Redevelopment of UCAS core search and apply services (postgraduate)

DG/A2/001

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For discussion

The redevelopment of UCAS core search and apply services (postgraduate)

1.   Issue

The paper summarises the state of play with regard to the redevelopment of the new postgraduate admissions service. This session at the meeting will be run as a workshop to capture feedback.

2.   Recommendations

The Data Group is invited to note this paper and to come to the meeting prepared to discuss data requirements and quality expectations.

3.   Report

At the February Data Group meeting Chris Wallace gave a presentation about UCAS' strategy for redeveloping its core IT applications, and outlined the work underway to develop new postgraduate collect, search and apply services. A commitment was made to engage the Data Group in the work, given that the new applications will also form the foundations for the new undergraduate (and other) admissions services.

To date the Group's Chair, Wendy Webster has been involved in discussions as the Chair of the Postgraduate Advisory Group, and the Change Steering Group which brings together the Chairs of UCAS' main Advisory Groups. The meeting of the Data Group provides the opportunity for all members to contribute to and shape future service development – across collect, search and apply. Wendy will lead this discussion.

Accompanying this paper is a slide deck which developed by UCAS Strategic Product Management Team which offers an initial view on the data items which need to be collected from students making a postgraduate application.

In addition, it is important that the development of postgraduate apply takes account of:

- The relevant recommendations from the outcome of the International Admissions Review. The Data Group received a summary of these at its October meeting. These include: 7 (upload of digital documents), 8 (improve data collection for the purposes of fee status), 9 (improve data collection around visa status), 10 (review the capture of qualifications data), and 13 (development an enhanced international UCAS registered centre offer which supports overseas recruitment from schools and agents). Further information is at: https://www.ucas.com/sites/default/files/iar-findings-recommendations.pdf
- HEPs requirements for data and information to facilitate visa processing.
- HEP's data requirements for statutory reporting.
- HEP's data requirements to enable to effective monitoring and evaluation of widening participation at the postgraduate level, including contextual data which may be supplied outside of the apply service.
- Any new requirements to enable data sharing the Student Loans Company as a result of the introduction of public loans for some postgraduate taught courses.
- Changes arising as a result of the HEDIIP programme e.g. the new subject coding framework and potentially new data definitions.