

HEI Courses Service

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required on an annual basis to provide their course, fee and HEI-related information to SLC. This information is stored in a central repository known as the HEI Courses Service. Accuracy within the Courses Service is critical as a variety of sources use the information for the purposes of student funding. To insure accuracy the Courses Service, HEIs are requested to update their information annually and make any required on-going changes as and when necessary.

All courses that appear in the Courses Service must be “designated” courses as these are the only kind that can attract public funding.

Designated Courses – Policy Regulations

Designated Courses

The Education Student Support Regulations 2011 state that a course is a designated course for the purposes of the Teaching & Higher Education Act 1998 if it is one of the following-

- (i) (Subject to provisions in paragraph 3 of the Student Support Regulations 2011), a full-time course;
- (ii) a sandwich course; or
- (iii) a course for the initial training of teachers which—
 - (a) begins before 1st September 2010; or
 - (b) begins on or after 1st September 2010 where the student transfers to the current course pursuant to regulation 7 from a course for the initial training of teachers which began before 1st September 2010

And of at least -

- (i) one academic year's duration; or
- (ii) six weeks' duration in the case of a flexible postgraduate course for the initial training of teachers;
- (iii) wholly provided by a publicly funded educational institution or institutions in the United Kingdom or provided by such an institution or institutions in conjunction with an institution or institutions outside the United Kingdom

The Regulations explain that a course is not a designated course under the following circumstances;

- (4) A course is not a designated course where the governing body of a maintained school or Academy has arranged for the provision of such a course to a pupil of the school or Academy.
- (5) A course that is taken as part of an employment-based teacher training scheme is not a designated course.
- (6) A first degree course is not a designated course where—
 - (a) it leads to the award of a professional qualification;
 - (b) a first degree (or equivalent qualification) would normally be required for entry to a course leading to the award of that professional qualification; and
 - (c) the current course begins on or after 1st September 2009.

Other key points from the Education Student Support Regulations –

- (a) a course is provided by an institution if it provides the teaching and supervision which comprise the course, whether or not the institution has entered into an agreement with the student to provide the course;
- (b) a university and any constituent college or institution in the nature of a college of a university is to be regarded as publicly funded if either the university or the constituent college or institution is publicly funded; and
- (c) an institution is not to be regarded as publicly funded by reason only that it receives public funds from the governing body of a higher education institution in accordance with section 65(3A) of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(2).

[Further information on Designated Courses can be found in Part 2 of The Education Student Support Regulations 2011.](#)