NEWDLHE: THE FUTURE OF GRADUATE OUTCOMES – BRIEFING NOTE FOR AGCAS

OVERVIEW

HESA has developed a new model for collecting information about what higher education (HE) students do after graduating. This model will capture rich, robust and comprehensive data using a more efficient and future-proof methodology. It will also contain new questions which will redefine how we discuss successful graduate outcomes.

We are running a public consultation on our website (https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/newdlhe) to gain feedback on these proposals (deadline for responses: **7 April**). If the proposals are accepted, we anticipate running the first NewDLHE survey in December 2018, with the first data published in January 2020.

BACKGROUND

HESA has been collecting data about the destinations and outcomes of graduates since 1993. Since 2002/03 this data has been captured via the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey.

The DLHE survey is the second largest social survey in the UK (after the census), and provides one of the most high-profile data sources about UK HE. DLHE data is currently used widely to advance the HE sector and promote understanding of the graduate labour market.

To ensure we collect data which reflects the diversity of HE provision and the growing variety of graduate outcomes, we have conducted a major review of outcomes data (informally referred to by its hashtag as the #NewDLHE review). This review has been led by HESA harnessing expertise from universities and colleges, HE sector bodies, devolved governments, funding councils, employers' groups, and other interested parties.

HEADLINES OF THE REVIEW

The NewDLHE review proposes a model that will combine a **universal census survey of graduates** with linked data from other sources (such as salary information from HMRC). This survey will take place **15 months** after the graduate completes their studies.

We have developed a model of **open centralisation**. This means the survey will be administered centrally ensuring the we capture the most rigorous and reliable data through a consistent approach to data collection. But HE providers will still have near real-time access to the survey data (via a feed of raw responses) as well as the ability to ask bespoke questions. Our model of shared governance allows providers to shape the survey's future via representation on a steering group.

This move to open centralisation will realise annual efficiency savings of around **£1.5m** across the HE sector.

We will continue to publish salary data and the percentage of graduates in graduate-level employment (two traditional measures of graduate outcomes). But we have also created new 'graduate voice' questions to capture alternative measures of graduate outcomes. These measure meaningfulness, skills utilisation, and progress towards future goals.

The survey will also include new questions to gather insights into graduates pursuing non-traditional career paths, including those developing creative portfolios or starting their own businesses.

ABOUT HESA

HESA (the Higher Education Statistics Agency) are the experts in UK higher education data and analysis. We collect, process and publish data about HE in the UK. As the trusted source of HE data and analysis, we play a key role in supporting and enhancing the competitive strength of the sector. Our five year strategy commits us to upgrading the HE's data infrastructure and enhancing the value of the data we collect.

We are a charity and a company limited by guarantee. We operate as an independent organisation, working in close partnership with higher education providers, regulators, funders, government departments, policy makers, and other stakeholders.