Graduate Outcomes Survey

# Data items

The code book lists the data items for return to the HEA.

* **All graduates** included within the survey cohort should be returned to the HEA. This will include those graduates that have not responded to the survey.
* Where applicable, coding should align with SRS returns records for graduates.

## Graduate SRS Record

The first 15 fields to be returned should match with the graduate’s SRS record, and return personal and course information for each graduate:

1. PPSN: Coding as per SRS
2. Student ID: Coding as per SRS
3. Date of birth: Coding as per SRS
4. County code: Coding as per SRS
5. Domiciliary code: Coding as per SRS
6. Gender: Coding as per SRS
7. Mode: Coding as per SRS
8. Grade: Coding as per SRS
9. Institute Name: Coding as per SRS
10. Course Code: Coding as per SRS
11. Course name: Coding as per SRS
12. ISCED information: Coding as per SRS
13. NFQ Level: Coding as per SRS
14. Progtype code : Coding as per SRS
15. Year of graduation: Coding as per SRS

Notes:

Where applicable, the Graduate Outcome data should be linkable to SRS enrolment/graduate data; therefore:

* Student numbers should be as per the SRS returns, including leading zeroes where relevant.
* The year of graduation for all graduate records of the survey cohort should be as per the relevant SRS graduation record (We expect in most cases this Year of graduation will be 2025)

## Year of Survey and Response

The next two fields relate to the year of the survey and whether or not the graduate has responded to the survey.

1. Return Year: This should be ‘**2026**’ for all graduates for the **Class of 2025** survey.
2. Response: The approach to the coding of this field is explained further in the “Cohort to be surveyed” guidance.
   * If “Response” = 1, this means that the graduate answered the survey and the next two fields must be populated; and some other subsequent fields.
   * If “Response” = 2, this means that the graduate did not answer the survey and **all subsequent fields are left blank.**
   * If “Response” = 3, this means that the graduate is a continuing student from a level 6 or level 7 programme and administrative data has being used to populate their return. They should return ‘4’ or ‘5’ under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST.
   * If “Response” = 4, this means that the graduate is at level 8, 9 or 10 and is continuing in education within their institution. These students were surveyed, but in cases of non-response, administrative data was being used to populate their return. They should return ‘4’ or ‘5’ under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST.

## Section 1: Your Current Situation

The next two fields relate to the *Section 1: Your Current Situation* of the survey, asking the graduate what their current situation is. This question determines what questions the graduate is directed to in the rest of the survey.

1. Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST: This takes the following values:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Working full-time only | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 2 | Working part-time only | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 3 | Due to start a job in the next 3 months | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 4 | Engaged in full-time further study or training only | If selected, go to Section 3 |
| 5 | Engaged in part-time further study or training only | If selected, go to Section 3 |
| 6 | Unemployed and looking for work | If selected, go to Section 5 |
| 7 | Other Activity (e.g. engaged in childcare/domestic responsibilities, caring, retired from employment, not able to work due to sickness or disability, travelling, volunteering etc.) | If selected, go to Section 5 |
| 8 | Working full-time and studying part-time, including professional training | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 9 | Working part-time and studying full-time, including professional training | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 10 | Working part-time and studying part-time, including professional training | If selected, go to Section 2 |

* **Please note: “Other Activity” should not be returned in cases of non-response**

## Section 2: Employment

These fields relate to responses to Section 2: Employment in the survey. Graduates who indicate that they are in employment in Section 1 of the survey should be directed here. Therefore, these fields should be populated where “Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘1’ or ‘2’ or ‘3’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Job\_Title | Will accept a NULL response. |
| 1. Occupation\_Broad | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Occupation\_Narrow | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Organisation | Will accept a NULL response. |
| 1. Employment\_Where | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10.If Employment\_Where = 1, go to 'Employment - Ireland',  If Employment\_Where = 2, go to 'Employment - Overseas' |
| 1. Employment\_Ireland | NOT NULL IF Employment - Where = 1. |
| 1. Employment\_Overseas | NOT NULL IF Employment - Where = 2. |
| 1. Sector\_Broad | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Employment\_Type | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10.If Employment Type = 2 - go to Earnings |
| 1. Contract | NOT NULL IF Employment Type = 1. |
| 1. Earnings | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Placement | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10.If Placement = 3, go to Qual Need |
| 1. Placement\_Time | NOT NULL IF Placement = 1-2. |
| 1. Qual\_Need | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Find\_Out\_About\_Job | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10. |
| 1. Relevance | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 or 8-10.If Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-3 go to Section 4 (Use\_Of\_Knowledge).  If Principal\_economic\_MOST = 8-10, go to Section 3 (Institution\_Where). |

## Section 3: Further Study or Training

These fields relate to responses to Section 3: Further Study or Training in the survey. Graduates who indicate that they are in further study in Section 1 of the survey should be directed here. Therefore, these fields should be populated where “Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘4’ or ‘5’.

