



## Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience

### The Scottish HE Data Landscape

#### An overview of: Destination of Leavers from Higher Education survey (DLHE)

##### **Type and scope of the data**

The DLHE survey is a national survey conducted by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) that collects data regarding the destinations and outcomes of graduates six months after qualifying from their course. Data on the details of leavers' current employment or further study is collected by each institution and returned to HESA. The results are a significant driver in UK league tables and form part of the Unistats return.

##### **Time period of data renewal**

Data is collected in January and April, depending on when the leaver graduated, but all data is published in July.

##### **Questions that the data can help to explore or answer**

The DLHE survey gives institutions the opportunity to see what their graduates have gone on to do after their studies, which could inform programme development. Results can be used to identify if graduates have gone on to further study or employment. They can also identify if study mode, study level, age group, programme, and so on, have an impact on the positive destination (work, further study or both) of graduates. The positive destination of graduates can be compared to other institutions as well as a benchmark set by HESA.

##### **Important caveats, exclusions etc.**

The Graduate Outcomes Survey will soon replace the DLHE survey. The DLHE ran for the last time in January 2018, and the Graduate Outcomes Survey will commence in December 2018, with the first data published in spring 2020. The key changes are: all graduates will be included; there will be four survey points in the year rather than two; graduates will be surveyed 15 months after graduation instead of six months; and the survey will be administered centrally rather than by each institution. However, each institution is expected to collect graduate contact details.

##### **Publications/analyses which use the data**

DLHE releases are published on the HESA website and the data is used as a significant driver in UK league tables such as the Guardian and Complete University Guide. DLHE data are also used in the TEF.

##### **Where to find the data and any further published analysis**

Data can be found on the HESA website:

[www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/destinations-2016-17/introduction](http://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/publications/destinations-2016-17/introduction)