



TRANSFORMING SLC COURSES MANAGEMENT SERVICE

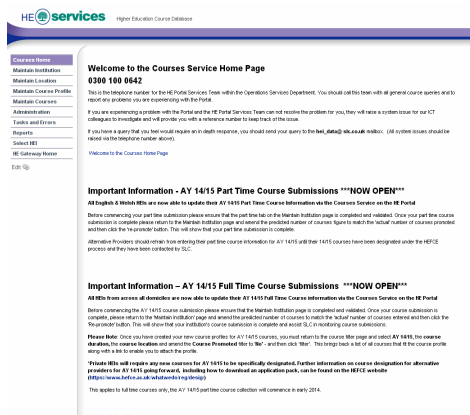
Student
Loans Company

SLC IS TRANSFORMING

SLCs Transformation Programme will drive technological, business process and cultural change, putting customer and user needs at the heart of our service. The way in which we deliver our services – through both processes and systems, will change. All of this is being done with the full collaboration of key business areas and stakeholders. This Bulletin will focus primarily on our **‘Courses Management Service’** Project

WHAT IS THE COURSES MANAGEMENT SERVICE?

The **‘Courses Management Service’** Project will build and maintain a new courses repository to replace the existing system, available on the HEI Services Portal for the **2015/16 Academic Year**



KEY DESIGN PRINCIPLES

- There must be a single point of entry for provider and course information
- Students should be able to easily find their course of study when they apply
- A student is not made eligible for support unless the course they are on or plan to attend is designated.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

The service will create a single directory of HE providers and collate course information that will be utilised by SLCs student finance application systems to enable accurate assessments and timely payments.

The intention is to deliver a single, central, flexible and controlled service that supports:

- A single repository of provider and HE course data
- Timely and accurate provision of course information
- Strengthened designation, security & anti-fraud measures
- Flexibility to build other supporting provider services and implement future policy change

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WHAT CHANGES WILL THE COURSES MANAGEMENT SERVICE BRING?

Enhanced course data that can help determine students eligibility and entitlement including:

- NHS funded courses indicators
- Medical / Dental course indicators
- Placement year courses
- Further validation for users on courses over 31 weeks
- Subject classification information (JACS)

Ability to phase out courses by academic year

Extended course name field

New model for multiple intakes and locations (including franchise arrangements)

Ability to enter zero fees

Domicile level fees and designation

STARTING AFRESH FOR 2015/2016

For the **2015/16 Academic Year** to ensure the benefits of the new functionality offered by the Courses Management Service are successful, we will not be migrating any information into the new system.

In previous years, existing course details have been 'rolled over' to the next academic year allowing providers to submit only term dates and fees. **For the 2015/16 Academic Year all information will be required.**

This offers the opportunity to fully audit your course data and maximise the use of the new functionality offered. Ensuring **clear and accurate data** is used for student finance assessments.

We appreciate that this will signify a greater level of administration involved from HE providers entering their course information and we ask you to **prepare accordingly**.

At this stage the feasibility of an import function is still being explored to assist this process. However we believe the design of the new system and the available online functionality irrespective will minimise the impact of this effort for the first year.

JARGON BUSTER—WHAT IS A JACS CODE?

The Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) is maintained by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) and is used for subject coding of provision across higher education in the UK.

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WHAT ENGAGEMENT WILL THERE BE WITH HE PROVIDERS?

Earlier this year SLC set up the **Courses Service User Group** made up of peers from the sector who are representational of different provider types and from each domicile.



The Group aim currently is to provide validation and feedback on the expected changes to the Courses Management Service.

Feedback and pain points collated by the HEI Services team at HE seminars and forums has already been fed into the project. However wider feedback is still welcomed and you can provide this to hei_services@slc.co.uk

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



The **NEW** Courses Management Service for Full Time course information is scheduled to launch for HE Providers in October 2014

The **NEW** Courses Management Service for Part Time course information will follow in February

WANT MORE INFORMATION



We will continue to update you with the progress and key milestones for the '**Courses Management Service**' project in the coming weeks.

If you have any further questions following this bulletin please contact the HEI Services team at hei_services@slc.co.uk or your SLC Relationship Manager

**Working with HE Providers
behind the scenes to optimise
the student experience**