

**Office for  
Students**



# **2023-24 Student data checking tool**

**Student Loans Company (SLC)  
comparison technical document and  
rebuild instructions**

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# Summary

1. This document describes the 2023-24 SLC comparison files generated by the 2023-24 Student data checking tool, and rebuild instructions. Throughout the document, fields taken or derived from the 2023-24 Student (23056) record are shown in capitals.
2. The purpose of this comparison is to ensure that the 2023-24 Student (23056) record is consistent with SLC records. For each provider, we check:
  - whether all students who received student support from the SLC during the 2023-24 academic year are included in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record
  - whether all students who are recorded as receiving SLC tuition fee loans in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record appear in the SLC data
  - whether all students recorded in the SLC data with a withdrawal date have a corresponding end date in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.
3. The 2023-24 SLC comparison can be used by higher education providers to verify and correct the 2023-24 Student (23056) record before signing off the final data with the designated data body (DDB).
4. This document is aimed at readers with in-depth knowledge of the data. Readers are advised to refer to the 'Student record coding manual' when using this document.<sup>1</sup>
5. We will document on the 'Data checking tool' pages of the Office for Students (OfS) website under 'Updates' any changes or corrections to the algorithms in this document.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See [Student record coding manual](#).

<sup>2</sup> See [The OfS website - Data checking tool](#).

## Changes from the previous publication

6. This section describes any changes to the outputs since the equivalent was published for 2022-23. The previous publication titled 'Student data checking tool SLC comparison' is available from the 'Data checking tool documentation archive' section of the OfS website.<sup>3</sup>
7. The changes to the outputs are shown below. Any deletions are shown with a ~~strikethrough~~. Any other changes are shown as **bold and underlined**.
  - a. Students who have their attendance confirmed but do not have tuition and maintenance fees recorded in the SLC dataset have been identified. This results in an addition of a value for SLCCOMSLCFUND shown below.

**Table 1: Changes to SLCCOMSLCFUND**

Value	Description
1	Both tuition fee and maintenance funding were released on behalf of the student in the <del>2022-23</del> <b><u>2023-24</u></b> academic year.
2	Only tuition fee funding was released on behalf of the student in the <del>2022-23</del> <b><u>2023-24</u></b> academic year.
3	Only maintenance funding was released on behalf of the student in the <del>2022-23</del> <b><u>2023-24</u></b> academic year.
4	<b>No tuition fee and maintenance funding were released on behalf of the student in the 2023-24 academic year, but attendance has been confirmed.</b>
0	Otherwise.

### Changes to fields in the individualised files

8. SSN has been renamed as DDB\_SSN.
9. Z\_ACT\_CYC has been added.

<sup>3</sup> See [The OfS website - Data checking tool documentation archive](#).

# 2023-24 SLC comparison data files

10. The SLC comparison outputs are formed of two files. These are:

- a. SLC comparison workbook 'SLC23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX.xlsx'
- b. SLC comparison individualised file 'SLC23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX\_IND.csv'

where XXXXXXXX is your provider's eight-digit UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN).

Details of how to use the individualised files are given on our website.<sup>4</sup>

11. These files can be accessed via the Information Reporting Interface Service (IRIS) report which is available on the Designated Data Body's (DDB) data collection site.<sup>5</sup> Access details will be sent to the appropriate contacts at higher education providers when the data checking tool is available.

## Individualised file

12. When working through this document, it is necessary to use the individualised file, SLC23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX\_IND.csv, where XXXXXXXX is the UKPRN. The individualised file contains the values of all fields used to generate the figures in the SLC comparison workbook, SLC23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXX.xlsx.

13. The individualised file contains one record per engagement (each unique combination of UKPRN, SID and NUMHUS) in the latest academic year. Additionally, the individualised file will contain one record per student as recorded in the SLC data, where that record has not been matched to an instance in the latest academic year.

## Linking

14. The 2023-24 Student and SLC records are linked using UKPRN and SSN at the student engagement level (one record per engagement).

## Data from student course sessions

15. The number of student course sessions that can be returned for a given engagement is unlimited. This means the number of times INVOICEHESAID and SCSSTARTDATE can be returned for a given engagement is unbounded. However, due to file size considerations, we restrict the number of separate INVOICEHESAID and SCSSTARTDATE displayed in the individualised file to three.

