2021-22 Student Alternative data checking tool

2021-22 Student Loans Company comparison technical document and rebuild instructions

Enquiries to hesasar@officeforstudents.org.uk

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Contents

Summary

1. This document describes the 2021-22 Student Loans Company (SLC) comparison files generated by the 2021-22 Student Alternative data checking tool and rebuild instructions. Throughout the document, fields taken or derived from the 2021-22 Student Alternative record are shown in capitals.

2. The purpose of this comparison is to ensure that the 2021-22 Student Alternative data is consistent with SLC records. For each provider, we check:

   - whether all students who received student support from the SLC during the 2021-22 academic year are included in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data

   - whether all students who are recorded as receiving SLC tuition fee loans in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data appear in the SLC data

   - whether all students recorded in the SLC data with a withdrawal date have a corresponding end date in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data.

3. The 2021-22 SLC comparison can be used by higher education providers to verify and correct their 2021-22 individualised student data before signing off the final data with the designated data body (DDB).

4. The SLC comparison is formed of two files. These are:

   - SLC comparison workbook 'SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX.xlsx'

   - SLC comparison individualised file 'SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX_IND.csv'

   where XXXXXXXX is the UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN) for the provider and AAA identifies the output type as listed in the table below.

File abbreviation	Source of outputs
DCT	Data checking tool
AST	Amendments submission tool

   Details of how to use individualised files are given on the Office for Students (OfS) website at: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/supplying-data/working-with-individualised-files/.

5. These files can be accessed via the Information Reporting Interface Service (IRIS) report which is available on the DDB's data collection site at https://datacollection.hesa.ac.uk/. Access details will be sent to the appropriate contacts at providers when the data checking tool is available.

6. This document is aimed at readers with in-depth knowledge of the data. Readers are advised to refer to the Student Alternative Record Coding Manual 2021-22 (https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c21054).

7. We will document any changes or corrections to the algorithms in this document on the Office for Students (OfS) website: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-checking-tool/2021-22-student-alternative-data-checking-tool/ under 'Updates'.

Changes from the 2020-21 HESA Student Alternative data checking tool

8. This section describes any changes to the algorithms since the equivalent was published for the 2020-21 algorithms in '2020-21 HESA Student Alternative - SLCCOM20 Student Loans Company comparison technical document and rebuild instructions' available from the data checking tool pages at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-checking-tools/.

SLCCOMDDBPOP

9. This field has been renamed from SLCCOMHESAPOP to SLCCOMDDBPOP.

SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP

10. This field has been renamed from SLCCOMHESASLCPOP to SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP.

SLCCOMSLCFUND

11. This field was previously based on SLC data from the most recent academic term. The field has now been updated so that it is derived from all records from the 2021-22 academic year, rather than only records from the most recent academic term, to account for how payments are recorded in SLC data.

2021-22 SLC comparison workbook

12. The 2021-22 SLC comparison workbook is the Excel workbook SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX.xlsx which contains the following worksheets:

Table 1: Worksheets in the 2021-22 SLC comparison workbook

Worksheet*	Title
Cover_Sheet	SLC comparison summary figures

* This worksheet reference corresponds to the spreadsheet tabs.

2021-22 SLC comparison individualised file

13. When working through this document it is necessary to use the individualised file, SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX_IND.csv. The individualised file contains the values of all fields used to generate the 2021-22 SLC comparison summary figures.

14. Fields taken from the 2021-22 Student Alternative record or derived as part of the 2021-22 SLC comparison are shown in capitals using the names given in tables 2 and 3 respectively. Fields prefixed with 'SLCCOM' are derived, all others are taken directly from the 2021-22 Student Alternative record or SLC data, as indicated in Table 2.

15. Specific instructions for rebuilding the 2021-22 SLC comparison workbook from the individualised file are provided in this document.

16. The individualised file contains one record per instance (each unique combination of UKPRN, HUSID 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.

Student Alternative fields used to create the 2021-22 SLC comparison

17. Student Alternative fields used to generate the 2021-22 SLC are listed in Table 2.

Table 2: List of 2021-22 Student Alternative fields used in the 2021-22 SLC comparison

Name	Description	Data source	Column in individualised file
UKPRN	UK Provider Reference number	Student Alternative	A
HUSID	Unique student identifier	Student Alternative	B
NUMHUS	Student instance identifier	Student Alternative	C
OWNSTU	Provider's own internal identifier for the student	Student Alternative	D
OWNINST	Provider's own instance identifier	Student Alternative	E
COURSEID	Course identifier	Student Alternative	F
ENDDATE	End date of instance	Student Alternative	G
XINACT01	Inactive for entire reporting year indicator	Student Alternative	H
MSTUFEE	Major source of tuition fees	Student Alternative	N/A
PERIODSTART	Instance period start date	Student Alternative	N/A
SSN	Student Support Number	Student Alternative	I
SSN20†	Student Support Number returned in the 2020-21 HESA Student Alternative return	Student Alternative	J
SLCSSN	Student Support Number from the SLC data	SLC	Q
SLC21TERMSTART_DATE	The first term start date within the 2021-22 academic year from the SLC data	SLC	R
SLCATTENDANCE_DATE	Earliest attendance confirmation date for a term relating to the 2021-22 academic year from the SLC data	SLC	S
SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE	The latest withdrawal date within the 2021-22 academic year from the SLC data	SLC	T

