58158: RETURNING POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS AND COST CENTRE

HESA

contact details
HESA
95 Promenade
Cheltenham
GL50 1HZ
E liaison@hesa.ac.uk
T +44 (0) 1242 211 144
W www.hesa.ac.uk

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OVERVIEW
Purpose
In response to feedback from providers, the way in which module data is returned for postgraduate research (PGR) Instances does not always reflect the provision within organisations. After discussions with statutory customers, we want to understand more fully about the PGR provision within providers to help inform the development of the model and guidance for Data Futures.

This consultation includes a possible change to the way cost centres are returned for PGR programmes for all providers.

Background
After the previous curriculum consultation with the sector a structure has been agreed. This is detailed in Curriculum for PGR section.

In the current legacy Student collection, the return of module data is mandatory for all instances which, in some cases, results in PGR instances being associated with generic ('dummy') modules.

Currently, the only method of collecting cost centre information is through the Module Subject entity, returned under Module.

INTRODUCTION

Cross organisational response
The 'save later' option allows multiple users from one organisation to engage with the consultation. Once you click the 'save later' option you will receive a unique link.

Please ensure that you read all of the information supplied in each section before answering the questions.

Once the required questions have been completed, a 'Finish' button will appear at the bottom of the consultation. Pressing this will complete the consultation and send your responses for analysis. Please do not click through to finish until you are satisfied with all of your answers.

On completion, a copy of your responses will be generated as a PDF and sent to the email address you enter below.

1. What is your name?
    [text field]

2. What is your email address? If you enter your email address then you will automatically receive an acknowledgement email when you submit your response.
    [text field]

3. What is your organisation's name?
    [text field]

4. What is your organisation?
    - English provider
    - Scottish provider

- Welsh provider
- Northern Ireland provider
- Other organisation
- Sector group/body

CURRICULUM FOR PGR
Curriculum for PGR

The new structure for recording curriculum for PGR provision is shown in the diagram below. There is no requirement for the Session Year entity to be returned.

5. Do you foresee any issues with this structure and returning PGR provision?
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not applicable

Please provide any supporting comments
[text field]

PGR AND MODULE DATA

Currently the return of modules for PGR programmes is enforced in the model even if it is not relevant to the programme in order to provide the cost centre information. Statutory customers have indicated that module data for PGR programmes would not be required if the cost centre data was available via another route.

6. Do you have postgraduate research (PGR) provision?

Please note, if you answer 'No', you will not answer any further questions on PGR programmes and module data and you will continue to cost centre identification questions.
   - Yes
   - No
   - Not yet but we may have in the future option

7. In the current legacy student collection, providers return PGR instances with a mixture of generic and specific modules. In order to help us understand why this is the case, please can you say whether you use generic or specific modules or both, and why.

[text field]

PGR AND MODULE DATA (CONTINUED)

The definition of PGRs in Data Futures currently includes the following qualification categories (QUALCAT):

- D0003 - Doctorate degree that meets the criteria for a research-based higher degree
- D0004 - Credits at level D

- L0000 - Masters degree that meets the criteria for a research-based higher degree.
- L0001 - Other postgraduate qualification at level L that meets the criteria for a research-based higher degree.
- L0002 - Credits at level L

These qualification categories define where module data is potentially not relevant.

8. Are there other qualification categories outside this list where module data is not pertinent? If yes, please provide details below with any relevant codes.

[text field]

9. Are there qualification categories within this list where module data is pertinent? If yes, please provide details below with any relevant codes.

[text field]

COST CENTRE IDENTIFICATION

Currently the return of module data for PGR instances is mandatory. Statutory customers have indicated that, for PGR programmes only, module data would not be required if the cost centre data was available via another route.

For providers in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales the return of modules currently includes data on whether the module is available in a Celtic language and the associated percentage. If modules are no longer submitted this data would have to be collected via a different entity such as Student Course Session.

Note: The return of modules, and hence cost centre data, is optional for Approved providers in England.

10. OfS and Research England are reviewing the use of cost centre data for PGR students and would like to understand the burden of returning cost centre information for these students. Please provide any comments below.

