HESA Mobility Data and Reporting

Go International 2017 – In for the count

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This session

• Introduction to HESA
• The Student record
• Overview of the mobility entity
• Run through of the fields
• Case example of reporting practices from University College London
• Feedback
About HESA

✓ Central data collection agency for UK Higher Education
✓ Aim to reduce accountability burden for the sector
✓ Funded mainly through institutional subscriptions
✓ Disseminate data through a number of methods
What do we do?

HEPs submit data to HESA for each data stream. The data is quality assured and eventually signed off.

Signed-off data is then released to customers, in particular statutory customers, which include the UK Funding Councils.
What data do HESA collect

- We aim to collect every aspect of Higher Education
- Students
- Staff
- Finance
- Estates
- And More!
The Student Record

• Collected since the 1994/95 academic year
• Collected in respect of the devolved administrations
• The Student record is collected in respect of all students registered at the reporting provider who follow courses that lead to the award of a qualification or provider credit.
• The Student record collects individualised data about students active during the reporting period
• The student record is collected retrospectively.
• Currently there are over 200 data items.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Included</th>
<th>Excluded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students who are (or were) actively following a course at some time during the HESA reporting period</td>
<td>Students studying wholly outside the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students spending 8 weeks or more in the UK</td>
<td>Distance learning students studying outside the UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance learning students studying outside the UK who are funded</td>
<td>Post doctorate students and Higher Doctorates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students who start a course and leave within the first two weeks, but have been confirmed to the SLC</td>
<td>Doctorates awarded by publication (unless they are undertaking a significant amount of research at the reporting provider)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incoming/outgoing visiting and exchange students at the reporting provider</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HESA Student Entity Diagram
Data Collection Process

The Student record data is submitted to HESA via an online web platform. The data is submitted via an XML file.

The Student Record will populate/generate a number of downloadable reports. Mobility section can be found in the Credibility Report – Mobility Section.
This table reports a count of all mobilities with a split by Mobility.MOBTYPE and Mobility.MOBSCHHEME.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Study abroad</th>
<th>Work abroad</th>
<th>Volunteering</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sandwich placement which meets the criteria set out by funding councils, not including ERASMUS*</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERASMUS*</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other scheme</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table displays a count of instances with a mobility by year of programme and level of study. A comparison, number difference and percentage change are also provided.
Mobility:

Mobility duration (MOBDURA)
Mobility location (MOBLOCA)
Mobility scheme (MOBSCHEME)
Mobility type (MOBTYPE)
The History of the Mobility Fields

Mobility was added as a new entity for the 2013/2014 academic year. Prior to this, information on mobility was derived from a combination of codes from already existing fields such as EXCHANGE, LOCSDY, MODE and DESTOCM.

Improvement to information on Trans-national Education (TNE) was discussed and a proposal, developed in conjunction with interested sector bodies, was consulted on as part of the 2012/13 review. It was agreed that further consideration was needed before making changes. The proposals included changes to existing fields to avoid duplication of data.
Consultation Responses

“In principle the University is supportive in collecting more detailed information regarding student mobility and welcomes the ability to report more than one instance of mobility per student per year.”

“We welcome the opportunity to comment of changes to the return to reflect mobility patterns more accurately”

“These proposals actually seem to match a lot of what we are trying to do with regards to gathering specific mobility data”
Introduction to the Mobility entity.
Who does it apply to?

‘Compulsory for all instances where (Instance.REDUCEDI=00 or 01) and Instance.LOCSDY = T or U and Instance.MODE is not 43, 44, 63 or 64).

-Simple!

1. Instance.REDUCEDI
   • Not a reduced return (or is low credit bearing)

2. Instance.LOCSDY
   • Location of study is either abroad for the whole year, or for a proportion of the year.

3. Instance.MODE
   • The student is in active study (not writing up or dormant)

Compulsory to return for students undertaking a mobility experience with a combined duration of 4 weeks or more.
‘Optional where Instance.LOCSDY = T or U, and Instance.MODE = 43 or 44’

Optional for short durations which sum up to less than 4 weeks

1. Instance.LOCSDY
   • Location of Study is either abroad for the whole year, or a proportion of the year

2. Instance.MODE
   • If the students’ mode of study is writing up.

Distance learning students are excluded from the coverage.
Short-term Mobility

• Although optional on the HESA Student Record providers should be encouraged to return this information.
• It is useful from both a statutory and customer point of view.

