

Useful links and information about the Office for Students (OfS) data checking tool: OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T)

1. The data checking tool is a secure online tool that the OfS provides to help higher education providers in England to return accurate data to the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).
2. The OfS data checking tools publication (available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/2018-19-data-checking-tools/) notified providers about the data checking tool outputs and the release schedule.
3. For an overview of the data checking tool, including information on how it is accessed, please see: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-checking-tools/2018-19-hesa-student-data-checking-tool/.

OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) data summary output

4. The 2018-19 OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) data summary output is one of the outputs generated by the data checking tool. The output derives the OfS-fundable student FTEs from the 2018-19 HESA Student data, that will be used to populate the 2018-19 TRAC(T) return template.
5. The 2018-19 OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) data summary output can be accessed from the Information Reporting Interface Service (IRIS) report which is available on HESA's data collection site.
6. There are three files created for the 2018-19 OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) data summary output (where 100XXXXX denotes the UK Provider Reference Number (UKPRN)):
 - a. 'TRACT18_DCT_100XXXXX.xlsx' workbook – this file shows a summary of the FTEs by cost centre and price group, in the format of HESES18A.
 - b. 'TRACT18_DCT_100XXXXX_MOD.csv' modularised file – this file displays all student instances and the modules that are undertaken separately.
 - c. 'TRACT18_DCT_100XXXXX_IND.csv' individualised file – this file displays all student instances.
7. Documentation on how the above three files have been built can be found by clicking the '2018-19 OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) technical document and rebuild instructions' link under the 'Documentation' section of the data checking tool overview page (www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/data-checking-tools/2018-19-hesa-student-data-checking-tool/).

Comparison with 2017-18 FTEs

8. The 2017-18 FTEs are provided alongside the derived 2018-19 FTEs for comparison purposes. These FTEs may be different to those shown in the 2017-18 TRAC(T) return due to an error.

9. In last year's return, students on pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health courses were assigned to either price group B or C1 within cost centre 103, depending on the profession. Students were only assigned to these price groups if they were in the HESES17 Table 7 population, otherwise they were assigned to price group C2. This was incorrect.
10. Students should have been assigned to a price group dependent on their pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession alone, regardless of whether they were in the HESES17 Table 7 population or not. We have therefore removed this clause from the algorithm which determines the price group of students in cost centre 103.
11. In order to provide a consistent comparison, the 2017-18 FTEs have been derived with the updated algorithm. These numbers will therefore differ from those presented in your 2017-18 OfS-fundable student FTEs for TRAC(T) data summary output, and 2017-18 TRAC(T) return.