



**The Higher Education Classification of Subjects
(HECoS)**

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Overview

- HECoS is the subject coding system that will replace JACS
- The case for a replacement and the plans for HECoS were overseen by HEDIIP (and its advisory group) and now reside with HESA, guided by its advisory body – the Data Landscape Steering Group (DLSG)
- The DLSG consists of both providers and collectors
- The new coding framework has been approved and will be implemented for the 2019 Cycle (students starting study in Autumn 2019)
- There is no transitional (parallel running) period
- The HECoS guidelines (rules) are in the final stages of review by the DLSG

Differences

Category	JACS	HECoS
Structure	Hierarchy	Flat
Coding motivation	Varied	Objective academic assessment
Codes	Ann e.g. L100 - economics	nnnnnn – e.g. 100450 - economics
Mapping	There is no 1-2-1 mapping. There are a different number of HECoS codes than JACS codes and the HECoS terms have been defined independently	
Growth	Constrained due to structure	extensible
Ownership	Unclear	Sector managed via HESA
Evolution	Unclear	Sector managed via HESA

For UCAS

- Continued communications to Providers about these changes
- We will replace JACS collection with HECoS in Collections services
- The implementation will be based on the HECoS guidelines
- Where we are using JACS internally we are deciding how to replace it
- All these changes will be included in our new systems for the 2019 cycle
- Our A&R team will decide how to use the HECoS Common Aggregation Hierarchy (CAH), designed to provide a common approach to longitudinal data analysis amongst data collectors

For Providers

- Raise awareness of this change within your institutions
- Plan to reclassify your courses using the HECoS framework
- For UCAS, provide the HECoS codes for courses for the 2019 cycle onwards
- Understand where else JACS is being used and assess options for its replacement

Resources

- UCAS are setting up a Webinar with HESA to discuss HECoS coding best practice with Providers
- Extensive material on the HESA website including background and guidance on transitioning

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/innovation/hecos>

- UCAS Data Collections team are able to help with general questions
- Direct support is available from hecos@hesa.as.uk