Graduate Outcomes Survey

# Change Log: 2018 graduate survey (comparison with 2017 version)

This document lists the changes to the 2018 graduate survey, with comparison to the 2017 version. These changes take account of feedback received on the operation of the survey as a pilot in 2017. Note that those questions that are marked with an asterisk (\*) are mandatory and require a response from the survey.

**Section 1** (which asked the student to enter in their student ID) has been removed. This has been replaced with the following note:

Note: Institutions should obtain personal information, as specified in the code book, from the graduate. This can be done using the graduate’s record in the institution’s student administration system.

**Your current situation**

**Section 2** has been renumbered as **Section 1** and all questions in the section have been renumbered accordingly.

**\*Q1** (previously numbered Q2A) asks the activities of the graduate at 31 March 2018. Feedback had indicated that this question had caused some confusion. To help reduce this confusion, the wording for the question has been amended and the two columns for responses have been switched. It should be noted that this is a presentation change only and does not otherwise affect coding of responses.

**Employment**

**Section 3** has been renumbered as **Section 2** and all questions in the section have been renumbered accordingly.

There have been some minor changes to the ordering of the questions in this section, following feedback. The first two questions (previously numbered Q3A and Q3B) have been placed further along in the section as Q2F and Q2G. These questions are returned to later. The questions on job title and occupation (previously Q3D and Q3C respectively) have also been switched in order.

**Q2A** (previously numbered Q3D) asks the job title of the graduate. This question is unchanged. Note that the code book allows for 200 characters for this field. Because there is no means of validating a graduate’s response, this question can be considered optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**\*Q2B** (previously numbered Q3C) asks the occupation of the graduate. Feedback on this question had indicated that the number of occupation codes was excessive and it was difficult to identify the appropriate occupation.

* This question/response has been shortened. Narrow occupation codes will no longer be collected, only 10 broad codes with an addition of a final code for an “I don’t know/unknown” response.
* The addition of a final code for an “I don’t know/unknown” response requires that there a mandatory response to the question, but “I don’t know/unknown” can be selected.
* In terms of presentation of response options, examples of the occupations which fall under each heading are given. This should help to reduce the number of “I don’t know/unknown” responses.

**Q2C** (previously numbered Q3E) asks the name of the employer. This question is unchanged, however the response will now allow for up to 100 characters (previously 50). Because there is no means of validating a graduate’s response, this question can be considered optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**\*Q2D1** (previously numbered Q3F1) asks the location of the employer. This question is unchanged. \***Q2D2** (previously numbered Q3F2) asks the county of the employer if in Ireland. This question is unchanged. Note that the code book allows for a code of ‘99’ which represents an unknown location within Ireland. \***Q2D3** (previously numbered Q4F3) asks the country of the employer if not Ireland. This question is unchanged. Note that the code book allows for a code of ‘UN’ which represents an unknown country.

**\*Q2E** (previously numbered Q3G) asks the economic sector of the employer. Feedback on this question had indicated that the number of sectoral codes was excessive and it was difficult to identify the appropriate sector.

* This question/response has been shortened. Narrow sector codes will no longer be collected, only the 14 broad codes with an addition of a final code for a response of “I don’t know”.
* The addition of a final code for a response of “I don’t know” requires that there a mandatory response to the question, but “I don’t know” can be selected, along with an existing code of ‘Other’.
* In terms of presentation of response options, examples of the sectors which fall under each heading are given. This should help to reduce the number of unknown responses.

**\*Q2F** (previously numbered Q3A) asks the nature of employment. This question/response has been shortened. The final option of “On a government employment scheme (e.g. JobBridge)” has been removed as a response option.

**\*Q2G** (previously numbered Q3B) asks the nature of employment contract. This question is unchanged.

**\*Q2H** (previously numbered Q3H) asks the graduate’s salary. This question is unchanged. Note that there is a response option of “I’d rather not say” for graduates who do not wish to share salary details.

**\*Q2I and \*Q2J** (previously numbered Q3I and Q3J respectively) ask about placements/work experience. Following feedback on this question, reference to ‘internship’ has been replaced with a reference to ‘placement’. This affects the phrasing of both questions, and three response options in Q2I. The coding of responses is otherwise unchanged.

