2018-19 HESA Data checking tool

2020-21 Quality-related research (QR) research degree programme (RDP) supervision fund data summary method

1. The data summary method that may be used to inform the QR RDP supervision fund allocation for 2020-21 is described below.

2. The QR RDP supervision fund data summary output is provided solely to highlight potential HESA errors. It should not be considered as any kind of funding commitment by Research England and is without prejudice to what we may determine to be the final allocation for any provider.

3. During 2019 we will review the current method for counting eligible postgraduate research (PGR) student FTEs that inform the calculation of QR RDP supervision funding. The summary output provided through this data checking tool is based on the method that was used to calculate 2019-20 QR RDP supervision funding.

Method

4. We generate a data summary using the rate of funding from the provisional 2020-21 QR RDP supervision fund allocations applied to 2018-19 weighted PGR student FTEs derived from HESA data.

Population

5. To be countable, in the 2020-21 QR RDP supervision fund data summary calculations, a student must meet all of the following conditions:

    a. Research England fundable in 2018-19.

    b. Actively pursuing a PGR qualification in 2018-19.

    c. Not on an incoming exchange year in 2018-19.

    d. In years 1 to 3 of full-time study, or years 1 to 6 of part-time study in 2018-19.

6. In this context, a student is considered to be inactive if they are dormant for the entirety of the academic year. A student is considered to be active if they are not inactive.

'Eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs'

7. We link HESA data across six years (that is, from 2018-19 back to 2013-14) for each student with a postgraduate qualification aim in the 2018-19 HESA return using the student instance and provider identifiers, HUSID x NUMHUS x UKPRN. This enables us to establish the amount of PGR FTE the student has generated at the provider over the six-year period.

8. A student in the population is eligible to be counted for a maximum of three years full-time (or the part-time equivalent), that is, 3 FTE. Therefore, if a student has generated less than 3 FTE over the five-year period prior to 2018-19 we will count their '2018-19 PGR FTE' as the lower of:

    a. The remaining FTE that is available to the student before they reach their 3 FTE limit, or

    b. The amount of FTE calculated for the student from the 2018-19 HESA student record.

9. This eligible FTE is shown in the RDP18_DCT_XXXXXXXX.xlsx workbook for each unit of assessment (UOA), multiple submission (where applicable) and provider involved in a concurrent collaborative arrangement (where applicable).

'Adjusted eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs'

10. The 'Eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs' shown in the RDP18_DCT_XXXXXXXX.xlsx workbook are adjusted to reflect that providers who were not eligible to submit to REF 2014 will not have a quality profile. The 'Eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs' are therefore split only amongst providers who were eligible to submit to REF 2014. It is these adjusted FTEs that are used in the funding calculation.

Treatment of formal collaborative programmes

Concurrent supervision

11. Though we will take account of the quality profile of the other providers in calculating QR RDP supervision funding, once calculated all funding will be allocated to the reporting provider for distribution as agreed between the providers concerned.

Sequential supervision

12. We will split the associated QR RDP supervision funding across the providers, reflecting the formal handover of the student. For the provider receiving the student, we shall also link back to the HESA data of the provider handing over the student to establish the amount of PGR FTE the student has generated at both providers for this programme over the six-year period.

Calculations

13. A student's 2018-19 PGR FTE is apportioned by UOA, multiple submission (where applicable), and any providers who concurrently supervise them. It is then multiplied by the UOA cost weight, quality score, London weight and the provisional 2020-21 rate of funding. Where a provider who concurrently supervises students was eligible to submit to REF 2014, their quality score and London weight are used instead of those of the reporting provider for the portion of the provision they supervise.

14. There are three cost weights depending on the subject of research.

Cost band	Subject	Weight
A	High-cost laboratory and clinical subjects	1.6
B	Intermediate-cost subjects	1.3
C	Others	1.0

15. The quality score is the amount of 3* and 4* activity as a proportion of the total activity at 2* quality and above in the provider's REF 2014 overall profile, calculated for each UOA and multiple submission.

16. London weight is 8 per cent or 12 per cent for providers in outer or inner London respectively.

17. The rate of funding per London weighted, quality weighted, cost weighted PGR FTE used for the provisional 2020-21 QR RDP supervision fund data summary is £4,809 to the nearest whole pound. This is the rate from the 2019-20 QR RDP supervision fund

allocation published in the July 2019 grant allocations announcement and will not match the rate when the actual 2020-21 funding is calculated next year.

18. Funding will be restricted to UOAs that will be eligible to receive mainstream QR research funding.

Rebuilding the data summary using the individualised file

19. The summary figures derived from HESA student data shown in the RDP18_DCT_XXXXXXXX.xlsx workbook are listed below. We describe how to identify the records in the RDP18_DCT_XXXXXXXX_IND.csv file that contribute to the figures. In each case we specify the values of the derived fields needed to rebuild the values.

Item in workbook	Derived field selection in individualised file		Notes
	COLPROV	UOA2014	
Eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs	Select provider of interest supervising activity	Select UOA (including multiple submission) of interest	Sum values of RDPFTE / 100
Adjusted eligible 2018-19 PGR FTEs	Select provider of interest supervising activity	Select UOA (including multiple submission) of interest	Sum values of RDPFTEPROVADJ / 100

Derived field specifications

20. Definitions for the derived fields are provided in our technical documentation (see http://re.ukri.org/finance/how-research-england-use-individualised-student-data/ under 2018-19 HESA data checking tool – Technical documentation).