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Unistats 2023: timetable and arrangements for the submission and publication of data

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Issue Date:	27 April 2023
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Summary:	This publication outlines arrangements for the 2023 Unistats data collection (also referred to by the HESA definition of C23061). Please note: the dates and deadlines set out below may be subject to change.
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Introduction

1. 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.

2. 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 SFC, DfENI, and HEFCW.

3. The Unistats data is collected prospectively. The 2023-24 (C23061) record includes courses beginning in the 2024-25 academic year. Providers submit data to HESA through its data collection system.

4. Please note: the dates and deadlines set out below may be subject to change. This publication is for higher education providers in Scotland.

Changes to Unistats 2023

Dataset name change

5. The name of the Unistats dataset is to be changed to 'The Discover Uni dataset'.

6. The change will be applied to the dataset in September 2023 and will be reflected on the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) website where the dataset is published and through which providers submit their Unistats data returns. It will also be updated in publications associated with Unistats.

7. Please note:

    -   The only change in September 2023 is to the name of the dataset (the name of the Unistats collection will be changed to 'The Discover Uni collection' for the 2024-25 collection).

    -   No changes to the dataset fieldnames or schema are anticipated as a result, nor any changes which will affect providers' collection and submission of their course data.

8. We are asking that all references to the 'Unistats' dataset on websites and in publications are updated to read as 'The Discover Uni dataset (formerly Unistats)'. We are requesting that updates to reflect this dataset name change are completed by 31 December 2023. Organisations do not need to make changes to the naming or labelling conventions used within their systems unless they choose to do so.

Data changes

9. It is anticipated that the C23061 dataset will include:

    - The new NSS 2023 data – this will reflect the new NSS survey questions and student responses (subject to consultation)[1].

    - The new TEF 2023 provider ratings for participating providers.

    - Data changes set out in HESA's C23061 coding manual and notification log (see https://www.hesa.ac.uk/collection/c23061/notifications).

Arrangements for collection of data

Providers required to return Unistats data

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

    - Publicly funded higher-education institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
    - Providers in England that are registered with the Office for Students (OfS).

11. Data should be returned for eligible courses delivered by the provider itself or by other providers on its behalf through a sub-contractual agreement. Eligible courses are defined in the coverage of the Unistats record on the HESA website.

Arrangements for the return of subcontracted provision

12. The Unistats return needs to be submitted by the registering provider, including any eligible courses delivered by another provider on their behalf through a sub-contractual agreement[2].

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[1] For more information, see National Student Survey - NSS - Office for Students.
[2] Guidance to providers for the return of sub-contractual and collaborative provision

Process for submission and sign-off of data

13. 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[3].

14. The timetable for submission of Unistats data for courses running in 2023-24 is shown in the table below. To ensure that data remains accurate, it is possible to resubmit data to reflect changes to course details or website links throughout the year. We will incorporate these updates every Wednesday after the initial publication.

15. Data must pass a series of system validation checks before it can be submitted and signed off as accurate. Unless all stages of the process, including sign-off, have been completed, we will not consider the data to have been received and will be unable to publish it.

16. The dataset should initially be signed off by the provider's accountable officer, but formal responsibility for signing off any subsequent updates may be delegated to another member of the senior management team. If the accountable officer (usually the head of provider) is unable to sign off the initial return, this should be done by the individual acting in this capacity at the time, and the accountable officer should notify HESA (liaison@hesa.ac.uk) in advance.

Timetable of key dates

17. **Please note:** these dates may be subject to change. Further information on the deadlines, including specific dates, will be announced once confirmed and the schedule will be updated.

Date	Activity	Notes
By 31 May 2023	**C23061 data collection system opens**	
19 July 2023	**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 2023	**Nil return confirmation**	Providers are required to submit a Nil return form to indicate that their provider has no courses which meet the

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[3] See Unistats record 2023/24 | HESA.

Date	Activity	Notes
		eligibility criteria for the Unistats record, as specified in the coverage of the record.
Anticipated by 7 August 2023	**NSS* and Graduate Outcomes data added**	NSS and Graduate Outcomes data will be added to the data collection systems and will be visible in the reports. We will confirm the anticipated date in July 2023.
23 August 2023	**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 2023	**Official Statistics publication of the Discover Uni dataset 2023 (C23061) (formerly known as Unistats) dataset on the HESA website**	We will confirm the intended publication date for the 2023 dataset in July 2023.
Anticipated by 30 September 2023	**Update of Discover Uni website with 2023 dataset**	We will confirm the intended publication date for the 2023 dataset in July 2023.
November 2023	**Deadline for up-to-date widgets on providers' websites**	We will confirm the deadline for up-to-date widgets on providers' websites in July 2023.

*subject to consultation