

**Office for
Students**



Key performance measure 14

Technical documentation

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Introduction

1. This document provides information on the methodology used to calculate key performance measure 14 (KPM14) as published on the Office for Students' (OfS) website¹. This document is aimed at users with an in-depth knowledge of the HESA Student, HESA Student Alternative and Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data returns. Readers are advised to have a copy of the 2019-20 HESA Student and 2019-20 HESA Student Alternative coding manuals as well as the 2019-20 ILR specification to hand.

Key performance measure 14

2. KPM14 captures the proportion of students who are able to continue their qualification or an equivalent at another provider, or complete their qualification at their provider, in the event of full closure of a registered provider. This KPM represents a key component of the OfS's strategic outcome defined as "Students' interests are protected when events have a material negative impact on their ability to continue to study on a course, at a campus, or with a provider."
3. Students who continue studying towards the same qualification level or higher following a closure, including those that need to repeat a year, contribute positively towards the metric. Students that do not continue their study or continue at a lower qualification level following a closure contribute negatively.
4. KPM14 is defined as the number of students who continue their studies following closure as a proportion of the total students 'affected' (see methodology) by the closure.
5. KPM14 is calculated three times a year, detailed in table 1, using a mixture of the retrospective HESA and ILR student data returns and in-year Student Loans Company (SLC) datasets.

Coverage

6. All students, taught by or registered at, higher education providers (HEPs) who are registered with the OfS, fall into the coverage of KPM14.
7. This population explicitly includes students who are taught by unregistered providers through a sub-contractual arrangement with a registered provider which closes.
8. In addition to the coverage definition above, the following exclusions apply:
 - Students studying wholly overseas
 - Students on a course which is taught primarily outside the UK
 - Students who left their course less than 14 days after commencement
 - Incoming exchange students
 - Students who are dormant at the point of closure and have been dormant for the last two years
 - Students who have completed their course before the point of closure.

¹ <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/about/measures-of-our-success/experience-performance-measures/>

9. In relation to students studying wholly overseas, our coverage excludes these students as the Aggregate Offshore Record is insufficient for us to be able to track students into further study, particularly where a student transfers to a provider that is overseas. Our expectation however is that these students will be protected by their provider in the event of a market exit.

Data sources

10. KPM14 uses two types of data, detailed in table 1, at different points in the year. A retrospective student return combining data from HESA Student, HESA Student Alternative and the ILR and an in-year extract of the Student Loans Company (SLC) database. By adopting the timetable detailed in Table 1, KPM14 produces indicative figures between retrospective student returns.
11. As the SLC extracts will only contain information for students registered with the SLC in order to access student support, values of KPM14 based on this data may not capture all continuing students. As such these values will be marked as indicative of the value based on the retrospective student returns.
12. The value of KPM14 calculated using the SLC extracts will not be a representative sample of the entire HE sector. They are provided as early indications only and will be presented with appropriate caveats.

Table 1 KPM14 release schedule and data sources²

KPM14 Release date	Data source	Type
January	Student loans company TERM 1 extract	Indicative
May	Student loans company TERM 2 extract	Indicative
December	HESA and ILR retrospective student data returns	Comprehensive

Presentation

13. KPM14 is presented as a sector level metric and will not be detailed at provider, course or student characteristic level.
14. Indicative values of KPM14 will be identified as such in any publication and it is advised that only comprehensive values of KPM14 are used in further reporting or analysis.

² Only applicable if there has been at least one provider closure within the academic year.

Methodology

15. This section discusses the methodology for the construction of KPM14.

Population of 'affected' students

16. In the event of a closure all students, registered with or taught by, the provider who have not completed their course by the date of closure are considered 'affected' students.
17. In addition to the above, students must also have been active at some point in the past two years and fall into the KPM14 coverage statement to be considered 'affected'.
18. Qualifications and awards are ranked by the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) level definitions.
19. Students whose instances are ended with an exit award, at a lesser FHEQ level than their original qualification aim, at the point of closure are not considered to have completed their studies and will, for the purposes of KPM14, be considered part of the 'affected' population.

Continuation measurement

17. A student is defined as 'continuing' if:
 1. There exists a record for that student, at any registered provider, in a data collection that covers a period after the point of closure.
 2. That instance is at the same, or at a higher, FHEQ level as compared with the most recent record for the student before the closure.
18. An 'affected' student is defined as continuing if they meet the above requirements within 14 months from the point of closure. If no record can be found for the student within 14 months, for the purposes of KPM14, the student is not considered to have continued.
19. KPM14 is calculated as the total number of all 'continuing' students as a percentage of the total number of all 'affected' students across the sector.

Students with multiple instances

20. Due to the complexity of providers' reporting practice, KPM14 is measured at the student level and not at the instance level.
21. In the event that an 'affected' student is studying multiple concurrent instances with the closing provider, the student will be defined as continuing if a single record is found in a subsequent data return at the same, or at a higher, FHEQ level as compared to the instance with the highest FHEQ level associated with the student before the point of closure.
22. In the event that an 'affected' student is studying multiple concurrent instances at different providers, where only one provider is undergoing a closure. The student will be defined as continuing if:
 1. A record is found in a subsequent data return at the same, or at a higher, FHEQ level as compared to the FHEQ level associated with the 'affected' instance.
 2. That record commenced after the date of initial student protection activity.



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www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/