



Future U Data Collection

Privacy Notice

2025

What is Future U and why am I attending this event?

Future U is a programme funded by a government body called the Office for Students (OfS), which regulates universities. The OfS has lots of functions, one of which is promoting widening participation in higher education (HE). The Future U project is run through a partnership between many different universities and colleges. All the Future U partners work together as part of the project and are all jointly responsible for the Future U activities. For more details and to see which universities and colleges make up Future U, please visit the Future U website: lancashirefutureu.org.uk.

The aim of Future U is to give you information and guidance about different education opportunities to help you make decisions about your future. As part of this project, we work with school and college students to make sure you have fair and impartial information about options in higher education.

The Future U team is working with your school/college to highlight the different options in HE that you might be interested in. We want to encourage people from different backgrounds to consider HE and increase the diversity in HE.

What information does Future U collect about me?

We collect information from the students we work with and this information helps us assess whether the Future U activities we fund and deliver in schools and colleges make a positive difference to the education and career choices that you make. We use the information we collect to help us track the long-term outcomes of our activities (e.g. after taking part in a Future U activity, do more young people go to university?). We also collect some limited information from your school about students who do not take part in Future U activities. We use all of this information to help us to evaluate the project. By evaluating the project in these ways, it helps us assess whether the activities we are offering are effective and whether government funding is being spent in the best way.

We also need to collect information about you so we can let the OfS know how many students from target wards have taken part in our activities, and so that we can share it with organisations who evaluate these types of activities across the whole country to see if the activities delivered by lots of different universities are providing positive outcomes for young people.

If you attend a Future U event, your school or college will give us some information about you. For some events we run, we may collect this information directly from you instead of being given it by your school or college. Where we run joint events with other Uni Connect partnerships in the North West that you attend, those partnerships will give us information about you if you live in the wider Lancashire area that is covered by Future U. The information we collect is added to a database called HEAT, which is managed by the University of Kent. We will collect and add the following information about you to HEAT:

- Name
- Date of Birth

- Postcode
- Details of the activity you participated in
- School/College name
- Gender
- Ethnicity
- Year Group

We may also collect the following data directly from your school/college, from the forms you fill in or from other Uni Connect partnerships with whom we run joint events, and add it to HEAT:

- Whether or not you have a disability
- Whether you are a young carer
- Whether you have any experience of care
- If you are from a military family
- Whether you are an asylum seeker or refugee
- Whether you are eligible for pupil premium funding

We add your information to HEAT so that those who manage the HEAT database can combine it with information from other projects similar to Future U that use HEAT, and information from other organisations like government departments, to see the choices you make about your future education and career after you have attended Future U activities and events. The HEAT team then uses the combined information for research purposes to see how widening participation activities improve outcomes for young people.

The HEAT team also provides us with reports from the HEAT database once a year which contain information about you. This information allows us to see whether individual activities or events you have attended influence your exam results, education pathways and career choices. Using this evidence means we can make sure we focus funding on activities that are the most effective and benefit young people the most. The information we add to HEAT is combined with the information outlined in the table below to provide us with these reports. If the table says that information is ‘anonymised’, it means we can’t tell who the data belongs to e.g. we get exam results for everyone who has taken part, but we don’t know which results belong to which student.

| Information | Details |
|-----------------------------|--|
| University enrolment | If you go on to study at university, we will be told which university you have gone to and in what year. This data is provided by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), which is now part of Jisc, to HEAT. HEAT makes this data available to Future U. Please see HESA’s student collection notice to see how HESA uses the data it holds about you, and specifically the section on linking your HESA data to other information. If you go on to study through an apprenticeship programme, we will be informed by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. |

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|--|---|
| Attainment | We receive anonymised information about your Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and KS5 (A-level, BTEC etc.) results. This information is provided to us as a report and we cannot see your name, only the activities you've done. This data is provided by the Department for Education to HEAT who then provide us with the anonymised report. |
| University applications | In the future we may analyse applications to higher education from people on the HEAT database, but this information will be anonymised . This data is provided by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) to HEAT. HEAT make this data available to Future U. |
| Interactions with other universities using HEAT | If you take part in an event or activity with a university that also uses the HEAT database and the university has recorded your information, we are able to see that you have taken part in an activity at that university. We cannot see what the activity is or when it took place. |
| Future careers | If you go to university and take part in a survey called the Graduate Outcomes when you leave, we will receive information about what your first job after university is. HESA provides this data to HEAT who make the data available to Future U. |

To find out more about how your information will be used once it has been added to HEAT, please see the [HEAT privacy notice](#).

To help us understand what difference the Future U programme is making, your school will also give us information about your attainment, such as grades and test scores. If you do not participate in an activity, your school will still give us information about your attainment so we can compare that with the attainment of those who attend our activity. Information about your attainment will not be added to HEAT but will be stored securely by the Future U team to help evaluate the Future U project.

Who is responsible for the way in which my information is used?

For data protection purposes, all the Future U partners are joint controllers of the personal data collected as part of the Future U project. This means that each partner is equally responsible for complying with data protection legislation and for ensuring your information is handled correctly. All the partners collect and use your information for a common purpose to achieve the same outcomes. You can contact any of the partners if you have any questions about the way your information is used; however the University of Lancashire (the University) is the lead partner and is the main contact for any queries about the Future U project, including about how your information is handled.

The University is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office and our registration number is Z5512420. You can contact the University's Data Protection Officer on

DPFOIA@lancashire.ac.uk. Further information and contact details can be found here:

lancashire.ac.uk/legal/data-protection.

You can contact the Future U team, based at the University, on **FutureUData@uclan.ac.uk**.

