

Student numbers for the current year 2025/26 and student number forecasts for the period 2026/27 to 2029/30

Introduction

1. In general, the definitions contained in circular [Medr/2025/33](#), *Higher Education Students Early Statistics Survey 2025/26* (HESES25) should be used in compiling the student forecast information required by this circular in Annex E Tables SPF1 to SPF3.
2. All numbers returned in Tables SPF1, SPF2 and SPF3 of this survey should represent counts of completed registrations and not full-time equivalents (FTEs). Sandwich year out registrations should be counted as 1.
3. Both current year and forecasts of student registrations should correspond to assumed registrations that complete the year of study, that is, after account has been taken of non-completions. Full-time Medr fundable numbers can be returned as partial completions (as defined in HESES25 Annex H, paragraph 15). The adjustment applies only to full-time taught courses; no adjustment should be made for research or part-time enrolments.
4. Student number forecasts to be recorded in SPF3 are those that sit outside of the HESES population, however the HESES25 definitions should still be used to define mode of study for the purpose of this table. The HESA Aggregate Offshore Record guidance for 2025/26 should be used when compiling forecast data to be returned in SPF3 for students outside of the HESES25 population who are studying in the EU or overseas (non-EU). If HEIs have other students that are outside the HESES25 population, these should be returned in the 'Other Students' category. An overseas student who is franchised to an institution in the UK but outside of Wales (HESES25 Annex C, paragraph 23), should be returned in SPF1 as overseas, and not included in SPF3 as they should be counted in the HESES population.
5. If students are not returned on any of the HESA records they should not be returned in SPF 1-3. Further information can be found in HESES25 Annex H and Annex K.
6. Assumptions should be consistent with those presented in **Annex A** of this circular, and any other relevant assumptions used in the preparation of the financial forecasts.

Contents of the return

7. Each institution will be sent an email with an excel workbook attached containing six worksheets for completion, and the fee income forecast tables to be returned for Annex C1a, C1d and C2. Annex C1 and C2 tables are included in the same workbook to enable credibility checks comparing student numbers with fee income to be calculated.

8. Further information on worksheets C1 and C2 tables can be found in the section. **Part 2 - Student numbers for the current year 2025/26 and forecasts for 2026/27 to 2029/30** (paragraphs 21 onwards of the main circular body). A coordinated response to include both Annexes C1 and C2 and Annex E is requested to enable the credibility checks to be carried out. Each file includes a four-character prefix identifying the institution.

9. The file ****_AnnexCandE.xlsx contains the following worksheets:

Annex C1a Analysis of fee income of home students. Included here is fee income attributable to the full-time and sandwich undergraduate and PGCE (QTS) registrations (excluding NHS/HEIW) returned in SPF2. In addition, fee income attributable to part-time undergraduate and full and part-time postgraduate (combined taught and research) registrations (excluding NHS/HEIW) returned on table SPF2 is requested. A credibility check has been introduced to the right hand side of the table to show an average fee per registration to aid checking and form the basis of any assumptions we make on your data. Income associated with students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man should be included.

Annex C1d Analysis of fee income of overseas students. Included here is fee income attributable to the full-time and sandwich undergraduate and PGCE registrations (excluding NHS/HEIW) returned in SPF2. In addition, fee income attributable to part-time undergraduate and full and part-time postgraduate (combined taught and research) registrations (excluding NHS/HEIW) returned on table SPF2 is requested. A credibility check has been introduced to the right hand side of the table to show an average fee per registration to aid checking and form the basis of any assumptions we make on your data. Income associated with students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man should be excluded.

Annex C2 Analysis of fee income of students studying outside the UK. Included here is fee income attributable to the relevant full-time and sandwich and part-time registrations returned in SPF3. The income associated with students studying outside the UK is split into EU and overseas (non-EU). Note that this refers to the location of study and not fundability status i.e. this remains unchanged from the forecast returns last year. A credibility check has been introduced to the right hand side of the table to show an average fee per registration to aid checking and form the basis of any assumptions we make on your data.

SPF1 Current year registrations for 2025/26 and forecast completed student registrations for the period 2026/27 - 2029/30, for all modes of study, levels of study and funding categories. Forecasts of franchised out students should be counted at the franchisor institution. Guidance about franchised out provision can be found in HESES25, Annex C. The information should be returned using the same definitions as those used to complete Table 1 of HESES25.

SPF2 Current year home (fundable and non-fundable) and overseas completed registrations for 2025/26, along with forecast home (fundable and non-fundable) and overseas completed student registrations for the period 2026/27 - 2029/30 for full-time and sandwich undergraduate and PGCE

(QTS) registrations, part-time undergraduate registrations, and full-time and part-time postgraduate registrations. Registrations should be split by residential status (home; overseas). Registrations should be split between whether they are a new entrant or continuing student at the institution. Figures should be consistent with corresponding financial data returned in Annexes C1a and C1d. Credibility checks have been included in Annexes C1a and C1d that calculate the average fee per registration based on figures returned on SPF2 so should be checked and commented on where necessary, they may be queried further where meaningful comparisons cannot be made.

SPF3 Current year registrations for 2025/26 and forecast completed student registrations for the period 2026/27 - 2029/30 for students studying outside the UK who sit outside of the HESES25 population split by EU and overseas (non-EU) and an 'Other Students' category. This is grouped by location of study and not by fundability status. HESES25 definitions should be used in compiling the data by mode of study. Where data are returned in the 'Other Students' category, commentary should be included in the text box provided in SPF3 to provide us with further information on these students.

Summary Summary of HESES 2025/26 data for comparison/information.

Further notes on completion of the tables

10. Students studying wholly outside the UK who are either registered with the reporting institution or who are studying for an award of the reporting institution should not be included in SPF1-2. Similarly, students taught as part of collaborative arrangements with institutions or organisations in or outside of Wales, not owned by the Welsh HEI, that are not franchising arrangements, and are not included in the HESES25 population or returned on the HESA student record should not be included in SPF1-2. For institutions that have such arrangements, current year 2025/26 and forecasts for these students covering the period 2026/27 to 2029/30 should be returned in SPF3 with accompanying commentary where necessary.
11. Overseas students who are franchised to an institution in the UK but outside of Wales, should be returned in SPF1 as overseas, and not included in SPF3 as they should be counted in the HESES population.
12. Medr funds PGR selectively. Only home students in Units of Assessment (UoAs) included in the calculation of QR funding for 2025/26 should be included in the counts of fundable postgraduate research registrations returned against the postgraduate mode of study in 2025/26. The UoAs included in the QR funding model for 2025/26 are identified in Medr publication [Medr/2025/06 Medr's Funding Allocations for academic year 2025/26](#). The UoAs included in 2026/27 QR funding are the same as those included in 2025/26, so 2025/26 funding outcomes can be used for the purpose of forecasting.
13. Note that the tables contain formulae to sum row and column totals. Formulae in these rows should not be adjusted, however if you find any errors, please contact assurance@medr.cymru for a new set of tables to be issued.

Validation and credibility checks of the data

14. Validation checks have been built into Tables SPF1-3, to the right of the tables. Institutions should ensure these validation checks have been passed before returning the data to us.
15. Annexes C1a, C1d and C2 tables are also included in the workbook and include credibility checks to the right of the tables that compare student numbers with fee income to ensure that no errors are made in the fee income and student forecast tables. Information on completion of Annex C can be found in the section **Part 2 - Student numbers for the current year and forecasts for 2026/27 to 2029/30** (paragraphs 21 onwards of the main circular body). Institutions should highlight any reasons which may produce unexpected results in these checks.