

## Course level data for providers with specific course designation – explanation of data

On 1 April 2018 the Office for Students (OfS) commenced operation as the regulator for higher education in England. A new [Regulatory framework](#) (OfS 2018.01) has been published which will come into force from 1 August 2019.

From 1 April 2018 until 31 July 2019, when the new regulatory framework comes into full effect, transitional regulatory arrangements are in place. During this time, the OfS will operate through a combination of powers and duties from previous legislation and the new Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA) powers and duties. Further guidance for providers on how they will be regulated during the transition period can be found in Regulatory Notices 2 (OfS 2018.12) and 3 (OfS 2018.13).

Data about providers regulated during the transition period, can be found in four downloadable data files (in CSV or XML format):

- Provider level data
- **Course level data for providers with specific course designation**
- Designated locations data for providers with specific course designation
- Sub-contractual arrangements for providers that are currently funded up to 31 July 2019 by the OfS.

This document explains the meaning of the data within the **course level data files**, where there are links between the data and where further information can be found. References to 'columns' throughout refer to the data in CSV format.

The meaning of the data within the other files is explained in separate explanation documents.

For queries in relation to this regulatory data please contact [regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk)

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## Course level data for providers with specific course designation

Up until 31 July 2019 providers with specific course designation will continue to be designated and regulated by the Department for Education (DfE) under the Secretary of State's powers. DfE has published [guidance on the criteria and conditions for specific course designation](#). [Regulatory Notice 3 \(OfS 2018.13\)](#) sets how the DfE and the OfS will work together during the transition period.

[Specific course designation](#) enables higher education providers that are not currently in receipt of government higher education funding to apply for access to [undergraduate student support](#), [disabled students' allowances \(DSA\)](#) and [postgraduate masters' loans](#).

The course level data lists all courses delivered by higher education providers that have been specifically designated to enable eligible students on these courses to access student support, together with key information about the designation.

Each location where students receiving support are to be taught must also be designated. This course level data should therefore be considered together with the 'designated locations' data.

This data does not include:

- Courses delivered by providers currently funded by the OfS up to 31 July 2019. Where a provider is currently funded by the OfS, its higher education courses are all automatically designated for student support so do not need to be specifically designated
- Courses delivered under sub-contractual arrangements on behalf of a provider that is currently funded up to 31 July 2019 by the OfS
- Initial teacher training courses
- Courses delivered by providers with institutional level specific course designation (ILSCD). Where a provider has ILSCD, specific locations are designated and eligible students studying at that location, on any course that meets the requirements in student support regulations, can apply for student support. Please download the provider level data or the designated locations data to see further information about these providers.

	Data	Explanation
A	UKPRN	This is the unique identifier allocated to a provider by the <a href="#">UK Register of Learning Providers</a> (UKRLP).
B	Legal name	The legal name of the provider.  Legal names are sourced from the <a href="#">UK Register of Learning Providers</a> (UKRLP), and are verified by the UKRLP from a recognised legal source, such as Royal Charter, Companies House etc.  Providers may also use one or more trading name(s) and these are detailed in the provider level data.
C	Is a teach out provider	Some providers deliver courses that have been specifically designated for student support under 'teach out' arrangements. This means that existing students who were studying on the course(s) between the dates specified in columns P and Q will continue to be able to claim student support until they complete their studies.

