

Office for  
Students



Department for the

**Economy**

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# Unistats 2022-23

Timetable and arrangements for the  
submission and publication of data

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## Summary

This publication describes arrangements for the 2022-23 Unistats data collection for providers registered with the Office for Students (OfS) and higher education providers in Northern Ireland. It sets out:

- which providers need to submit data
- arrangements for submission of subcontracted provision
- links to Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) guidance on what data is required and the data validation and submission process
- a provisional timetable.

Providers must submit their data to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) by **19 July 2022**.

Guidance for providers is available on the HESA website:

- Data requirements: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061>
- Data validation and submission process: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/support-guides>
- Sub-contractual and collaborative provision data returns: [https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/download/subcontractual\\_collaborative\\_provision.pdf](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/download/subcontractual_collaborative_provision.pdf)

**For queries about this publication, please contact [unistats@discoveruni.org.uk](mailto:unistats@discoveruni.org.uk)**

**For enquiries about submitting your Unistats return, please contact [liaison@hesa.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@hesa.ac.uk).**

# Introduction

This publication outlines arrangements for the 2022 Unistats data collection. (This collection is referred to by HESA as the 2022-23 (C22061) record.) It is for:

- registered higher education providers in England
- higher education providers in Northern Ireland.

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) and the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) will write separately to providers in Wales and Scotland respectively.

The Unistats record is collected to help prospective higher education students decide what and where to study. The record covers undergraduate courses that are open to entrants in the next academic year.

The Unistats record collects data about full and part-time undergraduate courses. This is then joined to other datasets, such as National Student Survey and Graduate Outcomes, to generate a range of course information. This is published by HESA as open data and included on the [Discover Uni](#) website, which is run by the OfS on behalf of the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland (DfENI), HEFCW and SFC.

The Unistats data is collected prospectively. The 2022-23 (C22061) record includes courses beginning in the 2023-24 academic year. Providers submit data to HESA through its data collection system.

# Arrangements for collection of data

## Providers required to return Unistats data

The following higher education providers are required to return Unistats data:

- England – providers registered with or expected to register with the OfS in 2022
- Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales – publicly funded providers.

Data should be returned for eligible courses delivered by the provider itself or by other providers on its behalf through a subcontractual agreement. 'Eligible courses' are defined in the coverage of the Unistats record on the HESA website: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/coverage>.

Where a provider does not have any eligible courses, they are required to submit a Nil return form to indicate that their provider has no courses which meet the eligibility criteria for the Unistats record, as specified in the coverage of the record.

Further education colleges that previously submitted data to the OfS are now required to submit data directly to HESA.

For assistance with the submission process, please contact [liaison@hesa.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@hesa.ac.uk). The HESA website has an e-learning module at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/services/e-learning/unistats-training>.

## Providers expecting to join the OfS Register

For providers that are expecting to join the OfS Register, the deadline to have submitted and signed off a valid Unistats return is midday two months after their date of registration (or the next working day if that is a weekend).

Providers that register with the OfS on or after 16 June 2022 are expected to submit only C22061 data. For more information, please contact [discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk](mailto:discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk) or [liaison@hesa.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@hesa.ac.uk).

## Arrangements for returns for subcontracted provision

As advised in [the Unistats 2021 letter](#), released in May 2021, the arrangements for submission of the Unistats record for subcontractual arrangements and courses involving collaborative provision for C22061 are now aligned across the UK. This means that for providers in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the Unistats return needs to be submitted by the registering provider.

Registering providers should include in their return any eligible courses delivered by another provider on their behalf through a subcontractual agreement.

Guidance to providers for the return of subcontractual and collaborative provision can be found at: [https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/download/subcontractual\\_collaborative\\_provision.pdf](https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/download/subcontractual_collaborative_provision.pdf).

## Process for provider submissions and sign-off of data

All providers, including further education colleges in England, should return their Unistats data to HESA. Detailed guidance on the data required is available on the HESA website at: <https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061>.

The timetable for submission of Unistats data for courses running in 2023-24 is shown in the table below. Providers should resubmit data to reflect changes to course details or website links throughout the year. We will incorporate these updates every Wednesday following the initial publication.

Data must pass a series of system validation checks before it can be submitted and signed off as accurate. The stages of the submission process are as follows:

- upload to HESA system
- system validation checks
- approval and sign-off by accountable officer or their nominated delegate.

Details and support guides can be found on the HESA website at:

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c22061/support-guides>. Unless all stages of the process, including sign-off, have been completed, we will not consider the data to have been received and will not publish it.

### Timetable of key dates

Please note: where indicated some dates may be subject to change. Further information, including specific deadline dates, will be announced once confirmed, and the schedule updated on the HESA and OfS websites.

Date	Activity	Notes
By 31 May 2022	Unistats (C22061) data collection system opens	
Anticipated by 31 July 2022	NSS and Graduate Outcomes data added	NSS and Graduate Outcomes data will be added to the data collection system and will be visible in the reports. We will confirm the intended publication date.
19 July 2022	Deadline for submission of valid dataset	Providers are required to have submitted a dataset which passes validation and contains the majority of their courses.
19 July 2022	Nil return confirmation	Providers are required to submit a Nil return form to indicate that their provider has no courses which meet the eligibility criteria for the Unistats record, as specified in the coverage of the record.

Date	Activity	Notes
16 August 2022	Sign-off	Providers are required to have signed off as accurate a dataset as possible which has passed system validation and is suitable for publication.
Anticipated by 30 September 2022	Official Statistics publication of 2022 Unistats dataset on the HESA website	The OfS will confirm the intended publication date for the 2022 dataset in July 2022.
Anticipated October 2022	Update of Discover Uni website with 2022 dataset	The OfS will confirm the intended publication date for the 2022 dataset in July 2022.
November 2022	Deadline for up-to-date widgets on providers' websites	The OfS will confirm the deadline for up-to-date widgets on providers' websites in July 2022.



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