

# **2025-26 Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data checking tool**

**2025-26 Graduate Outcomes (GO) target  
list technical document**

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# Summary

1. This document describes the Graduate Outcomes (GO) target list output files generated by the 2025-26 Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data checking tool. Throughout this document, fields taken from the ILR or derived as part of the target list are shown in capitals.
2. The GO target list output can be used by higher education providers to verify and correct their 2025-26 individualised student data. Providers should use the target list output as an indication of which students will be surveyed as part of the 2025-26 GO survey. We encourage providers to check the GO target list outputs provided. The final ILR R14 data, submitted to the Department for Education (formerly the Education and Skills Funding Agency, ESFA), will be used to generate the final target list of students eligible to participate in the survey. The final target list will be produced by the Office for Students (OfS) and passed to our designated data body (Jisc) which will manage and deliver the survey. This will be the final GO target list for providers, and only students on the final target list will be surveyed. Providers will need to approve the final contact details via Jisc's portal.
3. The GO target list output is formed of two files. These are:
  - a. Workbook 'GO25\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX.xlsx' (where XXXXXXXXX is the UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) for the provider).
  - b. Individualised file 'GO25\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX\_IND.csv'.

Details of how to use individualised files are given on the OfS website ([Working with individualised files - Office for Students](#)).

4. These files can be accessed from the '2025-26 Data checking tool' area of the OfS portal. Access details will be sent to the appropriate contacts at providers when the data checking tool is available.
5. This document is aimed at readers with in-depth knowledge of the data. Readers are advised to have a copy of 'Specification of the Individualised Learner Record for 2025-26' to hand when using this document. This is available from the DfE ([Individualised Learner Record \(ILR\) technical documents, guidance and requirements](#)).
6. We will document any changes or corrections to the algorithms in this document on our website ([2025-26 ILR data checking tool - Office for Students](#)).

## Changes from the 2024-25 GO target list output of the 2024-25 ILR data checking tool

7. There have been no changes to the algorithms compared to 2024-25.

## GO target list workbook

8. The Excel workbook 'GO25\_DCT\_XXXXXXXXX.xlsx', where XXXXXXXXX is the UKPRN for the provider, contains the following worksheets:

**Table 1: Worksheets in the GO target list workbook**

| Worksheet  | Description                                                             |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Coversheet | Summary of students in target list for current and previous year        |
| GODec      | List of students in the target list for the December 2025 census point  |
| GOMar      | List of students in the target list for the March 2026 census point     |
| GOJun      | List of students in the target list for the June 2026 census point      |
| GOSep      | List of students in the target list for the September 2026 census point |
| GOExcl     | Summary of students excluded from the target list                       |

9. The workbook compares headcounts with those for the previous year's target list. The previous year's target list was last updated on 29 July 2025.

## GO target list individualised file

10. When working through this document you will need to use the individualised file 'GO25\_DCT\_XXXXXXXXX\_IND.csv', where XXXXXXXXX is the UKPRN for the provider. The individualised file contains the values of all fields used to generate the GO target list.
11. Fields taken from the ILR return or derived as part of the target list are shown in capitals using the names given in Tables 2 and 3 respectively.
12. Please note the ILR data is restricted to learning aims described as recognised higher education for OfS funding purposes before generating the target list. This is defined in Annex B of Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey 2025-26 (HESES25) publication ([Higher Education Students Early Statistics survey 2025-26 - Office for Students](#)).
13. The individualised file contains one record per learner and learning aim (each unique combination of UKPRN, LEARNREFNUMBER and AIMSEQNUMBER) in the 2025-26 academic year.

# ILR fields used to create the target list

14. The ILR fields used to create the target list are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: List of ILR fields used to create the target list**

| Name                              | Description                                                | Data source |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| AIMSEQNUMBER <sup>†</sup>         | Learning aim sequence number                               | ILR         |
| AWARD_BO                          | Awarding body code                                         | LARS        |
| CONTPREFCODE                      | Contact preference code                                    | ILR         |
| CONTPREFTYPE                      | Contact preference type                                    | ILR         |
| LEARNACTENDDATE                   | Learning actual end date                                   | ILR         |
| LEARNAIMREF <sup>†</sup>          | Learning aim reference                                     | ILR         |
| LEARNREFNUMBER                    | Learner reference number                                   | ILR         |
| LEARNSTARTDATE                    | Learning start date                                        | ILR         |
| OUTCOME                           | Learning outcome                                           | ILR         |
| PROVSPECDELMON <sup>†</sup>       | Provider-specified learning aim data                       | ILR         |
| PROVSPECDELMONOCUR <sup>†</sup>   | The occurrence of the provider-specified learning aim data | ILR         |
| PROVSPECLEARNMON <sup>†</sup>     | Provider-specified learner data                            | ILR         |
| PROVSPECLEARNMONOCUR <sup>†</sup> | The occurrence of the provider-specified learner data      | ILR         |
| QUAL_TIT                          | Learning aim title                                         | LARS        |
| STULOAD                           | Learner full-time equivalence (FTE)                        | ILR         |
| UKPRN                             | UK provider reference number                               | ILR         |
| ULN <sup>†</sup>                  | Unique learner number                                      | ILR         |

\* The individualised file GO24\_DCT\_XXXXXXX\_IND.csv, downloadable from the OfS portal ([Submitting data through the OfS portal - Office for Students](#)).

