

Unistats open data revisions and corrections statement

This statement describes how we will present information about revisions and corrections to the Unistats metrics after the initial publication of the data each year.

Our intention, in line with the Office for Students (OfS) [data strategy](#), is to ensure that changes to the data presented in the Unistats open data and on the Discover Uni website are clear and to help users understand how the published data may change throughout the year.

The data can be divided into two parts – underlying metrics calculated by the OfS and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), and provider-submitted data returns. These are combined together to create the published dataset.

Unistats 2019 open data publication and scheduled updates

Unistats 2019 open data was first published on 11 September 2019. Updates to underlying data will be carried out on a quarterly basis. Details of the updates will be published alongside detailed logs of changes to the published data from September 2019 onwards.

Weekly updates to provider-submitted data

Providers can make and approve changes to their submitted data on a rolling weekly basis. This frequency is to ensure that prospective students have access to the most up to date course information. Any new revisions are published to the Unistats open dataset each Wednesday throughout the year. Changes can include updating links between courses to better reflect current provision or adding/removing courses from the site.

For each provider we will publish a log giving the date of the last approved update to their submitted data every week. We will also provide a detailed weekly change log including the type of data, the courses affected, and the type of change to the data (e.g. removed, added or updated) and a summary log giving the number of courses updated per provider. We will publish information on this type of update from September 2019 onwards. This information will be included in the [Unistats open data](#) located on the HESA website.

Weekly updates to provider-submitted data can include:

- new providers added the dataset
- provider revisions to submitted data.

Quarterly updates to the underlying data

Quarterly updates to the underlying data are carried out to ensure the metrics reflect the latest changes in provision and use the most accurate data available. We will update the underlying data sources that are used to create the metrics for the Unistats open data and Discover Uni website on a quarterly basis. When this occurs we will describe the nature of the changes to the underlying data and give an indication of the type of data, the date of the change, the names of affected providers. Full details of the courses affected will be included in the weekly change logs. We will publish information on this type of update from September 2019 onwards. This information will be included in the [Unistats open data](#) located on the HESA website.

Scheduled revisions can include:

- applying mergers between providers
- incorporating amendments to underlying datasets
- planned changes to our algorithms
- adding new data sources.

Unscheduled corrections

The data for the Unistats open data and Discover Uni website is created according to rules which we call algorithms. Occasionally it is necessary for us to refine, or correct errors in, these algorithms. When this occurs we will describe the nature of the changes to the underlying data and give the type of data, the date of the change, the names of providers affected by the change. Full details of the courses affected will be included in the weekly change logs. We will publish information on this type of update from September 2019 onwards.

When we are notified of an error in the underlying datasets that we use to calculate the Unistats metrics we assess the effect this has on the metrics. If we believe the data shown on the website is misleading to students we will remove the data – this means instead of showing the figures, a message explaining that the data is not available is displayed instead. Full details of the courses affected will be included in the weekly change logs. We will liaise with providers to ensure that any errors that can be resolved are corrected as soon as possible. We will publish information on this type of update from September 2019 onwards. This information will be included in the [Unistats open data](#) located on the HESA website.

Unscheduled corrections can include:

- correcting algorithms
- removing metrics based on incorrect or inaccurate data.

We will keep this statement under review and may make updates to it as necessary. Any queries or feedback about this statement should be directed to the Unistats helpdesk (unistats@officeforstudents.org.uk).