HEPI Report (62)

Annex A1 – Entrant counts – definitions and descriptions

1.   Figures 1to 7 and tables 3 and 5 from the main report are available in spreadsheet format at Annex A2. Equivalent figures and tables using the more stringent definition of entrants are also available. See Annex 2 sheets Fig 1a (Std and Con), Fig 1b(Std and Con), Table 3 (Std and Con) and Table 5 (Std and Con).

2.   The complete set of HESA and HESES data used in this study is in spreadsheet format at Annex A3.

3.   This annex A1 has details on:-

- Standard HESA definition of entrants

- Open University HESA figures for 2004-05

- More stringent definition of entrants

- HESES and HEIFES entrant numbers

- Birkbeck College recreation of HESES entrant numbers

- Russell group in England

Standard HESA definition of entrants

4.   The definition of entrant counts used for figures and tables in the main report is that used by HESA in their publications from 2007-08, applied to all years from 2003-04. In HESA publications these would be described as 'UK-domiciled (excluding Channel Islands and the Isle of Man), first year, part-time, undergraduates'. Note that summaries in HESA publications include entrants from Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, under the 'UK-domiciled' heading.

5.   An outline of the definitions used by HESA can be found at:-

www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1902/

For more details contact HESA.

Open University HESA figures for 2004-05

6.   Figure of the main report does not include a point for 2004-05. This is because of data quality problems.

> "As a consequence of a problem identified with data submitted by The Open University (OU) in 2004/05, a number of students were not returned as first years although included in the all year figure. The error affected data only for the 2004/05 academic year and was corrected for 2005/06. However as a result, the increase in first year enrolments between 2004/05 and 2005/06 appears greater than in reality, particularly in respect of undergraduate entrants." (HESA Statistical first release 107, 9 January 2007)

More stringent definition of entrants

7.   Part-time provision creates particular challenges in trying to create a time series which reflects changes in the level of provision rather than changes in the way data has been returned. The data collection is mature, the first collection was for 1994-94; and the data definitions are rigorous and the quality assurance checks are comprehensive. Despite this, software changes at HEIs can produce large changes in the counts of entrants, particularly for continuing education (CE) students. In most cases these changes represent an improvement; the returns after the change follow the data definitions more closely. However an improvement in data quality can make a time series misleading.

8.   To reduce the impact of such changes we modified the way counts of entrants are calculated. The starting point was to take the definitions that HESA have used for their publications from 2007-08 but applied to all years. (See www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/view/1902/)

9.   The further modifications will reduce the count of entrants from the 'true' number, but will give us greater confidence in comparing one year with another.

Algorithm for stringent counts of entrants from HESA data

Step 1 – Initial (yyyy-yy**)**
Extract home (excluding island) undergraduate student same (2007-08) HESA definitions for
publications excluding inactive students etc for all years (2002-03 to 2011-12) creating fields:
Mode-flag, Entrant-flag, Institution-group , Qualification-Group, HUSID and InstID .

Mode-flag (active students)
- Full-time
- Part-time

Entrant-flag
- Not-entrant
- Entrant

Institution- group
- Birkbeck College (BC)
- Open University (OU)
- Russell group universities in England (RE) using current list for all years
- HEIs in England except BC, OU and RE
- HEIs in Wales
- HEIs in Scotland

Qualification-Group
- First degree and equivalent
- HND or Foundation Degree
- Other sub degree
- Institutional credits

Step 2 – Entrants(yyyy-yy**)**
For each Initial(yyyy_yy) except 2002-03, create a single record for each HUSID x Inst_Id such
that:
Mode-flag = maximum (Mode) - with Full-time > Part-time
Entrant-flag = maximum (Entrant) -   with Not-entrant   > Entrant
Qualification-group = maximum (Qualification-group) – Degree > HND/FD > Other > Credits
Delete all records with (Mode-flag = Full-time) or (Entrant-flag = Not-entrant).
Save HUSID, InstId, Institution- group, Qualification-Group to create Entrants(yyyy-yy)

Step 3 – Previous (yyyy-yy)
For each Initial(yyyy_yy), except Initial(2011-12), create Previous(yyyy-yy) with one record for
each HUSID x Inst_Id saving HUSID and Inst_Id only.

Step 4 – Final (yyyy yy)
Merge each Entrants(yyyy_yy) with Previous(yyyy-1_yy-1), e.g. Entrants(2011-12) with
Previous(2010-11), by HUSID x Inst_Id. If Previous(yyyy-1_yy-1) found then delete the record
creating Final(yyyy-yy) for years 2003-04 to 2011-12.

Step 5 – Final-sum
Count number of entrants from Entrants (yyyy-yy) data, summing: (year) x (Institution- group)
x (Qualification-Group), creating 9x 6 x 4 = 264 counts

HESES and HEIFES entrant numbers

10. The HESES / HEIFES numbers are taken from table 5, column 2 of these surveys. These are the new entrants 1 between 1 August 2012 and census date of the return plus forecast of entrants to 31 July of the following year. These data are available on the HEFCE web site for 2012-13, but not for earlier years, and the breakdown by qualification aim groups is not available even for 2012-13. The figures shown in this report were extracted by HEFCE on request.

Birkbeck College recreation of HESES figures

11. Birkbeck College provided their own internal HESES recreation figures, which are a more accurate reflection of what happened. These figures were also used to revise the figures for 'all HEIs in England apart from the Open University'. Sheets 'HEI – England' and 'Birkbeck' in Annex A3 show how these figures were revised.

Russell group in England

12. The same group of institutions were used through the whole time period. They were:

University of Birmingham
University of Bristol
University of Cambridge
University of Durham
University of Exeter
Imperial College
University of Leeds
University of Liverpool
King's College London
LSE
Queen Mary, University of London
University College London
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
University of Nottingham
University of Oxford
University of Sheffield
University of Southampton
University of Warwick
University of York
University of Manchester