<sup>†</sup> These fields are not used to generate the target list but are included in the individualised file to allow easy identification of students.

## Description of derived fields

15. The derived fields used to create the target list are listed in Table 3.

**Table 3: List of derived fields used to create the target list**

| Name                                                                         | Description                                                                      | Paragraph <sup>†</sup> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| census                                                                       | December, March, June or September survey indicator                              | 17                     |
| CONTPREF_RUI1<br>CONTPREF_RUI2                                               | “Restricted use indicator” contact preference codes                              | 18                     |
| detailed_level <sup>†</sup>                                                  | Allocates aims to broad categories of higher education                           | 19                     |
| go_detailed_level                                                            | Broad categories of higher education for use in the Graduate Outcomes algorithms | 20                     |
| go_exclusion_reason_1 –<br>go_exclusion_reason_64                            | Reason(s) for a learner’s exclusion                                              | 21-27                  |
| go_exclusion                                                                 | Reason(s) for exclusion from the 2024-25 GO target list                          | 28                     |
| PROVSPECLEARNMON_A<br>PROVSPECLEARNMON_B                                     | Provider-specified learner data                                                  | 30                     |
| PROVSPECDELMON_A<br>PROVSPECDELMON_B<br>PROVSPECDELMON_C<br>PROVSPECDELMON_D | Provider-specified learning aim data                                             | 31                     |

\* The individualised file GO25\_DCT\_XXXXXXX\_IND.csv, downloadable from the OfS portal ([Submitting data through the OfS portal - Office for Students](#)).

<sup>†</sup> For a full definition of this field please refer to ‘2024-25 ILR data checking tool: Classifying learning aims technical document’ ([Data checking tool documentation archive - Office for Students](#)). The field has been derived as described in the document published for the 2024-25 data checking tool. Information on any changes to the definition of the field will be published by 1 October 2026.

## Students with multiple records

16. Students with more than one record eligible for inclusion in the Graduate Outcomes survey will be invited to participate in the survey during each contact period in which they are eligible. Students with more than one record who have LEARNACTENDDATES corresponding with different contact periods will be eligible to complete the survey during each of those contact periods. Students with more than one record who have LEARNACTENDDATES corresponding with the same contact period will be invited to complete the survey only once during that contact period. In this case we choose the most appropriate record to include, using the selection method described in paragraph 26.

## census

17. This field indicates which period the student would be contacted in according to their learning actual end date.

| Value | Description                                             | Definition                                                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| DEC   | Contacted between 1 December 2025 and 28 February 2026  | LEARNACTENDDATE ≥ 1 August 2024 and<br>LEARNACTENDDATE ≤ 31 October 2024   |
| MAR   | Contacted between 1 March 2026 and 31 May 2026          | LEARNACTENDDATE ≥ 1 November 2024 and<br>LEARNACTENDDATE ≤ 31 January 2025 |
| JUN   | Contacted between 1 June 2026 and 31 August 2026        | LEARNACTENDDATE ≥ 1 February 2025 and<br>LEARNACTENDDATE ≤ 30 April 2025   |
| SEP   | Contacted between 1 September 2026 and 30 November 2026 | LEARNACTENDDATE ≥ 1 May 2025 and<br>LEARNACTENDDATE ≤ 31 July 2025         |
| Blank | Otherwise                                               | Otherwise                                                                  |

## CONT\_PREF\_RUI1, CONT\_PREF\_RUI2

18. These fields contain the values of CONT\_PREF\_CODE where CONT\_PREF\_TYPE = RUI. If two values were returned for an individual, CONT\_PREF\_RUI2 contains the second.

## go\_detailed\_level

19. This field allocates aims to broad categories of higher education. For a full definition of this field please refer to '2025-26 ILR data checking tool: Classifying learning aims technical document'. Information on any changes to the definition of the field will be published by 1 October 2026.

## go\_detailed\_level

20. This field further allocates aims into broad categories of higher education for use in the Graduate Outcomes algorithms.

| Value   | Description                                                                        | Definition                                                     |
|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| SQACERT | Learner is studying for an SQA Advanced Certificate, which is equivalent to an HNC | AWARD_BO = SQA and<br>QUAL_TIT contains 'Advanced Certificate' |
| SQADIP  | Learner is studying for an SQA Advanced Diploma,                                   | AWARD_BO = SQA and<br>QUAL_TIT contains 'Advanced Diploma'     |

| Value            | Description                   | Definition                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                  | which is equivalent to an HND |                                                                                                                                                                     |
| = detailed_level | Same category as OFSQAIM      | detailed_level = CERTED, CET, CTLLS, DET, DIPHE, DTLLS, ENHANCED, FDBC, FIRST, FOUDEG, HIGHCERT, HIGHER, HNC, HND, MASTER, PGCE, PGDIP, PHD, PTLLS<br>and not above |
| OTHER            | Otherwise                     | Otherwise                                                                                                                                                           |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_1

