Graduate Outcomes Survey

# Change Log November 2017: 2018 graduate survey (comparison with documentation issued October 2017)

This document lists the changes to the 2018 graduate survey, code book, data items and guidance, with comparison to the version issued in October 2017. These changes take account of some clarifications requested on the survey.

*Changes to Survey Questions*

**\*Q1** asks the activities of the graduate at 31 March 2018. The wording of this question has been amended to refer to “most important activity” rather than “main activity” and to remove the reference to the amount of time spent on the activity. This is to ensure that subsequent coding of the question reflects the response given by the graduate.

**\*Q2I and \*Q2J** ask about placements/accredited work experience. There is a suggestion that graduates might not understand how the sentence is punctuated. The word “or” has been replaced with a forward slash “/”.

**\*Q2D1** (previously numbered Q3F1) asks the location of the employer. It was followed by incorrect instructions on how the following questions should filter. This should read:

[Filter when selected – go to either Q.2D2 (county if Ireland (incl. Northern Ireland) selected) or Q.2D3 (country if Overseas selected)]

*Changes to Code Book*

Institute Type has been removed.

Principal Economic Status – MOST and Principal Economic Status – ALL have been altered to reflect the changed wording in Q1 of the survey, as above. Further, the list of responses has also been corrected to accurately reflect the wording of the survey, with any occurrence of the phrase “further study, training or research” replaced with “further study or training”. The survey itself is otherwise unchanged in respect of this phrase.

Internship and Internship\_Time have been altered to reflect the changed wording in Questions 2I and 2J of the survey, as above.

Award\_Sought has been amended as follows:

Higher Diploma should be coded as ‘29’ and Postgraduate Diploma should be coded as ‘30’.

*Changes to Data Items*

In Section 1: Item #10: Institute Type has been removed. Subsequent items automatically renumbered.

In Section 3: Further Study or Training, the list of items 7 and 8 have been switched to reflect the sequence in the questionnaire.

*Changes to Guidance*

Under Items Required for Response, the following has been added:

It can been seen from the documentation that not all fields/responses are compulsory for return to the HEA. This means that the HEA will accept empty responses in the case of a number of questions. However, institutions should ensure that all such questions are asked of graduates. The purpose of allowing some empty responses is to maximise the number of graduate records returned to the HEA. In the case where a graduate might skip a question, or leave an answer blank, the HEA would not wish for an otherwise complete record to be invalid for return to the HEA. However, this should not be mistaken as meaning that the question should not be asked of the graduate at all. This approach has been taken following feedback from HEIs on the disposition of graduates to respond to all survey questions, and will be kept under review by the HEA.