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 2020-21 or 2021-22 academic year	SLC	U

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

Description of derived fields

18. The derived fields used to generate the 2021-22 SLC comparison are listed in Table 3.

Table 3: List of derived fields used in the 2021-22 SLC comparison

Name	Description	Paragraph	Column in individualised file
SLCCOMMSTUFEE1-3‡	Major source of tuition fees	18	N-P
SLCCOMPERIODSTART1-3‡	Instance period start date	19	K-M
SLCCOMDDBPOP	Identifies students in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider	20	V
SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP	Identifies students in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data whose main source of tuition fees is the SLC	21	W
SLCCOMSLCPOP	Identifies students who have had their registration or attendance confirmed in the SLC data	22	X
SLCCOMSLCFUND	Identifies the streams of funding released on behalf of the student by the SLC	23	Z
SLCCOMENDCHECK	Identifies students in the SLC data with a withdrawal date where no ENDDATE or a substantially later or earlier ENDDATE is recorded in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data	24	Y

‡ Due to file size restrictions the number of occurrences of this field is restricted to three.

Instance period data

19. The number of instance periods that can be returned for a given instance is unbounded; however, due to file size considerations we restrict the number of separate instance periods displayed in the individualised file to three. In the unusual case where an instance has more than three instance periods, all will be considered in our algorithms, although only three will be displayed in the individualised file. In selecting instance period data to show we will first select those with the major source of tuition fees recorded as the SLC (MSTUFEE = 02, 03, 04, 52, 53, 54) and then those with the earliest period start date (PERIODSTART).

SLCCOMMSTUFEE1-3

20. These fields contain the major source of tuition fees (MSTUFEEs) that are associated with the instance period.

SLCCOMPERIODSTART1-3

21. These fields contain the instance period start dates (PERIODSTARTs) for the student. For example, SLCCOMPERIODSTART1 will contain the instance period start date for SLCCOMMSTUFEE1.

SLCCOMDDBPOP

22. This field identifies students who are in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Student is in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider with an active record	A record was found in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider in the 2021-22 academic year and XINACT01 = 0
2	Student is in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider with a dormant record	A record was found in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data for the provider in the 2021-22 academic year and XINACT01 = 1
0	Otherwise	Otherwise

SLCCOMDDBSLCPOP

23. This field identifies students in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data whose source of tuition fees is the SLC, in whole or in part.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Students whose source of tuition fees is the SLC	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 1, 2 and (SLCCOMMSTUFEE1 = 02, 03, 04, 52, 53, 54 or SLCCOMMSTUFEE2 = 02, 03, 04, 52, 53, 54 or SLCCOMMSTUFEE3 = 02, 03, 04, 52, 53, 54)
0	Otherwise	Otherwise

SLCCOMSLCPOP

24. This field identifies students in the SLC data who were paid some student support in the 2021-22 academic year, and either did not withdraw within 14 days of the first term start date in that year, or else had their attendance confirmed during 2021-22.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Students who have had their registration or attendance confirmed in the SLC data	SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and (ENDDATE = BLANK or ENDATE > 31 July 2021) and (SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE > SLC21TERMSTART_DATE + 14 or SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE = BLANK or SLC21TERMSTART_DATE = BLANK or SLCATTENDANCE_DATE ≠ BLANK)
0	Otherwise	Otherwise

SLCCOMSLCFUND

25. This field identifies the streams of funding delivered to students from the SLC in the 2021-22 academic year.

Value	Description
1	Both tuition fee and maintenance funding were released on behalf of the student in the 2021-22 academic year
2	Only tuition fee funding was released on behalf of the student in the 2021-22 academic year
3	Only maintenance funding was released on behalf of the student in the 2021-22 academic year
0	Otherwise

SLCCOMENDCHECK

26. This field identifies students in the SLC data with a withdrawal date where no ENDDATE or an ENDDATE which is more than 14 days different is recorded in the 2021-22 Student data.

Value	Description	Definition
1	Students who have a withdrawal date in the SLC data, but no ENDDATE is recorded in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data	A record was found in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data and SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE < 01 August 2022 and ENDDATE = BLANK
2	Students who have a substantially later ENDDATE than the withdrawal date in the SLC data	A record was found in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data and SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and ENDDATE ≠ BLANK and ENDDATE > SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE + 14
3	Students who have a substantially earlier ENDDATE than the withdrawal date in the SLC data	A record was found in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data and SLCSSN ≠ BLANK and SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE ≠ BLANK and ENDDATE ≠ BLANK and ENDDATE < SLCWITHDRAWN_DATE - 14
0	Otherwise	Otherwise

Rebuild instructions

27. The individualised file, SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX_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 (www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/supplying-data/working-with-individualised-files/).

28. Specific instructions to rebuild the 2021-22 SLC comparison summary figures in the workbook, SLCCOM21_AAA_XXXXXXXX.xlsx, are provided here.

Item in workbook	Derived field selection in individualised file
Students receiving student support and appearing in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data as active	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 1 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1
Students receiving student support and appearing in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data as dormant	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 2 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1
Students receiving student support and not appearing in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data	SLCCOMDDBPOP = 0 and SLCCOMSLCPOP = 1
Students recorded in the 2021-22 Student Alternative data 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 ENDDATE or a substantially different ENDDATE is recorded in the 2021-22 Student data	SLCCOMENDCHECK = 1, 2, 3