
Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model

2025-26 University Technical Guidance on measures used in OFAM

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Version 1.0

Introduction

1. This Technical Guidance provides the definitions for each of the data measures pertaining to Scottish universities in the Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model (OFAM).
2. The full list of OFAM measures for universities may evolve over time as new requirements and focus areas arise. SFC will, as a matter of course, continue to monitor all performance measures.
3. Definitions for the data and measures are provided at a high level. Outcome Managers will work with institutions to interpret and apply the measures by taking a data and insight centred approach that reflects the context and priorities of the institution.

General Notes

HESA definitions

4. In this document where HESA fields have been used, the fields and descriptions have been taken from the Field List and details have been documented in the most current HESA Student data collection documentation available at the time of writing this guidance i.e. **Student Record 2023-24**.
5. [Full details of the field list and HESA definitions](#) are available on the HESA website. Information on the HESA derived fields used in this guidance will be available on the above webpage via "Show derived fields".

Standard Population

6. SFC reporting on OF&AM measures uses the HESA standard population, defined as **Z_POPSR_CYC = 1** (for qualifiers measures **Z_POPQUAL_CYC = 1** is used).

Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

7. The [Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation \(SIMD\)](#) is provided by the Scottish Government (SG). [Postcode files linking postcodes to SIMD rank](#) are available on the National Records of Scotland (NRS) website via NRS Postcode Extracts in the Geography web page. Using the student postcode (HESA field: POSTCODE) a student is matched to a datazone and then to a SIMD rank. The ranks are divided into quintiles.
8. In this guidance MD20 = Quintile 1 and MD40 = Quintile 1 + Quintile 2.

UHI/SRUC HE Provision

9. FE provision data for UHI partner colleges and SRUC is returned via the FES student record. For this reason, the FE technical guidance provides the definitions for the measures pertaining to FE provision at these institutions

Timing

10. This guidance will apply in Academic Year (AY) 2025-26. However, under OFAM data is monitored retrospectively based on the most recently available data returns. In the case of AY2025-26, this will be data relating to AY2023-24 or AY2024-25, when it is available.

Additional Guidance

11. This Technical Guidance should be used in conjunction with the general OFAM Guidance. The general OFAM Guidance provides more detail on OFAM, setting out how SFC will monitor and engage with each college, college region and university, and is published alongside this Technical Guidance.

Outcomes Framework & Assurance Model – Universities

Technical Measures Guidance

Measure	Data Source	Calculation	Notes
1: Number of enrolments	HESA Student Record	Number of records such that: - Z_POPSR_CYC = 1 (HESA standard registration population)	
2: Number and Proportion of full-time entrants returning to study in the following year	HESA Student Record	Numerator: Number of records such that: - Student continues at the institution the following year* - Z_POPSR_CYC = 1 (HESA standard registration population) Denominator: Number of records such that: - Z_POPSR_CYC = 1 (HESA standard registration population)	Technical details about how JISC derive the non-continuation status can be found on the HESA website .
3: Number of qualifiers	HESA Student Record	Number of records such that: - Z_POPQUAL_CYC = 1 (HESA qualifications-obtained population)	
4a: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants	HESA Student Record	Number of records such that: - Z_POPSR_CYC = 1 (HESA standard registration population) - Z_ENTRANT_CYC = 1 (HESA derived entrant) - Z_PERMADDGRP5 = '03' (HESA derived Scottish-domiciled) - Z_LEVELGRP2 = '03' (HESA derived first degree)	

- Z_MODEGRP1 = 1 (HESA derived full-time)			
4b: COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas	HESA Student Record	Numerator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile = 1 - All criteria from measure 4a are met Denominator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile is known - All criteria from measure 4a are met	As part of OFAM, this measure is also monitored for the 40% most deprived areas (with the SIMD quintile numerator adjusted accordingly).
4c: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants	HESA Student Record	Number of records such that: - Z_POPSR_CYC = 1 (HESA standard registration population) - Z_ENTRANT_CYC = 1 (HESA derived entrant) - Z_PERMADDGRP5 = '03' (HESA derived Scottish-domiciled) - Z_LEVLGRP2 in ('03', '04') (HESA derived first degree or other undergraduate)	
4d: COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants from the 20% most deprived areas	HESA Student Record	Numerator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile = 1 - All criteria from measure 4c are met Denominator: Number of records such that: - SIMD Quintile is known - All criteria from measure 4c are met	As part of OFAM, this measure is also monitored for the 40% most deprived areas (with the SIMD quintile numerator adjusted accordingly).

