

## DATA PROTECTION AND FAIR PROCESSING ISSUES – GRADUATE OUTCOMES SURVEY

Please note that the following is for guidance only and Providers should take their own data protection advice.

The Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) oblige Controllers to inform individuals about how their data is processed to ensure that processing is ‘fair’.

The GDPR (Article 13 (1)(c)) obliges Controllers to state the legal basis for processing personal data. In this case, the processing of personal data to conduct the Graduate Outcomes survey is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller (See GDPR Article 6(1)(e)) and for statistical and research purposes (See GDPR Article 89).

Although graduates may choose whether or not to respond to the survey, the processing of their contact details for the purpose of undertaking the survey is justified by the conditions above, and not on the basis of consent.

The GDPR and the current Data Protection Act 2018 require data to be processed fairly. This means that information must be provided to graduates telling them how their Personal Data will be processed. In order to take part in the Graduate Outcomes survey, you must ensure that you tell students before they leave that their Personal Data will be processed for the Graduate Outcomes survey.

The following text has been prepared and previously shared with NI FECs to include in your own privacy information for students. This text has been adapted from the [HESA Student Collection Notice](#). See the heading “Student and leavers surveys”.

**[We]** will hold your contact details after you graduate in order for you to be contacted to complete the Graduate Outcomes survey.

Your contact details will be passed to the Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited ([HESA](#)) and organisations contracted to undertake the Graduate Outcomes survey. The survey contractors will only use your contact details for the survey and will delete them when the survey is closed. HESA may hold your contact details for further Graduate Outcomes surveys where these are in the public interest.

Responses to the Graduate Outcomes survey will be used to create statistics to meet the public interest in the outcomes of higher education. Your responses will also be made available to **[us]**, and **[we]** may choose to add additional questions to the survey for **[our]** own use. Information from third parties (such as your parent, or your provider, if you are in further study) might be used to complete sections of the surveys if you can't be contacted.

Further privacy and data protection information will be provided if you are contacted for any of these surveys. You might also be contacted as part of an audit to check that the survey has been undertaken properly.

For more information about the Graduate Outcomes survey visit the dedicated website [www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk](http://www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk).

For more information about HESA's data protection compliance, including contact details and your rights, please see HESA's [Privacy Information](#).

### **Controller**

Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited ([HESA](#)) will be the Controller of personal data processed for the Graduate Outcomes survey

### **Legal basis for processing your information to conduct national surveys**

Processing of your information to conduct Graduate Outcomes survey is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Controller (See GDPR Article 6(1)(e)) and for statistical and research purposes (See GDPR Article 89).

When the survey is conducted, graduates will be provided with further privacy information about the use of their survey response data.

A copy of the latest Graduate Outcomes Collection Notice can be found at <https://www.graduateoutcomes.ac.uk/privacy-info> and historic notices can be found at <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/about/regulation/data-protection/notices/previous#graduate-outcomes>