



STUDENT
SYSTEM
SOLUTIONS



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Fees Schedule & HESA Reporting Enhancement



BESPOKE SOLUTION



FINANCE - FEES, FUNDING & SAM



STU3 COLLABORATIVE PROJECT

▶ An online solution for staff to manage student fees and HESA reporting effectively

“ Colleagues from colleges, departments, the central fees team are very **pleased with the solution that has been delivered**. The project team has received feedback since go-live commending the work and the method of verifying fees. This has **reduced workload for colleagues** in what is, and will continue to be, a very challenging academic year. ”

Victoria Brown, Project Manager

Stu3 Case Study

www.stu3.co.uk

The Challenge

Fee charging is a devolved process at Oxford, with responsibility at college level and some departments to collect student fees. The University needed to demonstrate **greater accountability of its fee charging process**. The current HESA student return contains a relatively limited amount of fees information; fee charged for the full year, and the actual amount the student was charged (after waivers, bursaries etc were deducted). Even this limited information set has had to be manually collated and entered into the central student records database to be consolidated with other HESA data.

The University of Oxford was faced with the challenge to introduce a verification process to confirm the fee(s) charged to students. This process should be performed in the student records database, so that a central 'source of truth' for fees charged is established, avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort and potential for data quality issues.

This requirement, needed for statutory purposes, presented an opportunity to achieve **a significant step forwards** in transparency and visibility of fees data.



The Solution

SITS and e:Vision functionality was enhanced to deliver the changes required. Amendments were made to the Fee Schedule e:Vision screens to record 'Verify' date and 'Verified by' data in SITS (enabling the Student Fees team to have visibility that the College has reconciled the Fee Schedule 'Net Fee Liability' figure with their locally held College records). A subsequent phase of work took the development even further, **capturing the fee amount and extending the verification of fees** for a subset group of fees which are collected by specific departments.

The Benefits

The project delivered the benefit of ensuring statutory compliance, but also process efficiency and time savings for both central finance administration and college/departmental fees administration. A verified fee amount (a confirmation of the actual fee the student was charged) held and verified centrally ensures greater confidence in the quality of data and visibility that fee charging processes are performed accurately and fairly across the collegiate university.

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Victoria Brown

Working on the project

“The quality of consultancy from Stu3 was excellent on this project. The University has worked with Stu3 on many projects, this project in particular they demonstrated superior knowledge and honest advice on the most practical and realistic way forward.

Stu3’s development skills are excellent, having had the benefit of working across the sector with other HEIs they bring invaluable experience on how common challenges have been solved elsewhere.

Working remotely is the new normal, but even before March 2020 working with Stu3 remotely did not pose significant obstacles to achieve progress. We have found the Stu3 team to be dependable, honest, and hard working. “

Ongoing collaboration

“We are very pleased to be engaged with new projects with Stu3, in particular an integration project providing an effective flow of data between SITS and a digital assessment platform to support online (and remote) examinations. Their expertise on this project will be critical in the overall success of the implementation.”

Victoria Brown, Project Manager

Victoria Brown, Project Manager, University of Oxford, October 2020

Let's chat.

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