UCAS Undergraduate (UG) – activities in preparation for Higher Education (Sponsor Type) Reference Data - Link Products

Technical Briefing Document

Contents

Introduction

Many providers, as well as national, regional, and local schemes, offer activities to give students experience of university or college life. UK based applicants are asked if they've participated in the 'Activities in preparation for higher education' field of 'Additional information' in Apply

The activities in preparation for Higher Education reference data is available for providers in the UCAS link products. The unique identifier for this data is a single digit code, and we have ran out of space to accommodate additional reference information in a single digit code.

In xml-link and odbc-link the data sources detailed below are currently configured to accept a single character as the unique identifier hence it is limited to just 36 alphanumeric codes. The field length will be changed so that it can accept two characters codes to increase this limit.

xml-link:

Method	Field	Characters Accepted
getReferenceActivitySponsorType	code	1
getUCASApplicantActivity	sponsorType	1

odbc-link:

View	Field	Characters Accepted
cvRefPrepSponsor	SPONSOR	1
ivPrepActivities	SPONSOR	1

Solution Approach

Amend the methods / views in xml-link and odbc-link which has the sponsor code to accept two characters from one.

Technical Changes

xml-link
- The field **sponsorType** will be updated to accept two characters in the method **getUCASApplicantActivity.**
- The field **code** will be updated to accept two characters in the method **getReferenceActivitySponsorType**
- The xml-link manual will be updated to capture the changes.

odbc-link
- The field **SPONSOR** will be updated to accept two characters in the view **ivPrepActivities.**
- The field **SPONSOR** will be updated to accept two characters in the view **cvRefPrepSponsor.**

- The odbc-link manual will be updated to capture the changes.

System Changes

xml-link
- The field **sponsorType** in the method **getUCASApplicantActivity** is currently accepting single character codes with datatype **string**. The field will accept two-character codes and the datatype remains the same.
- The field **code** in the method **getReferenceActivitySponsorType** is currently accepting single character codes with datatype **string**. The field will accept two-character codes and the datatype remains the same.
- No changes to the field **description** in **getReferenceActivitySponsorType** and will continue to accept 40 characters.

odbc-link
- The field **SPONSOR** in the view **ivPrepActivities** is currently accepting single character codes with datatype **Char**. The field will accept two-character codes and the datatype to **Varchar2.**
- The field **SPONSOR** in the view **cvRefPrepSponsor** is currently accepting single character codes with datatype **Char**. The field will accept two-character codes and the datatype to **Varchar2.**
- No changes to the field **DESCRIPTION** in **cvRefPrepSponsor** and will continue to accept 40 characters.

web-link
- No changes to the weblink application, as the application already accepts 2-digit unique identifier for this reference data.
- The new reference data added will be available in **Reference Information -> