

Entry qualifications for use with T5, T7 and E1

PITG 13/05

Issue

1. The benchmarks given in tables T5, T7 and E1 currently use old entry qualification groupings as they are based on all students, rather than just entrants, so detailed entry qualification information may not be available. When would it be appropriate to move over to using more up to date entry qualification groups (as currently used with tables T1, T2, T3)?

Recommendations

2. PITG to approve the use of the new entry qualification groups in T5 and T7 from 2012/13 and, at the same time, no longer combine with the older 2006/07 entry qualifications where the data is unknown.
3. PITG to approve the use of the new entry qualification categories and grouping of these for E1 from 2011/12 and, at the same time, no longer combine with the older 2006/07 entry qualifications where the data is unknown. This includes the International Baccalaureate qualifications within the highest tariff band category rather than the lowest (as they were previously) for the employment indicators.

Discussion

4. For the 2012/13 publication, tables T7 and E1 will be based respectively on all (full-time and part-time) undergraduates and all leavers in 2012/13. Table T5 will be based on full-time first degree students in 2011/12 plus those from 2010/11 who were inactive.
5. Provided that the students have not repeated years, by 2011/12, the majority of students on programmes lasting 5 years or less should have started their course since 2007/08 and therefore have more detailed entry qualification information available.
6. It is unlikely that many students in the 2011/12 dataset will have started their course prior to 2007/08 and therefore linking back those with unknown entry qualification information to 2006/07 is unlikely to provide any additional information.
7. Analysis of entry qualification information given below looks at table T7 which has the widest coverage of students and is split by full-time and part-time students.
8. Historically, for the employment benchmarks, students holding International Baccalaureate qualifications have been included with students holding A-levels and Scottish Highers with up to 160 tariff points (the lowest tariff group). Based on the International Baccalaureate Diploma carrying 260 – 720 tariff points, equivalent to between BCC and AAAAAA A-level grades, it would seem more appropriate to include them in the top tariff band.

Analysis based on T7

9. T7 has been run using the new and old entry qualification groups for 2011/12 and the differences in the benchmarks are summarised below (comparing the new entry qualification groups against the old ones):

| Number of HEIs | Full-time first degree | Full-time all undergraduate | Part-time all undergraduate |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Benchmark decreases | 56 | 46 | 47 |
| Decreases by more than 0.5% | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| Benchmark increases | 32 | 34 | 43 |
| Increases by more than 0.5% | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| No change in benchmark | 68 | 76 | 45 |
| Maximum magnitude of change in benchmark | 0.6 | 0.5 | 1.6 |

10. For table T5, the maximum magnitude of change in benchmark is 1.6 for students projected to obtain a degree and 1.1 for students projected to neither award nor transfer.
11. Using the old entry qualification groups, 168,170 students in table T7 had known highest qualification on entry information (QUALENT3/QUALENT2), but unknown tariff information (categorised as PTSNK). A further 13,765 had unknown highest qualification on entry information (categorised as UNKNOWN). Linking back to 2006/07 data provided known entry qualification information for 5,545 (3.3%) of those coded as PTSNK and 30 (0.2%) of those coded as UNKNOWN.
12. This analysis suggests little change for table T7 when using the new entry qualification groups rather than the existing ones and little gain in linking back to 2006/07 to search for entry qualification information when it's unknown in 2011/12.

Entry qualification groups for E1

13. The entry qualification groups used in table E1 are currently as follows:

| | Old entry qualification groups | Proposed new entry qualification groups |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | A levels and equivalents with unknown / not applicable tariff pts (PTSNK) | 17 – LEV3 |
| 2 | A levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers with up to 160 tariff points or Baccalaureate (TAR100, TAR160, APTS4, APTS6, APTS8, BACC) | Tariff points up to 160 (14 - >100, 15 - >0) |
| 3 | A levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers with over 160 and up to 200 tariff points | Tariff points up to 200 |

