Notes on Coverage of FDS Data

1. The **Reference Date** for the FDS was 31 December 1996. Institutions were asked to report the destinations of qualifiers in the Target Population which had been firmly determined by this date and which took effect no later than 31 March 1997.

2. The **HESA FDS Target Population** contains all higher education (HE) students for whom first destination data was expected. The figures contained within the volume reflect the records which were actually returned to HESA. 82.7% of students for whom first destination information was expected had data returned to HESA.

3. The **HESA FDS Target Population** includes all students reported to HESA for the reporting period **1 August 1995 to 31 July 1996** as obtaining relevant qualifications and whose study was primarily full-time (including sandwich students and those writing up theses). In the first year of collection of the FDS, 1994/95, the **FDS related to students qualifying in the ten month period 1 October 1994 to 31 July 1995**. Care should therefore be taken in making comparisons between this volume and the 1994/95 version as changes may be due to this change in coverage.

4. Note that the **definition** of **full-time** is **different** for the First Destination return than that used in the Individualised Student Record. In particular, writing-up students **are included** in the definition of full-time on the First Destination return, but **not** on the Individualised Student Record.

5. **Relevant qualifications** for the First Destination return are postgraduate degrees, Postgraduate Certificates in Education (PGCE), first degrees (excluding intercalated degrees), Diplomas of Higher Education, Certificates of Higher Education, Higher National Diplomas or Higher National Certificates.

Notes on Tables

Transfers from FE to HE in 1995/96

- Northern School of Contemporary Dance
- Norwich School of Art & Design

Other Changes between 1994/95 and 1995/96

It should be noted that a number of nursing colleges merged with HEIs in 1995/96.

Notes to Table 7

1. University of Luton has under-represented the number of HND and postgraduate qualifications obtained in the source dataset. (Tables 7a & 7b.)

2. De Montfort University has under-represented the number of PGCE qualifications obtained in the source dataset. (Table 7a.)

3. Queen Mary and Westfield College has under-represented the number of postgraduate qualifications obtained in the source dataset. (Table 7a.)

4. Salford College of Technology has under-represented the number of qualifiers in the source dataset. (Tables 7a & 7b.)

5. A First Destination return was only required from those students obtaining relevant qualifications for the 1995/96 reporting period whose study was full-time, sandwich or writing-up theses. A First Destination return was **not** sought from those students whose study was previously **part-time**. Due to the inclusion of writing-up students who were previously part-time in the Target Population, it should be noted that response rates for those students coded as writing-up may be lower than those coded as full-time.

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A large majority of students attending Birkbeck College are part-time, and as a consequence, response rates for Birkbeck College are lower. (Tables 7a & 7b.)

6. The University of Strathclyde returned information about the 1996/97 cohort of postgraduates in the source dataset (i.e. those who completed in the Autumn of 1996) in place of that for the 1995/96 postgraduate group. (Table 7a.)

7. The College of Guidance Studies is a specialist college with all students falling outside the First Destination population. (Tables 7a & 7b.)

8. The majority of students attending The Institute of Advanced Nursing Education are studying whilst in full-time employment, consequently a First Destination return was not sought from this institution. (Tables 7a & 7b.)

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