



Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience

The Scottish HE Data Landscape

An overview of: HESA UK Performance Indicators (PIs)

Type and scope of the data

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publish annual Performance Indicators (PIs), providing comparative data on the performance of higher education providers across the following areas:

- widening participation - proportion of entrants from underrepresented groups, such as state schools or colleges
- non-continuation rate - proportion of full-time/part-time students who do not continue beyond their first year and a projection of the proportion of full-time students who have gained a qualification, transferred to another HE provider, or been absent from HE for two consecutive years
- employment of leavers - number of graduates who are working, studying (or both) as a proportion of all graduates in further study, in employment or seeking employment.

Time period of data renewal

The widening participation indicator is released in early February, the non-continuation rates in early March, and the employment of leavers' indicator in early July.

Questions that the data can help to explore or answer

These indicators explore institutional and sector trends in relation to the recruitment, retention and destination of students following completion of their studies.

Headline statistics are published for each institution along with bespoke benchmark scores. Supplementary data for each indicator is presented in accompanying tables.

Important caveats, exclusions etc.

PIs are derived from universities' statutory reports to HESA, subject to validation and quality assurance procedures.

All data tables are based on students who are residents of the UK. Most of the indicators are shown separately for young (under 21) and mature students. In addition, most refer to students on undergraduate courses. The employment of leavers' PI is derived from the Destination of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey. Graduates from 2016/17 are the last cohort to be surveyed with the existing DLHE survey and will be replaced with the new Graduate Outcomes survey.

Publications/analyses which use the data

Various UK league tables, including the Complete University Guide and the Guardian University Guide, use non-continuation and employment of leavers data sourced from HESA. The relevant league table methodologies should be reviewed in conjunction with the data. Indicators may also

be picked up by other news outlets, such as the BBC and the Times Higher.

Where to find the data and any further published analysis

Data can be found on HESA's website: www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/performance-indicators