

Use of Generic Codes for Course/Subject of Qualification

Aim Coding

JACS version 1.7 Created for use in 2002/03 collections onwards. Superseded by JACS 2 from 2007/08 collections onwards.

As a result of the joint UCAS/HESA Subject Code Harmonisation Project, it is intended that at the subject or module level all subjects should be classified within the JACS hierarchical academic subject structure. Therefore the use of JACS codes will be compulsory in completion of Fields in the range 101 - 146 in the HESA Combined Student Record, and Fields 13 and 16 in the HESA Module Record).

It is recognised, however, that at the course or qualification aim level this may not always be possible, as some programmes of study may consist of a collection of generically associated course elements, or be truly multi-disciplinary in nature.

Institutional responses to the question on the discontinuation of Y-codes in the consultation last year indicated that a value was still placed upon the flexibility that these codes afforded institutions. Therefore, in order to resolve such cases, it is proposed that alongside the JACS subject classification a range of generic codes be made available for use only at the course/qualification aim level. The use of generic codes will be accepted only in completion of Fields 43 - 45 in the HESA Student Record).

Generic codes will consist of a subject group letter followed by a zero. Where a programme consists of a range of subjects or modules falling predominantly within a single subject group, for example, the Physical Sciences group, the programme would be coded F000.

In this way generic codes could be used to code programmes, which span one, two or three subject groups, for example:

1 Single subject group

BA Humanities

SCAS Y300

HESACODE Y30

On the assumption that this particular course consists predominately of Historical and Philosophical Studies (V), the appropriate coding would be:

JACS derived course code: V000

HESA Student Record: Field 43 V000 Field 44 Blank Field 45 Blank Field 46 Blank

2 Balanced combination of two subject groups

BSc Combined Sciences

SCAS Y100

HESACODE Y10

This course may consist equally of Biological Sciences (C) and Physical Sciences (F) and would

thus be coded:

JACS derived course code: CF00

HESA Student Record: Field 43 C000 Field 44 F000 Field 45 Blank Field 46 1

3 Major/minor combination of two subject groups

BSc Combined Sciences

SCAS Y100

HESACODE Y10

Where the course consists predominately of Biological Sciences (C), but there is notable element of Physical Sciences (F), the programme would be coded thus:

JACS derived course code: C0F0

HESA Student Record: Field 43 C000 Field 44 F000 Field 45 Blank Field 46 2

4 Combination of three subject groups

BA Politics, Philosophy and
Economics

SCAS Y616

HESACODE L10

Triple combinations, previously uncodable under SCAS, can now be allocated a generic code showing each of the three subject groups studied:

JACS derived course code: MVL0

HESA Student Record: Field 43 M000 Field 45 V000 Field 45 L000 Field 46 Blank

In producing course codes, this procedure allows only a limited number of code variants; if necessary, zero could be substituted by A or B allowing further permutations of the derived codes.

It is recognised that this system of generic codes will still not provide a way of coding truly interdisciplinary programmes of study. However UCAS research has indicated that there are only a limited number of such programmes. For these remaining interdisciplinary programmes UCAS will no longer use Y-codes but will assign each a four-digit numeric course code (e.g. 0001, 0002, etc.), whereas Y codes will continue to be used to identify the subject at the programme of study level in the HESA record.

5 Interdisciplinary programmes of study

BSc Combined Studies

UCAS course code: 0001

HESA Student Record: Field 43 Y000

NB As with the other generic codes described above, these codes are strictly for use at the programme of study level *only*.

Note that in the limited number of cases of these truly interdisciplinary courses, the numeric course code assigned by UCAS cannot be used in the HESA Subject of qualification aim (alphanumeric) fields. Therefore, in the transfer of information from UCAS-to institutions-to HESA, these numeric course codes will need to be translated (to Y000) before information is returned to HESA. It is hoped that assistance with this translation will be made available to institutions.