1. Why was the KIS developed?

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) forms part of HEFCE’s work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. It will give prospective students access to robust, reliable and comparable information in order to help them make informed decisions about what and where to study.

It will contain information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

2. Where can KIS data be accessed?

From September 2012 all KIS information will be published on the Unistats website and will also be accessible via a small advert, or ‘widget’, on the course web pages of universities and colleges.

Prospective students will be able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses on the Unistats website.

3. What NSS data will be included in the KIS?

Results from the following National Student Survey (NSS) questions will be available:

- Staff are good at explaining things
- Staff have made the subject interesting
- Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of my course
- I have received sufficient advice and support with my studies
- Feedback on my work has been prompt
- Feedback on my work has helped me clarify things I did not understand
- The library resources are good enough for my needs
- I have been able to access general IT resources when I needed to
- Overall, I am satisfied the Students’ Union (Association or Guild) at my institution

4. What are the publication thresholds?

Publication thresholds and aggregation of data

Where NSS and Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) data for a particular course fail to meet the publication thresholds, data will be aggregated in the following order until data that meet the thresholds are achieved:

- course level, most recent two years
- Joint Academic Coding System (JACS) subject level 3, most recent year
- JACS subject level 3, most recent two years
- JACS subject level 2, most recent year
- JACS subject level 2, most recent two years
- JACS subject level 1, most recent year
- JACS subject level 1, most recent two years.

The same publication thresholds are also applied to data shown on the widget. Publication thresholds will apply to the NSS, the DLHE survey, and student data sourced from the HESA student record and The Data Service’s Individualised Learner Record (ILR). Where the data for a widget item do not meet these thresholds, even at JACS subject level 1 for the most recent two years, the items will not feature on the widget.

5. What NSS data will be contained in the KIS widget?

To allow prospective students to discover the KIS in context, universities and colleges will embed a small advert or ‘widget’ into their course web pages. This will highlight key information about that course and provide a direct link to the full list of key information on the Unistats website.

This is a graphic illustrating the widget but please note that the look and precise phrasing used on this example might change.
The widget will contain up to ten areas of information on a 'rolling' basis. This will cover:

Items from NSS

- Are staff good at explaining things?
- Have staff made the subject more interesting?
- Overall satisfaction
- Satisfaction with the support and guidance

Other items

- Percentage at work or study after six months
- Professional accreditation
- Percentage in professional and managerial roles after six months
- Accommodation costs
- Percentage of scheduled learning and teaching activities
- Percentage of coursework

If you have any questions regarding KIS data please contact: kis@hefce.ac.uk