

The inclusion of low credit bearing students in the Performance Indicators population PITG 11/08

Issue

1. Performance Indicators populations are not completely consistent with HESA's standard populations. This paper follows on from the discussion from the June meeting (11/04, recommendation 2) about the possible inclusion of low credit bearing students.

Recommendations

2. **Recommendation:** All students on low credit bearing courses to be included within the standard PIs population from 2010/11, regardless of whether or not a reduced return has been submitted.

Discussion

Inconsistencies

3. Historically, the standard Performance Indicator populations have not included students on low credit bearing courses (instances with 10% FTE or less) as some of the key fields used to define the population were not required for these students and overwritten with #. Fields such as PREVINST, POSTCODE, SEC, DISALL, QUAL1, QUAL2 and QUALENT2 were not completed for these reduced return students.

4. From 2007/08, a reduced return (reduced = 01) was still acceptable for students on low credit bearing courses, but where data was returned, it was no longer overwritten with #. Fields such as PREVINST, SEC, DISALL and detailed information on highest qualification held are not compulsory for reduced returns, but POSTCODE, QUALENT2 and qualifications awarded information are now compulsory.

5. A large majority of the low credit bearing students are part-time other undergraduates, many of them mature. Therefore the inclusion / exclusion of low credit bearing students within the PI populations will mainly impact table T2b.

6. Of the 75,575 UK domiciled low credit bearing full-time and part-time undergraduate entrants in the 2009/10 HESA session population, 69,980 (92.6%) are currently included within the PIs population. The remaining 5,600 (7.4%) are not currently included due to reduced information in fields which are currently used to define the PIs population.

7. Adding these additional 5,600 students into the population will bring the PIs population much more in line with the HESA Session population of full-time and part-time UK domiciled entrants (754,390), excluding the 1,495 Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man domiciled students [see paper 11/04 from the June meeting at which it was agreed to continue excluding these students on the grounds that the majority of the widening participation information is not available].

Further information

8. For further information contact Suzie Dent (Phone: 01242 211109; e-mail: suzie.dent@hesa.ac.uk).