• It was only introduced as compulsory with duration over 4 weeks to reduce the burden on providers.
• Can we do better now 3 years on?
• Remember – LOCSDY must be T or U when returning mobility data.
Mobility

Mobility:

Mobility duration (MOBDURA)
Mobility location (MOBLOCA)
Mobility scheme (MOBSCHME)
Mobility type (MOBTYPE)
A mobility experience as part of their course outside of the UK refers to any overseas experience organised or endorsed by the provider that takes place during the student’s higher education. It does not need to be credit-bearing or linked to any learning outcomes.

In 15/16 academic year there were 40635 mobility instances!
MOBDURA – Mobility Duration

• This field records the expected length in weeks of the mobility experience

• Minimum mobility of 1 week – our system will not allow decimals.

• Where a mobility period spans over the HESA reporting year, it should be split.
Example

A first year student went to study abroad in Spain on 1\textsuperscript{st} July and returned on 4\textsuperscript{th} September.

In year 1 (1\textsuperscript{st} July-31\textsuperscript{st} July) you would report MOBDURA=4

In year 2 (1\textsuperscript{st} August – 4\textsuperscript{th} September) you would report MOBDURA=5

Does anyone know the exception?
Unless by splitting it up, less than 4 weeks ends up as the duration for one of the years. In that case the extra few weeks are to be returned in the year with the majority of the duration.

A first year student went to study abroad in Spain on 15\textsuperscript{th} July and returned on 4\textsuperscript{th} September.

In year 1 you would not report any mobility. In year 2 you would include the entirety of the mobility period – MOBDURA=7
Pop Quiz 1.0

In weeks, what was the average duration of a mobility instance in 15/16?

22 Weeks!
MOBLOCA – Mobility Location

This field records the country location of the mobility experience. There is a possible 259 codes to choose from which you can return.

Ones worth noting:

XY 'At Sea' is included for the purpose of recording a destination in international waters, which is not recognised as the territorial waters of a listed country.

EU – European Union not otherwise specified

XP- XX – Non Specified areas/countries/regions

ZZ – Not Known

The regional codes EU and XP to XX may be used if information is known only to this level of accuracy, in preference to using ZZ which should be a last resort.
Pop Quiz 2.0

Where was the most popular destination for outward mobility students in 15/16?

12.6% of total!
This field records the type of mobility scheme that the student is on. It contains 4 options:

01 Provider – This includes anything organised as part of the provider’s course (i.e placements, field work etc)

02 Sandwich placement which meets the criteria set out by funding councils, not including ERASMUS+ - this should be used to identify which mobility experience counts as their sandwich placement

03 ERASMUS+ - includes Erasmus Mundus, Comenius, Tempus and Erasmus for All.

04 Other scheme – JYA schemes + any remainders.
Is 4 schemes enough?

Are there any examples of mobility schemes which you are having to either exclude or ‘force’ into one of these 4 categories?
MOBTYPE-Mobility Type

This field records the type of mobility experience. It can be returned multiple times (3 max) when a student completes a mobility experience covering more than one type at the same time.

01 Study Abroad – such as Erasmus, Fieldtrips etc…

02 Work Abroad – is used in situations where a student is doing paid work, such as internship

03 Volunteering – should be used where the student is undertaking voluntary or other unpaid work
**Data Futures**

**Off-Venue Activity**

A structured activity that an individual student undertakes in connection with their course, but away from the provider’s venues. The purpose of this is to monitor placements, international mobility, and related student activity.

Off venue Activity feeds into this Module Delivery entity. This records fields such venue, teaching methods, assessment methods, percentages.

We are expecting that data futures will provide a unique view of the transnational methodologies within the student record for placement students.

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HESA Mobility Data Reporting: UCL Case Study

April 2017
UCL Context
Mobility by numbers

- 38,000 students
- 11,000 staff
- 1025 students reported as mobile in 2013-14
- 1140 students reported as mobile in 2014/15
Data Collection

- UG Credit Mobility data held in student information system (SITS)
- Other mobility data held locally; collected by email and collated
- Record includes data for HESA report
- Not mapped to HESA fields
HESA Submission

- Data collated and submitted by Student Data Services (Registry)

- Export from system is altered to match HESA requirements
Problems

- Data services are not invested in mobility; no incentive to ensure completeness
- Local record keeping is incomplete, sometimes inaccurate
- Student Mobility Team not aware of all mobility (which could count toward targets!)
A new approach

- Student Mobility take responsibility for all data collection
- Centralised record keeping
- Vested interest in ensuring data accurate and complete
Data collection
The future

• Project kicking off shortly
• Development of a set of tools for data capture:
  o Self-submission
  o Individual mobilities
  o Batch mobilities (whole year group)
• Underpinned by strategic objectives
• Incentivised by central support and recognition for students
• HESA reporting requirements will be included in specification