16. In the unusual case where an engagement has more than three student course sessions returned, all values of INVOICEHESAID and SCSSTARTDATE will be considered in our algorithms, although only three will be displayed in the individualised file (displayed as INVOICEHESAID1, INVOICEHESAID2, INVOICEHESAID3, SCSSTARTDATE1, SCSSTARTDATE2, SCSSTARTDATE3).

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<sup>4</sup> See [The OfS website - Working with individualised files.](#)

<sup>5</sup> See [HESA Identity System.](#)

17. In selecting data to show, we will first select data relating to student course sessions with the major source of tuition fees recorded as the SLC (INVOICEHESAID = 5026) and then those with the latest student course session start date (SCSSTARTDATE).

## Fields used to create the SLC comparison algorithms

18. Only certain fields, shown in Table 1, are used to generate the SLC comparison derived fields.

19. Throughout this document, fields taken or derived from the 2023-24 Student (23056) or SLC record are shown in capitals using the names given in Table 1 and Table 2 respectively.

**Table 2: Student (23056) fields used in the SLC comparison**

Entity	Name	Description
Engagement	UKPRN	UK Provider Reference number
Engagement	SID	Student identifier
Engagement	NUMHUS	Engagement number
Engagement	OWNSTU*	Provider's own internal identifier for the student
Course	COURSEID*	Course identifier
Course	COURSETITLE*	Course title
Engagement	ENGENDDATE	End date of engagement
Student	DDB_SSN	Student Support Number
Engagement derived field	Z_ACT_CYC	Indicates whether the student was active during the cycle
Student Course Session	INVOICEHESAID (1-3)	Source of the tuition fee recorded in StudentCourseSession
Student Course Session	SCSSTARTDATE (1-3)	Start date of the StudentCourseSession

\* These fields are not used in the comparison but are included in the individualised file to allow easy identification of students.

**Table 3: SLC fields used in the SLC comparison**

Name	Description
SLCSSN	Student Support Number
SLCTERMSTART_DATE	The first term start date within the 2023-24 academic year
SLCATTENDANCE_DATE	Earliest attendance confirmation date for a term relating to the 2023-24 academic year from the SLC data
SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE	The latest withdrawal date within the 2023-24 academic year from the SLC data
SLCYEARSTART_DATE	The term 1 start date from SLC data. Used to determine whether the student record relates to a year of study which began in the 2022-23 or 2021-22 academic year

# Description of derived fields

20. The derived fields used to generate the SLC comparison are listed in Table 3. SLC records that do not link will be included in the individualised file so that these can be reviewed.

**Table 4: List of derived fields used in the SLC comparison**

Name	Description	Paragraph
<u>SLCCOMDDBPOP</u>	Identifies students in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider.	21
<u>SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP</u>	Identifies students in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record whose main source of tuition fees is the SLC.	22
<u>SLCCOMSLCPOP</u>	Identifies students who have had their registration or attendance confirmed in the SLC data.	23
<u>SLCCOMSLCFUND</u>	Identifies the streams of funding released on behalf of the student by the SLC.	24
<u>SLCCOMENDCHECK</u>	Identifies students in the SLC data with a withdrawal date where no ENGENDDATE or a substantially later or earlier ENGENDDATE is recorded in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.	25

## SLCCOMDDBPOP

21. This field identifies students who are in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider.

**Table 5: SLCCOMDDBPOP - Value, Description and Definition**

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student is in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider with an active record.	A record was found in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider in the 2023-24 academic year and Z_ACT_CYC = 1
2	Student is in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider with a non-active record.	A record was found in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record for the provider in the 2023-24 academic year and Z_ACT_CYC ≠ 1
0	Student in not in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.	Otherwise



## SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP

22. This field identifies students in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record whose main source of tuition fees is the SLC, for each StudentCourseSession that starts after 31 July 2023.

