect the student status at the end of the academic year, therefore 2003-04 HESA data relate to the second countable year when two years are generated. Where two years of programme of study are generated we have assumed some programme of study attributes from 2002-03 HESA data for the first countable year. See paragraphs 28-34 of Appendix 1 for further information.

20. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Countable year'. Please contact Anne Southworth to discuss the nature of the override and to agree the derived fields to override.

Students with low FTE

21. Activity is assigned to price groups using XPRP101. The algorithm for XPRP101 is given in paragraph 55 of Appendix 1. Assumptions have been made for students on low-credit bearing courses. This may cause a discrepancy for any institution returning records with the following student / module combination: RECID = 03012 / 03113, 03112 / 03113.

22. In addition, the following assumptions have been made for students with low FTE:

- SPCSTU = 9
- UNITLGTH = 1
- FEEBAND = 99
- LOCSDY = X
- if DATELEFT is completed then
SPLNGTH = DATELEFT - COMDATE is

rounded up to the nearest year, otherwise
SPLENGTH = 2.

23. For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'Low FTE'. Please contact Anne Southworth to discuss the nature of the override and to agree the derived fields to override.

New entrants

24. Figures shown in Column 5 of the re-creation may not accurately reflect the numbers of new entrants returned on HESES03 where a year of programme is not a recognised concept of a course. For example, YEARPRG = 99, year of programme of study has been estimated using COMDATE (see paragraphs 38-39 of Appendix 1).

For the purposes of the override file, the description should be 'New entrants' and the field to be over-written is YEARONE.