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| | (TAR200, APTS10, APTS12) | (13 - >160) |
| 4 | A levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers with over 200 and up to 230 tariff points (TAR230, APTS14, APTS16, APTS18) | Tariff points up to 230 (12 - >200) |
| 5 | A levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers with over 230 and up to 290 tariff points (TAR260, TAR290, APTS20, APTS22, APTS24) | Tariff points up to 260 and grades CCC and above (11 - >230, 08 – BCC/CCC (240pts+)) |
| 6 | A levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers with over 290 tariff points (TAR320, TAR350, TAR380, TAR420, TAR480, TAR480+, APTS26, APTS28, APTS30) | Tariff points up to 320 and grades BBB and above & International Baccalaureate (09 - >290, 10 - >260, 06 – ABC/BBB (300pts+), 07 – ACC/BCC (280pts+)) |
| 7 | | Tariff points over 320 and grades ABB and above & International Baccalaureate (05 – ABB (320pts+), 04 – AAC (320pts+), 03 – AAB (340pts+), 02 – AAA (360pts+), 01 – AAAA (480pts+), 19 - BACC) |
| 8 | Foundation or Access course (ACCFND) | Access (21 - ACCESS) |
| 9 | VCEs, VCEs and A levels or Highers, ONC or OND (including BTEC & SQA equivalents) (VCE, VCE_ASC, BTEC/ONC) | Vocational or BTEC (18 - GNQ/NVQ, , 22 – BTEC/ONC) |
| 10 | Higher education qualification (HE) | HE (23 - HEPG, 24 - HEFD, 25 - HEOUG, 20 - FOUND) |
| 11 | Other, including none and unknown (NONE, OTHERS, UNKNOWN) | Other, including unknown (26 - NONE, 27 - OTHERS, 28 - UNKNOWN) |

14. Numbers of students in the old and new groupings based on table T7 2011/12 data.

| | Category | Old entry qualification groups | Proposed new entry qualification groups |
|---|----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Points unknown | 162635 | 160580 |
| 2 | Up to 160 pts | 73620 | 60610 |
| 3 | Up to 200 pts | 45870 | 45395 |
| 4 | Up to 230 pts | 40205 | 39930 |
| 5 | Up to 260 pts | 136515 | 125220 |

| | | | |
|----|---------------|--------|--------|
| 6 | Up to 320 pts | 515520 | 231515 |
| 7 | Over 320 pts | / | 314800 |
| 8 | Access | 62110 | 50160 |
| 9 | BTEC | 110860 | 107505 |
| 10 | HE | 196240 | 207900 |
| 11 | Other/Unknown | 104340 | 104295 |

Annex

Old entry qualification groups for T7, 2011/12

| | | Not in receipt of DSA | In receipt of DSA | Total | % DSA |
|---------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|--------|-------|
| TAR480+ | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 481 to 999 tariff points | 98345 | 3275 | 101620 | 3.2% |
| TAR480 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 421 to 480 tariff points | 89445 | 3700 | 93145 | 4.0% |
| TAR420 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 381 to 420 tariff points | 86585 | 4200 | 90790 | 4.6% |
| TAR380 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 351 to 380 tariff points | 72775 | 3685 | 76460 | 4.8% |
| TAR350 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 321 to 350 tariff points | 65350 | 3375 | 68720 | 4.9% |
| TAR320 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 291 to 320 tariff points | 80395 | 4390 | 84785 | 5.2% |
| TAR290 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 261 to 290 tariff points | 58125 | 3210 | 61340 | 5.2% |
| TAR260 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 231 to 260 tariff points | 71040 | 4135 | 75175 | 5.5% |
| TAR230 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 201 to 230 tariff points | 37905 | 2300 | 40205 | 5.7% |
| TAR200 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 161 to 200 tariff points | 43150 | 2725 | 45870 | 5.9% |
| TAR160 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 101 to 160 tariff points | 34365 | 2385 | 36750 | 6.5% |
| TAR100 | A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers (and no VCE or GNVQ) with 001 to 100 tariff | 24525 | 1815 | 26340 | 6.9% |

| | | | | | |
|----------|--|--------|-------|--------|-------|
| | points | | | | |
| PTSNK | A-levels and equivalent with unknown / not applicable tariff score | 153530 | 9105 | 162635 | 5.6% |
| BACC | Baccalaureate | 10130 | 395 | 10525 | 3.8% |
| BTEC/ONC | ONC or OND (including BTEC & SQA equivalents) | 74490 | 6500 | 80990 | 8.0% |
| VCE_ASC | Combination of VCEs and A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers | 23070 | 1435 | 24505 | 5.9% |
| VCE | VCEs and no A-levels / AS levels / Scottish Highers | 4955 | 405 | 5360 | 7.6% |
| ACCFND | Foundation or Access course | 55455 | 6655 | 62110 | 10.7% |
| HE | Higher education qualification (excluding foundation) | 185975 | 10265 | 196240 | 5.2% |
| NONE | No previous qualification | 18345 | 1250 | 19595 | 6.4% |
| OTHERS | Other qualifications not given elsewhere | 67345 | 3675 | 71020 | 5.2% |
| UNKNOWN | Unknown qualification | 12985 | 740 | 13725 | 5.4% |

