



Longitudinal Education Outcomes Dataset Research Priorities

Background

The Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) Standard Extract provides unparalleled insights into the English public. It combines the education, earnings and benefits data records of the whole population from 1985 onward to enable rich longitudinal analysis of the outcome of citizens' education & interaction with the care system. We can investigate the impact that these outcomes have had on citizens' lives in relation to their later earnings, taxation, and receipt of benefits.

The capacity to analyse these longer-term labour market outcomes together, at person level, enables developments in the assessment of education policy and provision with much greater visibility and accuracy than ever before.

The vast range of highly valuable insights which can be drawn from this enormous dataset remains largely untapped and this is an exciting opportunity to facilitate more urgently needed research outcomes.

About the dataset

The LEO Standard extract is continuously being updated and improved with new variables and other developments, with the second iteration of the LEO via ONS SRS service being made available to users imminently. This includes the addition of industry data (telling us what industry a data subject works in), UCAS data and COVID-19 furlough data amongst other valuable updates. The current version available for this funding opportunity combines:

- A wide, rich range of data from the National Pupil Database, including School Census, Children in Need and Looked After Children data
- Higher Education Statistics Agency data on students at UK publicly funded higher education institutions and some alternative providers
- Individualised learner record data on students at further education institutions, including apprenticeships
- Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) employment data and data from the self-assessment tax return, both held by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs
- The National Benefit Database, Labour Market System and Juvos data, held by the Department for Work and Pensions.



- IDBR (imminent)
- COVID-19 furlough data (imminent)
- UCAS (imminent).

Example research questions

The [Department for Education's areas of research interest](#) highlight a number of questions which LEO data is well designed to address. These include:

- What are the drivers of UK students' decisions about pathways into and out of higher education (HE)?
- How can the skills system best support disadvantaged students and other under-represented groups to achieve good labour market outcomes, e.g. sustainable, well-paid employment?
- What are the benefits of HE and further education (FE) on a range of individual outcomes, including long-term employment?
- What are the wider societal benefits of HE and FE study and provision (including the local and national benefits generated by HE/FE providers)?
- For both individual and wider benefits of HE/FE:
 - Are these benefits shared equally or do some groups benefit more than others?
 - Do these benefits vary by the type of HE or FE study, e.g. full degree or short courses, institution (university or FE college), or mode of study?

This is not an exhaustive list and other questions are also welcomed providing you can demonstrate policy-relevance and likelihood of impact and uptake.