

Technical changes to the UKPIs

UKPITG 15/04

Issues

1. Derivation of the state school marker using school codes – From 2014-15, the HESA student record will collect UKPRNs in the previous institution field (PREVINST), rather than the department, UCAS and HESA schools codes currently collected. This may have an impact on the state school marker used with the UK Performance Indicators (UKPIs).
2. FE funded students in the HE population (FESTUMK = 3) – Should these students be excluded from the UKPI populations?
3. Disaggregating The Open University according to country of National Centre – From 2013-14, it has become standard to separate The Open University according to country of National Centre in student data which is published by HE provider.

Discussion

Derivation of the state school marker

4. Derivation of the state school marker for use in Table T1 of the UKPIs will change from 2014-15 as HESA will collect UKPRNs, rather than the department, UCAS and HESA schools codes currently collected.
5. Table T1 of the UKPIs considers a young, full-time entrant population, and it is known that large numbers of these entrants enter HE through UCAS. For students entering through UCAS in 2014-15, a UKPRN code for the school/FE/HE/other provider of the applicant will be available from UCAS via the *J transaction.
6. As a result, a UKPRN identifier for the primary provider of teaching entered in the PREVINST field will only need to be otherwise sourced for entrants who have not entered through UCAS in 2014-15, and for mature or continuing students (where their PREVINST information may need to be revised or re-coded). In such cases, HE providers have been encouraged to obtain this information from the UK Register of Learning Providers (UKRLP), or from a mapping that UCAS have provided to HESA which maps some of the old school codes to the current UKPRNs.
7. Although these cases can be expected to occur less frequently in the UKPI populations than across the entirety of the 2014-15 HESA data, it is useful to note that students within the data may have attended schools that don't have a UKPRN. For example, the school may have closed or changed name, and it is not mandatory for schools in Scotland and Northern Ireland to have a UKPRN. These students will need to be returned under a generic code:

4901 UK state school

4911 UK independent school

4921 UK FE College

4931 Any non-UK provider

4941 UK HEP

9999 Unknown (HE providers are encouraged not to use this code unless it is not applicable to code the school type into another of the generic codes)

8. Additionally, UCAS' mapping file is known to be incomplete and large numbers of school codes returned in HESA data in previous years are missing from the lookup file. If HE providers came to rely upon this mapping for the completion of PREVINST for students outside of the *J transaction then, across the entirety of the 2014-15 HESA data this may result in higher numbers of students having a generic school code.
9. The issue that is of greater importance to UKPIs is that HESA do not currently hold a mapping that would then translate UKPRNs to a state school marker. Is this mapping available? For schools in England this information could be sourced from DfE's EduBase or NPD, but members are asked to consider whether similar information is available for the other UK administrations. And whether there any other sources for this data?
10. For schools in England the default approach for the state school marker would then be to derive this marker from the school type information held within EduBase. In cases where this approach fails, and where a school code to UKPRN mapping exists in UCAS' lookup file, members are asked to consider whether it would be possible or appropriate to infer the state school information used previously through reversal of that UCAS mapping. Or whether any alternative approaches could be developed?
11. Members are asked to give particular consideration to whether a similar or alternative derivation could be developed and implemented with regards to schools outside of England.

FE funded higher education students

12. The UKPI population only includes small numbers of FE funded students (FESTUMK = 3). These students may be funded by the SFA, the EFA or WG-DfES but have an HE level and mode of study. In 2013-14, there were 65 such students, studying at other undergraduate level across two different HE providers.
13. Members are asked to consider whether such students should continue to feature in the UKPI populations, and any implications of their exclusion.

The Open University according to country of National Centre

14. From 2013-14, it became HESA's standard to disaggregate The Open University according to the country of their national centre (based on data given in the campus field) in student data published at HE provider level.
15. The majority of students studying at The Open University do so on a part-time basis and therefore currently only feature in tables T2b, T7, T3e, E1b and E1d. Analysis has been carried out on table T7 and T2b for 2013-14.
16. Table T2b (Participation of under-represented groups in higher education: UK domiciled part-time undergraduate entrants) excludes HE providers based in

Scotland, therefore disaggregating The Open University data according to country of National Centre would result in more students being removed from the benchmark calculations.

17. Low participation data has not been produced within the UK Performance Indicators for HE providers in Scotland since 2007-08. This is due to the relatively high (in UK terms) participation rate in Scotland coupled with the very high proportion of HE that occurs in FE colleges which means the figures for Scottish HE providers could, when viewed in isolation, misrepresent their contribution to widening participation.
18. Analysis of 2013-14 data has shown that excluding The Open University students with Scotland as their National Centre from table T2b in addition to the other HE providers in Scotland would result in raising the benchmarks for the majority of the other HE providers. This is likely to be due to removing a large number of students domiciled in Scotland who are not from a low participation areas (due to Scotland having fewer low participation areas) and thus raising the proportions of students from low participation areas in the rest of the sector.
19. Table T7 (Participation of UK domiciled students in higher education who are in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)) excludes The Open University from part-time England totals, all benchmarks and all standard deviation calculations, so there would be little impact.

Further information

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