**Q2K and Q2L** (previously numbered Q3K and Q3L) asks about relevance. These questions are unchanged. Note that there are response options of “I don’t know” for graduates who cannot complete the question. In addition, the questions are optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Q2M** (previously numbered Q2M) asks about requiring the qualification to get the job. Feedback on this question indicated that it did not take sufficient account of self-employed graduates. The wording of the question has been amended. The response options and coding are otherwise unchanged. The question is optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Q2N** (previously numbered Q3N) asks how the graduate found out about the job. This question is unchanged. The question is optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Further Study or Training**

**Section 4** has been renumbered as **Section 3** and all questions in the section have been renumbered accordingly.

**\*Q3A1** (previously numbered Q4A1) asks the location of the institution. This question is unchanged. \***Q3A2** (previously numbered Q4A2) asks the county of the institution if in Ireland. This question is unchanged. Note that the code book allows for a code of ‘99’ which represents an unknown location within Ireland. \***Q3A3** (previously numbered Q4A3) asks the country of the institution if not Ireland. This question is unchanged. Note that the code book allows for a code of ‘UN’ which represents an unknown country.

**Q3B** (previously numbered Q4B) asks the name of the institution. This question is unchanged, however the response will now allow for up to 100 characters. Because there is no means of validating a graduate’s response, this question can be considered optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Q3C** (previously numbered Q4C) asks the title of the course. This question is unchanged, however the response will now allow for up to 100 characters. Because there is no means of validating a graduate’s response, this question can be considered optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**\*Q3D, \*Q3E and \*Q3F** (previously numbered Q4D – Q4F respectively) are unchanged.

**Q3G** (previously numbered Q4G) is unchanged. Feedback had indicated that it would be useful if the graduate could select multiple options. This would require potentially significant additional coding (9 codes for one response, 36 codes for two responses, 84 codes for three responses etc.) so has been left unchanged and can be kept under review for future years. The question is optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Unemployed/Looking for work and Other Activity**

**Section 5** has been renumbered as **Section 4** and all questions in the section have been renumbered accordingly.

**\*Q4A** (previously numbered Q5A) asks if the graduate held a job since completing the course. This question is unchanged. It should be noted that in the data return to the HEA, any response of “Other (please specify)” should be returned as ‘7’. However, institutions are welcome to collect the text responses for institutional use.

\***Q4B** (previously numbered Q5B) asks about other activities. This question is unchanged. It should be noted that in the data return to the HEA, any response of “Other (please specify)” should be returned as ‘9’. However, institutions are welcome to collect the text responses for institutional use.

**Q4C** (previously numbered Q5C) asks about barriers. This question is unchanged, and the response will allows for up to 200 characters. Because there is no means of validating a graduate’s response, this question can be considered optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Experience of Higher Education**

**Section 6** has been renumbered as **Section 5** and all questions in the section have been renumbered accordingly.

**Q5A** (previously numbered Q6A) asks about choosing again with four separate parts to the question. Feedback indicated that these questions were repetitive and caused confusion. This question/response has been shortened. The latter two parts (relating to a different qualification and a different area) have been removed. In addition, the questions are optional and an empty response will be accepted.

**Q5B – Q5E** (previously numbered Q6B – Q6E) asks about looking back. It should be noted that these questions are not returned in the HEA file. Therefore institutions are not obliged to ask these questions. Institutions may set their own optional/mandatory requirements and character limits for the questions. For shared service platforms, it is recommended that the questions remain optional and the character limit is set to 500. This can be reviewed in future iterations of the survey.

**Contact Details**

In this section, graduates are asked if they would be willing to be contacted again.

**\*Q6** (previously unnumbered) asks the graduate if they are willing to be contacted again.

If they indicate that they are willing to be contacted again, they are asked contact details. Feedback has indicated that it is not workable for all fields for contact details (esp. nominated contacts) to be mandatory, though this is left at the discretion of the institution.

For shared service platforms, it is recommended that personal email address and mobile phone number are mandatory, but the home phone number and nominated contact are optional.