[text field]

COST CENTRE IDENTIFICATION (CONTINUED)

This section outlines the proposed solution for enabling PGR programmes to have associated cost centre data without the need to submit modules.

Proposal: Two cost centre entities

One cost centre entity attached to Module Delivery where Module Instances are returned, and one cost centre entity attached to Student Course Session where no modules are recorded. Only one option would be permitted for a single Student Course Session.
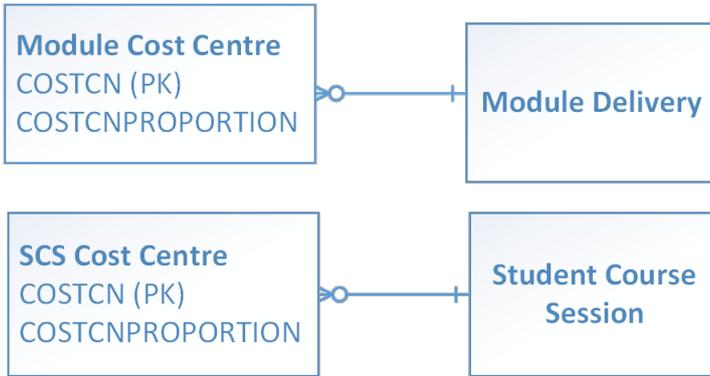
Either of the above methods can be used within a Student Course Session but not both. If module data is returned it must cover the whole of the Student Course Session. Cost centre data cannot be linked to both Module Delivery and Student Course Sessions, as shown in the diagram below.

Jane returns modules and cost centres for the entire Student Course Session.
OR
Jane returns cost centres for the entire Student Course Session.

OR
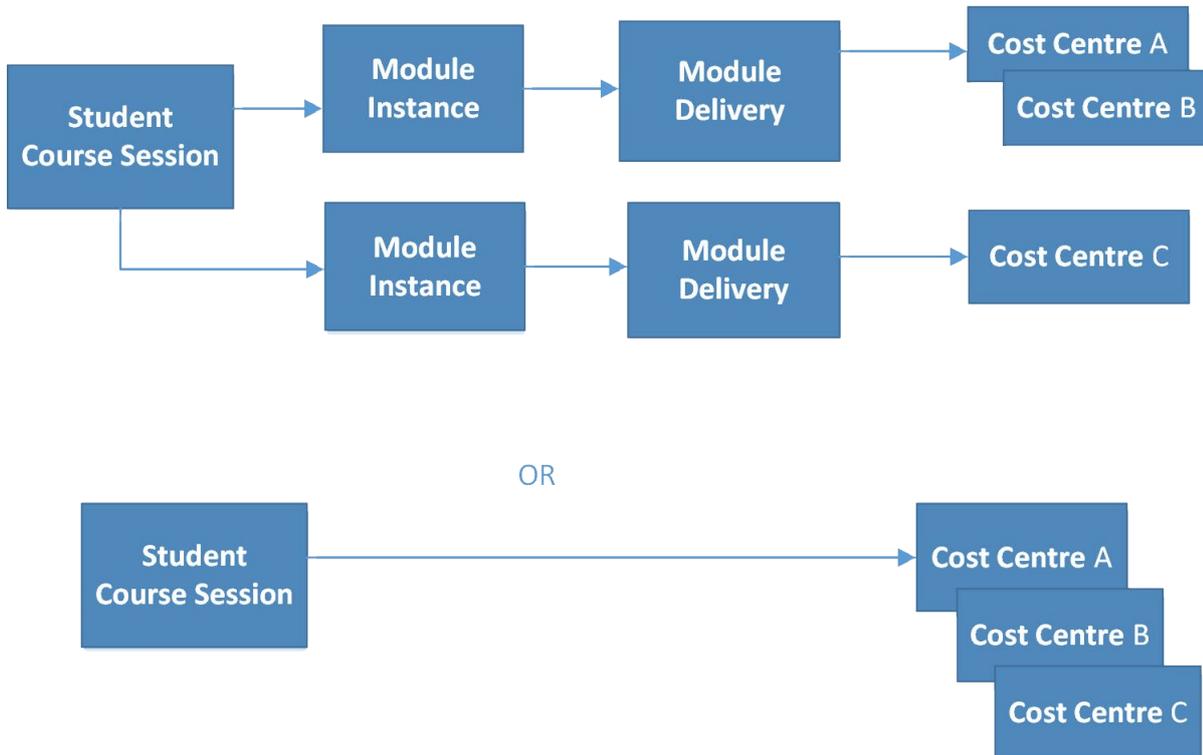
For example, where a provider chooses to return a specific module (e.g. a Statistics module) including cost centre data, then generic modules must be returned along with cost centre information to cover the remainder of the Student Course Session.
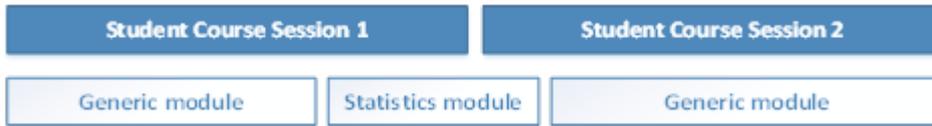
11. For a Student Course Session of a PGR programme, which method do you prefer?
- The return of module data is not permitted. Cost centre data is always returned against Student Course Session.
- The return of module data is optional for the student. Cost centre data is associated with modules where they exist, OR with the Student Course Session.
- The return of module data is mandatory. This would entail the return of generic modules with associated cost centre data.
- No preference