		<p>New eligible students who were not studying on the course(s) between the dates specified will not be able to apply for student support.</p> <p>The designation status is course specific. Providers can deliver courses that have different statuses so can, for example, deliver some courses with current designation and others with 'teach out' designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Yes' in this column confirms that <b>all</b> courses designated for student support at this provider are under 'teach out' arrangements.</li> <li>• '-' in this column confirms that the provider will have at least one course that is not under a 'teach out' designation arrangement.</li> </ul>
D	Designation status	<p>At course level, designation for specific courses can be one of the following statuses which will appear in this column:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Current' – new and existing eligible students, studying on the course between the designation dates indicated (columns P and Q), can access student support.</li> <li>• 'Teach out' – only existing students, studying on the course between the designation dates indicated (columns P and Q), can continue to access student support. No new students can access student support.</li> <li>• 'Suspended (new students)' – whilst the suspension is in place no new students can access student support. Students who are studying on the course between the designation dates indicated, and who are already in receipt of student support, may continue to access this until they leave or complete their course. Lifting the suspension is subject to the provider meeting the requirements set out by the Department for Education.</li> <li>• 'Suspended (all students)' – whilst the suspension is in place no new students can access student support, and no existing students (previously awarded student support) can receive any further payments. Lifting the suspension is subject to the provider meeting the requirements set out by the Department for Education.</li> </ul> <p>The designation status is course specific. Providers can deliver courses that have different statuses so can, for example, deliver some courses with current designation and others with 'teach out' designation.</p>
E	Course name	The name of the course that has been specifically designated for student support.
F	Course code	A unique course code applied to each the course by the provider, to enable accurate identification of the course by students, the Student Loans Company and other interested parties. The same course, which is delivered at a number of locations, will use the same course code, but will have different location codes (column N) to differentiate it.

G	Award	The resulting level of award available from the course.
H	Award abbreviation	The abbreviation of the level of award available from the course (column G)
I	Duration	The length of duration of the course, in years.
J	Mode	Whether the course is studied full time (FT) or part time (PT).
K	Is a distance learning course	<p>A distance learning course is a programme of study where students are not required to attend on campus sessions, although there may be occasional and short periods of attendance. Distance learning courses can be classed as full-time or part-time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Yes' in this column confirms that the designated course is a distance learning course.</li> <li>• '-' in this column confirms that the designated course is not a distance learning course.</li> </ul>
L	Awarding body	The name of the awarding body for the course.
M	Location name	<p>The name of the provider's location where the specific course is designated for student support.</p> <p>See the <b>designated locations data</b> for further details about this location.</p>
N	Location code	A unique location code applied to each location by the provider, to enable accurate identification of the location of teaching by students, the Student Loans Company and other interested parties.
O	Type of support	<p>The type of student support the course has been designated to enable eligible students to access. The course will be designated for either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undergraduate student support</li> <li>• Postgraduate masters' loans</li> <li>• Disabled students' allowances (DSA).</li> </ul> <p>DSA is available to eligible students on any undergraduate course designated for undergraduate student support and any postgraduate masters' course which is designated for postgraduate masters' loans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DSA is not listed separately in this column for courses designated for undergraduate student support.</li> <li>• DSA is listed separately in this column for courses designated for postgraduate masters' loans. The course may have been designated for DSA prior to designation for postgraduate masters' loans, so the dates of designation (columns P and Q) may be different.</li> <li>• Some postgraduate courses are designated for DSA only.</li> </ul>

P	Designation start date	The date that the course was first granted designation from. This applies to all courses designated after September 2013. We do not hold the date of initial designation for courses designated before 2013. Students who began study prior to September 2013 should contact the Student Loans Company directly to confirm whether they can access student support whilst studying on this course.
Q	Designation end date	<p>The last date by which eligible students must have been studying on the course in order to be able to access student support. New eligible students, who are not in receipt of student support prior to the designation end date, are not able to access student support.</p> <p>For courses with 'current' designation (column D) this date will be in the future.</p> <p>For courses with 'teach out' designation (column D) this date will be in the past.</p> <p>For courses where designation is 'suspended (new students)' (column D) the designation end date may be in the future, however whilst the suspension is in place no new students (not already studying on the course and in receipt of student support) can access student support.</p> <p>For courses where designation is 'suspended (all students)' (column D) the designation end date may be in the future; however, whilst the suspension is in place no new students can access student support, and no existing students (previously awarded student support) can receive any further payments.</p>
R	Country of higher education provider	<p>Where the provider is based: England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Where the provider is based within the devolved administrations (Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland), specific course designation enables English domiciled students studying on designated courses with that provider to access student support, in the same way as it does for providers based in England.</p>