

Appendix 3: Credibility checks on HESES21 data

1. The Higher Education Students Early Statistics 2021-22 survey (HESES21) workbook includes a series of credibility checks on input tables. These are intended to help providers check data prior to submission by identifying values that are unusual or unexpected. As well as querying any values identified by these checks, we may also query other inconsistencies.
2. The results from the credibility checks are summarised on the 'Information' worksheet. Where a submitted workbook has 'First-stage credibility: Warnings' displayed above an input table, providers must explain why the associated data is credible. Such explanations are part of the submission process and should be emailed to dataverification@officeforstudents.org.uk by noon on the date of the submission deadline to inform the subsequent data verification process.
3. The submission deadlines are as follows:
 - for further education and sixth form colleges and academies: **11 November 2021**
 - for all other providers: **9 December 2021**.
4. Once the submission deadline has passed, the results from the credibility checks and any explanations given by the provider will be used by Office for Students (OfS) staff to assess whether the data is reasonable. Providers may be asked to provide additional information, or to correct data, in response to this assessment during the data verification period. Part 1 of the HESES21 guidance (available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/heses21/) provides more information on the data verification process.
5. The HESES21 workbook also includes a series of validation checks which help to ensure that incorrect data is not submitted. The validation checks are described in Appendix 2.
6. This appendix describes in detail the credibility checks that are carried out on data entered in the HESES21 workbook. If potentially erroneous data is detected in an input table, an orange message reading 'First-stage credibility: Warnings' will appear above the column containing it. Below or to the right of the table, the warning will be described in more detail. If the cause of a first-stage credibility warning cannot be identified, providers should email us for guidance at heses@officeforstudents.org.uk.
7. The tables below describe how we check the credibility of the data you enter in each of the tables in the HESES21 workbook.

Courses table

Data checked	Criterion
Price group proportion	Equals 0 per cent where there is more than one price group.
Level	Does not match the level of the course on the Learning Aims Reference Service.

Table 1: Full-time

Data checked	Criterion
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 \geq 50 and Column 3 = 0
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 = - Column 3
The following checks are only for further education and sixth form colleges and academies	
Individual values where price group is A	Value > 0
Individual values where level is PGR	Value > 0

Table 2: Sandwich year out

Data checked	Criterion
No first-stage credibility checks	N/A

Table 3: Part-time

Data checked	Criterion
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 \geq 50 and Column 3 = 0
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 = - Column 3
Totals in Column 4a (all residential and fundability statuses, all lengths), where level is UG or PGT (UG fee)	Total Column 4 \geq 10 and (Total Column 4a \div Total Column 4) \geq 67 per cent
Totals in Column 4a (all residential and fundability statuses, all lengths), where level is PGT (Masters' loan), PGT (Other) or PGR	Total Column 4 \geq 10 and (Total Column 4a \div Total Column 4) \geq 80 per cent
The following checks are only for further education and sixth form colleges and academies	
Individual values where price group is A	Value > 0
Individual values where level is PGR	Value > 0

Table 4: Year abroad

Data checked	Criterion
No first-stage credibility checks	N/A

Table 5: Planning

Data checked	Criterion
Total for Section B	Total Section B = 0 and Total Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) > 0
Total for Section B	Total Section B = Total Section A (Column 1 + Column 2)
Sum of 'Home fee; full-time and sandwich year out; UG' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \geq 70$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; full-time and sandwich year out; UG' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \leq 25$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; full-time and sandwich year out; PGT (all levels)' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \leq 50$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; part-time; UG' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \geq 70$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; part-time; UG' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \leq 15$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; part-time; PGT (all levels)' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \geq 70$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Home fee; part-time; PGT (all levels)' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \leq 25$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Overseas; all modes; UG and PGT (all levels)' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \geq 70$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100
Sum of 'Overseas; all modes; UG and PGT (all levels)' new entrants in Section B	$(\text{Section B} \div \text{Section A}) \leq 25$ per cent and Section A (Column 1 + Column 2) ≥ 100

Tables 6a, 6b and 6c: Health

Data checked	Criterion
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 > 50 and Column 3 = 0
Individual values in Column 3	Column 1 + Column 2 = - Column 3
Individual values in Columns 1 and 2 where profession is 'Nursing – unclassified'	Value > 0
For tables 6a and 6c: Individual values in Columns 1 and 2 where length is long	Value > 0
For table 6b: Values in Columns 1 or 2	Value > 0
For table 6c: Totals in Column 4a (all professions, fundability statuses, lengths and levels),	(Total Column 4a ÷ Total Column 4) ≤ 25 per cent