Please provide any additional information on your choice
[text field]

Combining Cost Centre and Supervisor Allocation data.
Within this proposal there is an option to combine the Supervisor Allocation entity and the proposed Cost Centre entity for PGR provision. In this case, where no modules are returned, the new SCS Cost Centre entity would not be required and a new Cost Centre field would instead be added to the Supervisor Allocation entity on a one-to-one basis.

Where the combination of SupervisorAllocation.HESAID and SupervisorAllocation.2014UNITOFASSESSMENT is associated with multiple cost centres, additional Supervisor Allocation entities would need to be returned to record the cost centre data. This would mean that the supervisor allocation proportion would need to be split across the entities, ensuring the total proportioned summed to 100.

12. Would you consider this a viable option?
- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please provide additional information on any potential issues with this approach
[text field]

13. Please provide any feedback/comments on the proposed structure.
[text field]

END DATES

The current definitions of leaver end date and qualification award date may provide the same value, resulting in duplication for providers. We are seeking clarification around the definitions of these two fields for PGR students.

The guidance for leaver end date (Leaver.LEAVERENDDATE) currently states, "for research students the award should be recorded when the provider's Senate, or other body or person empowered, formally approves the award".

There is currently no specific guidance for PGRs for qualification award date (QualificationAwarded.QUALAWARDDATE) above the general guidance that it: "records the date on which the final confirmation of award, by exam boards, senate or other body or person empowered to formally approve the award takes place".

14. In the case of PGR programmes, are the LEAVERENDDATE and QUALAWARDDATE effectively both the same date?
- Yes
- No

If you answered 'No', please explain how they differ
[text field]

15. Where an expected end date is provided, should it include the planned writing up period? Guidance on CourseDelivery.EXPECTEDENDDATE currently states that, "For research students, any extra writing up periods should not be taken into account". We are aware that the current definition of CourseDelivery.EXPECTEDENDDATE may not cover everything that providers may require.
- Yes
- No

Do you have any further comments or suggested definitions?
[text field]

COLLABORATIVE PROVISION

In order to assist our understanding of the dynamics of sequential collaborative provision please reply to the following questions.

16. Do any of your programmes include collaborative provision?
- Yes
- No

17. Is there always a lead provider identified for the collaboration?
- Yes
- No

18. Where a lead provider is identified, how is this decided?
[text field]

19. If no lead provider is identified, how do you decide who will return the student(s) to HESA? Please provide any information on the oversight/funding of the collaboration which may help HESA understand this provision.

[text field]

20. Thank you for completing the consultation. Do you have any further comments you wish to add?

[text field]