

T R I B A L



KEY INFORMATION SETS (KIS)

Overview

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of standardised information about undergraduate courses. They are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students and will be published ‘in context’ on the websites of universities and colleges.

As part of HEFCE’s wider work with partner organisations in response to the increasing importance of standardised information about higher education, universities and colleges will be expected to publish these information sets on their websites from September 2012.

The KIS contains areas of information that students have identified as useful:

- Accommodation costs
- Course information
- Financial information (e.g. fees)
- Professional accreditation information
- Student satisfaction
- Employment and salary data
- Students’ Union information.

The Challenge

Universities and colleges need the ability to create KIS course data for all of the undergraduate courses which they advertise. In some cases courses need to be grouped to use a single KIS data set (e.g. where there are multiple start dates, campuses, etc.) These datasets have to be collated from information already held in the student information system plus data held elsewhere and in some cases data which has not been previously held at all. The collated data then has to be validated against an XML schema before upload to the HEFCE (and later, HESA) website.

There additional data from the National Student Survey (NSS), Destination of Leavers in Higher Education (DLHE) and National Union of Students (NUS) will be collated to create the ‘full KIS’. The KIS will then be displayed on institutional and other marketing websites as ‘widgets’ which may be expanded to view the full KIS data. KIS data will inform applicant choice directly and will also be available for use in comparison websites.

“I am committed to improving the information available to prospective students and their parents... it is in everyone’s interest that students make well-informed decisions about what and where to study...we need to do better on careers advice and information”

David Willets, September 2010



KEY INFORMATION SETS (KIS)

The Solution

Tribal's new software component will help you meet every requirement of the KIS. Professional Services support for implementation and submission of data will also be available to make this statutory requirement easy to implement.

Features of the new component:

- Determining KIS course requirements
- Generating the return data set
- Populating the return data set
- Default locations and institutional variants
- Facility to roll KIS data from one year to the next
- XML generation and validation against schema
- Ability to view institutional course data prior to upload
- Uploading and amendment facilities
- Process to download complete KIS data sets for review and analysis
- Ability to display KIS widgets on relevant web pages (typically admissions pages).

Benefits

- Provides the flexibility that institutions need
- Allows use of existing data where available
- Allows analysis of the institutional KIS data and manual overrides where necessary
- Embeds the KIS into mainstream processes
- Future-proofed solution.

For more information, please contact:

T: 01482 647220

E: marketing@tribalgroup.com

www.tribalgroup.com

“The relationship between the student and the institution will be at the heart of the system....There will be improvements in the information and guidance given to students when they are choosing courses”

Browne Review, October 2010