Graduate Outcomes Survey

# Change Log December 2024: 2025 graduate survey (comparison with 2024 graduate survey)

This document lists the changes to the 2025 guidance, cohort to be surveyed, graduate survey, codebook, and data items in comparison to the 2024 graduate survey.

## 2. Guidance for HEIs

For 2026: References to question numbers amended to reflect updated survey instrument.

For 2026: Guidance on Occupation and Sector Coding moved to a separate document

For 2026: Guidance on Audit Process (previously separate document) merged into main document, including reference to minimum response rate.

The data return deadline will be the first Friday of September (first upload) and the third Friday of September (sign-off).  This is reflective of updated Data Sharing Agreements between the HEA and HEIs.

There is an updated link for coding sector of employment which follows EU guidance. Follows appendix 1.

Guidance previously given in *5b Data items* has been included in *2. Guidance for HEIs* noting the potential inaccurate coding of non-response. This is not a change to guidance, but rather a reiteration of guidance from earlier years placed more prominently in this document.

It is noted that PPSNs continue to be required and are reflective of updated Data Sharing Agreements between the HEA and HEIs.

It is also noted that the Graduate Outcomes Survey is a national survey, and questions should remain consistent between HEIs to ensure comparability at national level.

## 3. Cohort to be surveyed

For 2026: Stipulated that only graduates of major awards to be surveyed. Removed references to SRS codes. Relevant Award types and NFQ levels listed instead, as agreed with Stakeholder Reference Group, June 2025.

Please note that we have added that a line that both in person and online graduates are to be surveyed.

However, universities are reminded that Medical Interns are to be surveyed as part of the Graduate Outcomes survey and details should not be filled in on their behalf by the institution.

## 4. Graduate Outcomes Survey

No changes.

## 5a. Graduate Outcomes Survey Code Book

Please not some changes to domiciliary codes as per SRS codebook:

1. Domiciliary and nationality codes updated in line with updated 2021 CSO codes.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| AN | Netherlands Antilles | deleted |
| AX | Åland Islands | new code |
| BL | Saint Barthélemy | new code |
| BQ | Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba | new code |
| CW | Curaçao | new code |
| CZ | Czechia | name change |
| KO | Kosovo | deleted |
| KR | Korea (the Republic of) South Korea | name change |
| KP | Korea (the Democratic People's Republic of) North Korea | new code |
| MF | Saint Martin (French part) | new code |
| MK | North Macedonia | name change |
| SX | Sint Maarten (Dutch part) | new code |
| SZ | Eswatini | name change |
| XK | Kosovo | new code |
| YU | Yugoslavia | Deleted |

## 5b. Data items

**June 2025:** Data Items updated to reflect requirement of revised survey instrument (based on codebook). Separate “Plain English” version of data items created for inclusion in 2025/26 HEA Data Collection Notice.

## 6. Graduate Outcomes Survey Audit Process document

**June 2025: No longer a separate document:** Text shortened to reduced duplication and unnecessary overlap with other Guidance documents (mindful that some points will need to be reiterated for emphasis) and incorporated into main/first guidance document.

**June 2025:** This is covered in document 2, Draft for review

Continued audit checks will take place on the following fields:

* A full listing of Job Titles (Q2.A) and Employer names (Q2.C) will now be provided as part of the audit. This is a more detailed check than in previous years to ensure that missing data in these fields is discovered before the sign-off of data.
* Audit files for Q5.A will now be provided. This is an audit check, to ensure that HEIs can monitor any changes in trends before sign-off of data.