When we add your information to HEAT, we share it with the University of Kent (which runs HEAT). The University of Kent is a separate controller of the personal data we share with it within HEAT. This is because they decide how they use the personal data once we have shared it. They will use it for research purposes and to improve the equality of opportunity (relating to accessing higher education) for young people. Further information is available in the [HEAT privacy notice](#).

What is the lawful basis for processing personal data as part of the Future U project?

To process personal data, we must have a lawful basis from data protection legislation (the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)) which allows us to do so. For the purposes of the Future U project, we rely on the following lawful basis from the UK GDPR:

Article 6(1)(e), which allows us to process personal data where it is necessary to perform a task in the public interest. The OfS has tasked universities with increasing participation in higher education from underrepresented groups. The activities delivered as part of the Future U project are designed to meet this task. The evaluation of the project, including our use of HEAT, is a necessary activity to meet this task as it helps us to see if our activities are increasing participation in higher education and whether or not funding is being used in the most effective way.

Where we collect and use special category data such as information about your ethnicity or disability, we rely on the following additional lawful basis from the UK GDPR:

Article 9(2)(g) which allows us to process special category data if the processing is necessary in the substantial public interest and there is a basis to do so in law. The law which allows us to rely on this basis is **section 10 DPA** and:

- **Schedule 1(8) DPA**. This is because we collect, use and share this data for equality monitoring purposes to ensure we are delivering activities and providing opportunities to students who are underrepresented in higher education, and to input into research which ensures that all young people have an equal opportunity to access higher education.
- **Schedule 1(4) DPA**, which allows us to collect, use and share special category data for research purposes in the public interest. Those research purposes relate to improving equality of opportunity for underrepresented groups accessing higher education.

Will my information be shared with other people?

Your information will be used by all the Future U partners. If we run a joint event with another Uni Connect partnership and you live in the local area covered by that partnership, we will share your information with that partnership so they can upload it to HEAT and use it for similar purposes to those set out in this privacy notice. Your information will also be shared with the University of Kent for national evaluation and to produce the reports detailed in the table above (the University of Kent runs the database HEAT). The University of Kent then

shares this information with the Office for Students (OfS), the Department for Education (DfE), UCAS and HESA to obtain the data to produce the reports outlined in the above table.

We will share your information with the OfS and our national evaluation partners (currently CFE Research) so that the activities of Future U can be analysed and evaluated nationally to see how effective they are.

We will also share your information with UCAS so that we can use the UCAS STROBE service. We provide UCAS with information about you so that if you apply to higher education, UCAS can create reports to tell us where you applied, how many offers you received and how you responded to those offers. The information we receive back from UCAS is anonymised: we provide UCAS with information about groups of named individuals who have attended Future U events so that they can provide reports about where those individuals have applied, but the information provided back to us is not linked to specific individuals. This information helps us to evaluate how effective Future U events have been at increasing University applications made by the young people we work with.

Your information will not be shared with any third parties for marketing purposes.

How long will my information be kept?

If you have given us your first and last names, your postcode and your date of birth; and you have not told us to exclude your information from our 'widening participation' research, your information will be kept on the HEAT database for 15 years after whichever of the following is the most recent:

- the year in which you would usually enter higher education. This is calculated using your date of birth, or manually adjusted if you are an adult; or
- the date your record was created; or
- the date when you last attended a Future U or other UniConnect activity.

Following this, your information will be marked for deletion by HEAT and will be deleted by us.

If the information we hold about you on HEAT does not include your first and last name, your postcode and your date of birth, and/or you have told us to exclude your information from our 'widening participation' research, your information will be marked for deletion by HEAT and deleted by us seven years after the date your HEAT record was created.

Where we use information that is not stored within HEAT, such as information about your attainment, we will keep this for five years, after which it will be deleted.

Your data protection rights

Under data protection law, you have rights we need to make you aware of. The rights available to you depend on our reason for processing your information. Further information about each of these rights can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website here: ico.org.uk/for-the-public/. As all Future U partners are joint controllers for data protection purposes, you may exercise your rights by contacting any partner; however, you

are encouraged to send any requests to the University, as the lead partner, using the contact details above.

Your right of access

You have the right to ask us for copies of your personal information. This right always applies. There are some exemptions, which means you may not always receive all the information we process. To make a request, please contact the University as the lead Future U partner using the details on our website here: lancashire.ac.uk/legal/data-protection.

You have the right to ask us to rectify information you think is inaccurate. You also have the right to ask us to complete information you think is incomplete. This right always applies.

Your right to erasure

You have the right to ask us to erase your personal information in certain circumstances.

Your right to restriction of processing

You have the right to ask us to restrict the processing of your information in certain circumstances.

Your right to object to processing

You have the right to object to any processing we carry out, if we carry it out on the basis that it forms part of our public task or is in our legitimate interests. You also have the right to object to your personal information being used for direct marketing purposes.

If at any point you wish to object to your personal data being used by the Future U project, including your information being stored on HEAT, you can contact the University by emailing the Future U team on **FutureUData@uclan.ac.uk** or ringing **01772 894431**; if you would like to request Future U do not process your information, please fill out the following form on the Future U website: lancashirefutureu.org.uk/your-data.

Your right to data portability

This only applies to information you have given us. You have the right to ask that we transfer the information you gave us from one organisation to another, or give it to you. The right only applies if we are processing information because we have your consent or because it is necessary for a contract you have with us, and the processing is automated.

Your right to complain

We work to high standards when it comes to processing your personal information. If you have queries or concerns, please contact the Future U team at the University or the University's Data Protection Officer, and we will respond.

If you remain dissatisfied, you can make a complaint about the way Future U processes your personal information to the Information Commissioner's Office, which is the UK supervisory authority for data protection. Further information can be found on the data protection pages of the University website here: lancashire.ac.uk/legal/data-protection.

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