4e: Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants who are care-experienced

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- **Z_CARELEAVER_EP IN ('02', '03')** (HESA derived Care-experienced in Scotland or Care-experienced in the rest of UK)
- All criteria from **measure 4c** are met

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- All criteria from **measure 4c** are met

5a: COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants returning to study in the following year

HESA Student Record

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Student continues at the institution the following year*
- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

*Technical details about how JISC derive the non-continuation status can be found [here](#).

5b: COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas returning to study in the following year

HESA Student Record

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Student continues at the institution the following year*
- **SIMD Quintile = 1**
- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- **SIMD Quintile = 1**
- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

5c: Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first

HESA Student Record

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- Student continues at the institution the following year*

degree entrants who are care-experienced returning to study in the following year

- **Z_CARELEAVER_EP IN ('02', '03')** (HESA derived Care-experienced in Scotland or Care-experienced in the rest of UK)
- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- **Z_CARELEAVER_EP IN ('02', '03')** (HESA derived Care-experienced in Scotland or Care-experienced in the rest of UK)
- All criteria from **measure 4a** are met

6a: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers

HESA Student Record

Number of records such that:

- **Z_POPQUAL_CYC = 1** (HESA qualifications-obtained population)
- **Z_PERMADDGRP5 = '03'** (HESA derived Scottish-domiciled)
- **Z_LEVELGRP2 = '03'** (HESA derived first degree)
- **Z_MODEGRP1 = 1** (HESA derived full-time)

6b: COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers from the 20% most deprived areas

HESA Student Record

Numerator: Number of records such that:

- **SIMD Quintile = 1**
- All criteria from **measure 6a** are met

Denominator: Number of records such that:

- All criteria from **measure 6a** are met

7: Graduate outcomes – Proportion of respondents going into employment or further study	HESA Graduate Outcomes	Numerator: Number of records such that: - XACTIVITY IN (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8) Denominator: Number of records such that: - XACTIVITY IN (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12)	Records with XACTIVITY = 9 (or blank) are not included in SFC's <i>target population</i> .
8: NSS – Proportion of positive responses to the question 'Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course.'	National Student Survey	As derived by Office for Students (OfS) for the question on overall satisfaction.	

Appendix A: Table of University Technical Measures in OF&AM

Table of measures by relevant OF&AM outcome

Measure	Outcome
1: Number of enrolments	Student Interests, Access and Success
2: Number and proportion of entrants returning to study in year 2	Student Interests, Access and Success
3: Number of qualifiers	Student Interests, Access and Success
4a: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants	Student Interests, Access and Success
4b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 40% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success
4c: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants	Student Interests, Access and Success
4d: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants from the 20% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success

COWA – Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants from the 40% most deprived areas

4e: Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled undergraduate entrants who are care-experienced	Student Interests, Access and Success
5a: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants returning to study in year 2	Student Interests, Access and Success
5b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants from the 20% most deprived areas returning to study in year 2	Student Interests, Access and Success
5c: Number and Proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree entrants who are care- experienced returning to study in year 2	Student Interests, Access and Success
6a: COWA – Number of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers	Student Interests, Access and Success
6b: COWA – Number and proportion of Scottish-domiciled full-time first degree qualifiers from the 20% most deprived areas	Student Interests, Access and Success
7: Graduate outcomes – proportion of respondents going into employment or further study	Skills and Work-based learning
8: NSS – Proportion of positive responses to the question ‘Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course.’	Student Interests, Access and Success