**Table 6: SLCCOMDDBPOP - Value, description and definition**

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student engagements whose main source of tuition fees is the SLC.	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 1 and  ((INVOICEHESAID1 = 5026 and SCSSTARTDATE1 > 31 July 2023)  or (INVOICEHESAID2 = 5026 and SCSSTARTDATE2 > 31 July 2023)  or (INVOICEHESAID3 = 5026 and SCSSTARTDATE3 > 31 July 2023))
0	Student engagements whose main source of tuition fees is not the SLC.	Otherwise

## SLCCOMSLCPOP

23. This field identifies students in the SLC data who were paid some student support in the 2023-24 academic year, and either did not withdraw within 14 days of the first term start date in that year, or had their attendance confirmed during 2023-24.

**Table 7: SLCCOMSLCPOP - Value, description and definition**

Value	Description	Definition
1	Students who have had their registration or attendance confirmed in the SLC data.	SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and  (ENGENDDATE = BLANK or ENGENDDATE > 31 July 2023) and  (SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE > SLCTERMSTART_DATE + 14 or SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE = BLANK or SLCTERMSTART_DATE = BLANK or SLCATTENDANCE_DATE ≠ BLANK)
0	Students who have not had their registration or attendance confirmed in the SLC data.	Otherwise

## SLCCOMSLCFUND

24. This field identifies the streams of funding delivered to students from the SLC in the 2023-24 academic year.

**Table 8: SLCCOMSLCFUND - Value, description and definition**

Value	Description
1	Both tuition fee and maintenance funding were released on behalf of the student in the 2023-24 academic year.
2	Only tuition fee funding was released on behalf of the student in the 2023-24 academic year.
3	Only maintenance funding was released on behalf of the student in the 2023-24 academic year.
4	No tuition fee and maintenance funding were released on behalf of the student in the 2023-24 academic year, but attendance has been confirmed.
0	Otherwise.

## SLCCOMENDCHECK

25. This field identifies students in the SLC data with a withdrawal date where no ENGENDDATE or an ENGENDDATE which is more than 14 days different is recorded in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.

**Table 9: SLCCOMNEDCHECK - Value, description and definition**

Value	Description	Definition
1	Students who have a withdrawal date in the SLC data but no ENGENDDATE is recorded in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.	<p>A record was found in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record and</p> <p>SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and</p> <p>SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and</p> <p>SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE &lt; 01 August 2023 and</p> <p>ENGENDDATE = BLANK</p>
2	Students who have a substantially later ENGENDDATE than the withdrawal date in the SLC data.	<p>A record was found in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record and</p> <p>SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and</p> <p>SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and</p> <p>ENGENDDATE ≠ BLANK and</p> <p>ENGENDDATE &gt; SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE + 14</p>

Value	Description	Definition
3	Students who have a substantially earlier ENGENDDATE than the withdrawal date in the SLC data.	A record was found in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record and  SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and  SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and  ENGENDDATE ≠ BLANK and  ENGENDDATE < SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE – 14
0	Students who are not included in the Student (23056) record, or have no withdrawal date in the SLC data or have a withdrawal date in the SLC data which is within 14 days of the ENGENDDATE.	Otherwise

## Rebuild instructions

26. The individualised file, SLCCOM23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXXX\_IND.csv, can be used to interrogate the data and our calculation of derived fields by filtering to certain groups of records. Full details of how to access and use individualised files are given on the OfS website.<sup>6</sup>

27. Specific instructions to rebuild the 2023-24 SLC comparison summary figures in the workbook, SLCCOM23\_DCT\_XXXXXXXXX.xlsx, are provided in this section.

**Table 10: Fields used in rebuilding the SLC comparison summary figures**

Item in workbook	Derived field selection in individualised file
Students receiving student support and appearing in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record as active.	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCFUND in (1, 2, 3)
Students receiving student support and appearing in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record as not active.	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 2 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCFUND in (1, 2, 3)
Students receiving student support and not appearing in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 0 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCFUND in (1, 2, 3)
Students recorded in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record as receiving a tuition fee loan and not appearing in the SLC data.	SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 0
Students appearing in the SLC data with a withdrawal date but either no ENGENDDATE or a substantially different ENGENDDATE is recorded in the 2023-24 Student (23056) record.	SLCCOMENDCHECK in (1,2,3)

<sup>6</sup> See [The OfS website - Working with individualised files](#).



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