For continuing graduates who have been assigned “Response” = ‘3’ or ‘4’, the institute may populate their data using administrative records as far as “Further Mode”. There should be no response under “Why\_Do\_Further\_Study” for graduates with “Response” = ‘3’ or ‘4’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Institution\_Where | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 4-5. If Institution\_Where = 1, go to 'Location Ireland',  If Institution\_Where = 2, go to 'Location Overseas' |
| 1. Institution\_Ireland | NOT NULL IF Institution - Where = 1 |
| 1. Institution\_Overseas | NOT NULL IF Institution - Where = 2 |
| 1. Further\_Institution | Will accept a NULL response |
| 1. Further\_Course | Will accept a NULL response |
| 1. Further\_ISCED | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 4-5 or 8-10 |
| 1. Award Level | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 4-5 or 8-10 |
| 1. Further\_Mode | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 4-5 or 8-10 |
| 1. Why\_Do\_Further\_Study | Will accept a NULL response Go to Section 4 (Use\_Of\_Knowledge) |

## Section 4: Qualitative Questions

These fields relate to students’ perception of the applicability of their studies to their current employment. These fields should therefore be populated only where Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-5 or 8-10:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Use of Knowledge | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-5 or 8-10 |
| 1. Meaningful | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-5 or 8-11 |
| 1. Future Plans | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 1-5 or 8-1. Go to Section 6 (Recommend\_Course) |

## Section 5: Unemployed/Looking for work and Other Activity

These fields relate to responses to Section 4: Unemployed/Looking for work and Other Activity in the survey. Graduates who indicate that they are in unemployed/looking for work (“Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘6’) or engaged in Another Activity (“Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘7’) in Section 1 of the survey are directed here. Therefore, these fields should be populated where “Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘6’ or ‘7’.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Other\_Activity\_A | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 6. Go to Barriers |
| 1. Other\_Activity\_B | NOT NULL IF Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST = 7. |
| 1. Barriers | Optional. Go to Section 6 (Recommend\_Course) |

## Section 6: Experience of Higher Education

All graduates surveyed are directed to this question.

1. Recommend\_Course: This field will accept an empty response.

## Data File for return to the HEA

When preparing the file for upload to the HEA, institutions must use the [XSD file provided](https://hea.ie/assets/uploads/2024/11/Graduate-Outcomes-Upload-Instructions.docx). The XSD fieldnames are as follows:

GO\_PPSN

GO\_Student ID

GO\_Date of birth

GO\_County code

GO\_Domiciliary code

GO\_Gender

GO\_Mode

GO\_Grade

GO\_Institute Name

GO\_Course Code

GO\_Course name

GO\_ISCED information

GO\_NFQ Level

GO\_Progtype code

GO\_Year of graduation

GO\_Return Year

GO\_Response

GO\_Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST

GO\_Job\_Title

GO\_Occupation\_Broad

GO\_Occupation\_Narrow

GO\_Organisation

GO\_Employment\_Where

GO\_Employment\_Ireland

GO\_Employment\_Overseas

GO\_Sector\_Broad

GO\_Employment\_Type

GO\_Contract

GO\_Earnings

GO\_Placement

GO\_Placement\_Time

GO\_Qual\_Need

GO\_Find\_Out\_About\_Job

GO\_Relevance

GO\_Institution\_Where

GO\_Institution\_Ireland

GO\_Institution\_Overseas

GO\_Further\_Institution

GO\_Further\_Course

GO\_Further\_ISCED

GO\_Award Level

GO\_Further\_Mode

GO\_Why\_Do\_Further\_Study

GO\_Use of Knowledge

GO\_Meaningful

GO\_Future Plans

GO\_Other\_Activity\_A

GO\_Other\_Activity\_B

GO\_Barriers

GO\_Recommend\_Course