Graduate Outcomes Survey

# Data items

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

* Where possible, coding is the same as the SRS.
* **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.

## Graduate SRS Record

The first 17 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

Please note that the ‘Year of Graduation’ should be ‘**2024**’. However, this is not always the case. It is critical that this field is populated with the “return year” of the associated graduate record that is submitted as part of the SRS return. In most cases this will indeed be ‘**2024**’ but there is a portion that will not. Therefore, it will be necessary to cross reference each individual graduate outcome survey return with the associated graduate record on the SRS system based on the student ID. Then inserting the value of the return year into the “Year of Graduation” on the Graduate Outcomes return. Failure to do so will result in this data potentially not being linked and a loss in value of the graduate return record to both the HEA and HEI’s.

Note that institutions should ensure exact matches between SRS student IDs and Graduate Outcomes student IDs, particular in relation to any leading zeros.

## 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 ‘**2025**’ for all graduates for the **Class of 2024** 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 is being used to populate their return. They should return ‘4’ or ‘5’ under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST and should be blank under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_ALL.
   * If “Response” = 4, this means that the graduate is at level 8, 9 or 10 and is continuing in education within their institution. In this case the graduate has received the survey, and despite attempts on the part of the HEI, has not responded to the survey; so administrative data is being used to populate their return. They should return ‘4’ or ‘5’ under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST and should be blank under Principal\_Economic\_Status\_ALL.

## 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 | If selected, go to Section 2 |
| 2 | Working part-time | 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 | If selected, go to Section 3 |
| 5 | Engaged in part-time further study or training | If selected, go to Section 3 |
| 6 | Unemployed and looking for work | If selected, go to Section 4 |
| 7 | Other Activity (e.g. engaged in home duties, retired from employment, unable to work due to illness or disability, travelling, volunteering etc.) | If selected, go to Section 4 |

It has come to our attention that in a small number of cases/programmes/HEIs a disproportionate number of graduates have been categorised as being in “Other Activity”. On closer inspection of this data, it appears that callers have been logging non-responses (i.e. graduates who do not answer the phone) as responses with “Other Activity”. Please be vigilant to ensure that this miscoding of non-response does not occur.

1. Principal\_Economic\_Status\_ALL: This will require coding of responses based on the answers to Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST

For those graduates with a “Response” of ‘3’ or ‘4’, the value should be ‘4’ or ‘5’ depending on the mode of study of the graduate.

## 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 are directed here. Therefore these fields should be populated where “Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘1’ or ‘2’ or ‘3’.

1. Job\_Title: This field will accept an empty response.
2. Occupation\_Broad
3. Organisation: This field will accept an empty response.
4. Employment\_Where
5. Employment\_Ireland: Note the coding matches with the SRS for County of Origin. This field should be populated if “Employment\_Where” = 1.
6. Employment\_Overseas: Note the coding matches with the SRS for Domiciliary (excluding Ireland as an option). This field should be populated if “Employment\_Where” = 2.
7. Sector\_Broad
8. Employment\_Type: Note that those who respond as ‘2’ have an empty response under “Contract”
9. Contract
10. Salary
11. Placement: Note that those who respond as ‘3’ have an empty response under “Placement\_Time”
12. Placement\_Time
13. Relevance: This field will accept an empty response.
14. Qual\_Need: This field will accept an empty response.
15. Find\_Out\_About\_Job: This field will accept an empty response.

## 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 are directed here. Therefore these fields should be populated where “Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘4’ or ‘5’.

1. Institution\_Where
2. Institution\_Ireland: Note the coding matches with the SRS for County of Origin. This field should be populated if “Institution\_Where” = 1.
3. Institution\_Overseas: Note the coding matches with the SRS for Domiciliary (excluding Ireland as an option). This field should be populated if “Institution\_Where” = 2.
4. Further\_Institution: This field will accept an empty response.
5. Further\_Course: This field will accept an empty response.
6. Further\_ISCED
7. Award\_Sought
8. Further\_Mode
9. Why\_Do\_Further\_Study: This field will accept an empty response.

For those 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’.

## Section 4: 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: This should be populated if (“Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘6’). The graduate should then skip to “Barriers” and have an empty under “Other\_Activity\_B”.
2. Other\_Activity\_B: This should be populated if (“Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST” = ‘7’)
3. Barriers: This field is optional and can be left empty.

## Section 5: Experience of Higher Education

All graduates surveyed are directed to these questions.

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

## Section 6: Contact Details

All graduates surveyed are directed to these questions.

1. Follow\_Up

## Data File for return to the HEA

When preparing the file for upload to the HEA, institutions should consider the XSD file provided. Here, the field names may vary from the code book, usually with the suffix ‘GO\_’ before the field name. These are as follows:

GO\_PPSN

GO\_Student\_ID

GO\_Date\_Birth

GO\_County\_Code

GO\_Domiciliary\_Code

GO\_Gender

GO\_Mode

GO\_Grade

GO\_Institute\_Name

GO\_courseCd

GO\_Course\_Name

GO\_ISCED\_Information

GO\_NFQ\_Level

GO\_Progtype\_Code

GO\_Year\_Of\_Graduation

GO\_Year\_Of\_Survey\_Return

GO\_Response

GO\_Principal\_Economic\_Status\_MOST

GO\_Principal\_Economic\_Status\_ALL

GO\_Job\_Title

GO\_Occupation\_Broad

GO\_Organisation

GO\_Employment\_Where

GO\_Employment\_Ireland

GO\_Employment\_Overseas

GO\_Sector\_Broad

GO\_Employment\_Type

GO\_Contract

GO\_Salary

GO\_Placement

GO\_Placement\_Time

GO\_Relevance

GO\_Qual\_Need

GO\_Find\_Out\_About\_Job

GO\_Institution\_Where

GO\_Institution\_Ireland

GO\_Institution\_Overseas

GO\_Further\_Institution

GO\_Further\_Course

GO\_Further\_ISCED

GO\_Award\_Sought

GO\_Further\_Mode

GO\_Why\_Do\_Further\_Study

GO\_Other\_Activity\_A

GO\_Other\_Activity\_B

GO\_Barriers

GO\_Same\_Course

GO\_Follow\_Up