New entry qualification groups for T7, 2011/12

| | | Not in receipt of DSA | In receipt of DSA | Total | % DSA |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|
| 01 - AAAA | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades AAAA or Scottish Highers grades AAAAAA | 43600 | 1380 | 44975 | 3.1% |
| 02 - AAA | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least AAA or Scottish Highers grades at least AAAAA | 88435 | 3775 | 92210 | 4.1% |
| 03 - AAB | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least AAB or Scottish Highers grades at least AAAAB or AAAAC or AAABB | 81030 | 3680 | 84715 | 4.3% |
| 04 - AAC | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least AAC | 10865 | 665 | 11530 | 5.8% |
| 05 - ABB | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least ABB or Scottish Highers grades at least AAABC or AAACC or AABBB or AABBC | 67725 | 3195 | 70915 | 4.5% |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--------|------|--------|-------|
| 06 - ABC/BBB | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least ABC or BBB or Scottish Highers grades at least AABCC or ABBBC or ABBBCC or ABBBB or BBBBB | 76380 | 3730 | 80110 | 4.7% |
| 07 - ACC/BBC | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least ACC or BBC or Scottish Highers grades at least AACCC or ABCCC or BBBBC or BBCC | 62280 | 2980 | 65260 | 4.6% |
| 08 - BCC/CCC | A-levels / Advanced Highers / VCE grades at least BCC or CCC or Scottish Highers grades at least ACCCC or BBCCC or BCCCC or CCCCC | 64845 | 3205 | 68050 | 4.7% |
| 09 - >290 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 290 | 48410 | 2810 | 51220 | 5.5% |
| 10 - >260 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 260 | 33030 | 1895 | 34925 | 5.4% |
| 11 - >230 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 230 | 54000 | 3165 | 57170 | 5.5% |
| 12 - >200 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 200 | 37640 | 2285 | 39930 | 5.7% |
| 13 - >160 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 160 | 42685 | 2710 | 45395 | 6.0% |
| 14 - >100 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 100 | 33240 | 2290 | 35530 | 6.4% |
| 15 - >0 | Level 3 tariffable qualifications with tariff points > 0 | 23340 | 1745 | 25085 | 7.0% |
| 17 - LEV3 | Level 3 qualifications with unknown or not applicable points | 151570 | 9010 | 160580 | 5.6% |
| 18 - GNVQ/NVQ | GNVQ / NVQ (only applicable for entrants prior to 2010/11) | 4270 | 360 | 4630 | 7.8% |
| 19 - BACC | International Baccalaureate Diplomas (also includes IB Certificates for 2010/11 entrants onwards) | 10060 | 395 | 10455 | 3.8% |
| 20 - FOUND | Foundation course (includes only HE level courses from 2010/11 entrants onwards) | 10320 | 1625 | 11945 | 13.6% |
| 21 - ACCESS | Access course | 45135 | 5030 | 50160 | 10.0% |
| 22 - BTEC/ONC | BTEC (includes ONC, OND & SQA equivalents for entrants prior to 2010/11) | 95100 | 7780 | 102875 | 7.6% |

| | | | | | |
|--------------|---|--------|------|--------|------|
| 23 - HEPG | Higher education qualification - Postgraduate | 18630 | 575 | 19205 | 3.0% |
| 24 - HEFD | Higher education qualification - First Degree | 50220 | 2465 | 52685 | 4.7% |
| 25 - HEOUG | Higher education qualification - Other Undergraduate (excluding foundation) | 116850 | 7215 | 124070 | 5.8% |
| 26 - NONE | No previous qualification | 18335 | 1245 | 19580 | 6.4% |
| 27 - OTHERS | Other qualifications not given elsewhere | 67275 | 3675 | 70945 | 5.2% |
| 28 - UNKNOWN | Unknown qualification | 13025 | 740 | 13765 | 5.4% |

Further information

13. For further information contact Suzie Dent (Phone: 01242 211109; e-mail: suzie.dent@hesa.ac.uk).