21. This field indicates that the student is excluded because they were studying for a foundation degree bridging course, further education qualification aim or higher education qualification aim not within the coverage of Graduate Outcomes.

| Value | Description                                                                                                                                               | Definition                      |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1     | Foundation degree bridging course, further education qualification aim or higher education qualification aim not within the coverage of Graduate Outcomes | go_detailed_level = OTHER, FDBC |
| 0     | Otherwise                                                                                                                                                 | Otherwise                       |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_2

22. This field indicates that the student is excluded because the learning outcome was not fully achieved.

| Value | Description                         | Definition     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1     | Learning outcome not fully achieved | OUTCOME ≠ 1, 8 |
| 0     | Otherwise                           | Otherwise      |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_\$

23. This field indicates whether the learning actual end date is present and in one of the survey cohorts.

| Value | Description                          | Definition                                                                                                   |
|-------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Actual end date not in survey cohort | LEARNACTENDDATE $\leq$ 31 July 2024 or<br>LEARNACTENDDATE $\geq$ 1 August 2025 or<br>LEARNACTENDDATE = BLANK |
| 0     | Otherwise                            | Otherwise                                                                                                    |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_8

24. This field indicates that the student is excluded because they were inactive during the academic year.

| Value | Description      | Definition         |
|-------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1     | Student inactive | STULOAD = 0, BLANK |
| 0     | Otherwise        | Otherwise          |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_16

25. This field indicates that the student is excluded as they are not to be contacted because they have died or are seriously ill.

| Value | Description                                                           | Definition                                            |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Learner is not to be contacted – learner has died or is seriously ill | CONTPREF_RUI1 = 3, 4, 5 or<br>CONTPREF_RUI2 = 3, 4, 5 |
| 0     | Otherwise                                                             | Otherwise                                             |

### go\_exclusion\_reason\_32

26. Student has another record eligible for the same contact period. Where there is more than one record in the same CENSUS for a given LEARNREFNUMBER, and all records have go\_exclusion\_reason\_1 = 0, go\_exclusion\_reason\_2 = 0, go\_exclusion\_reason\_4 = 0, go\_exclusion\_reason\_8 = 0 and go\_exclusion\_reason\_16 = 0, then only one of them is included in the GO target population. This selected record will have go\_exclusion\_reason\_32 = 0 and all others go\_exclusion\_reason\_32 = 1. We select records by highest qualification level, lowest value of OUTCOME, earliest LEARNSTARTDATE, highest value of FTE and lowest value of LEARNAIMREF.

## go\_exclusion\_reason\_64

27. Student was surveyed for the same course in the previous year. If an instance of study with the same UKPRN, LEARNREFNUMBER and LEARNAIMREF is found in the previous year's target list then go\_exclusion\_reason\_64 = 1, otherwise go\_exclusion\_reason\_64 = 0.

## go\_exclusion

28. This field indicates whether the student is included in the 2025-26 GO population. For students excluded from the population, go\_exclusion contains the sum of all applicable values from the table below. Students included in the target list have go\_exclusion = 0.

| Value | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Definition                 |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1     | Student is excluded because they were studying for a foundation degree bridging course, further education qualification aim or higher education qualification aim not within the coverage of Graduate Outcomes | go_exclusion_reason_1 = 1  |
| 2     | Student is excluded because the learning outcome was not fully achieved                                                                                                                                        | go_exclusion_reason_2 = 1  |
| 4     | Student is excluded because their learning actual end date is blank or not in any of the survey cohorts                                                                                                        | go_exclusion_reason_4 = 1  |
| 8     | Student is excluded because they were inactive                                                                                                                                                                 | go_exclusion_reason_8 = 1  |
| 16    | Student is excluded as they are not to be contacted because they have died or are seriously ill                                                                                                                | go_exclusion_reason_16 = 1 |
| 32    | Student is excluded because they have another record eligible for the same contact period                                                                                                                      | go_exclusion_reason_32 = 1 |
| 64    | Student is excluded because they were surveyed last year for the same course                                                                                                                                   | go_exclusion_reason_64 = 1 |

29. go\_exclusion is calculated as  $(1 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_1}) + (2 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_2}) + (4 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_4}) + (8 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_8}) + (16 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_16}) + (32 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_32}) + (64 \times \text{go\_exclusion\_reason\_64})$ . The reason(s) which contribute to the exclusion of a student from the GO population can therefore be calculated. For example, if go\_exclusion = 10, by subtracting figures from the above table and starting at the bottom, we see that the student was inactive (go\_exclusion\_reason\_8 = 1) and the student's learning outcome was not fully achieved (go\_exclusion\_reason\_2 = 1).

## PROVSPECLEARNMON\_A, PROVSPECLEARNMON\_B

30. These fields contain the value of PROVSPECLEARNMON where PROVSPECLEARNMONOCCUR = A or B respectively.

**PROVSPECDELMON\_A, PROVSPECDELMON\_B,  
PROVSPECDELMON\_C, PROVSPECDELMON\_D**

31. These fields contain the value of PROVSPECDELMON where PROVSPECDELMONOCUR = A, B, C or D respectively.



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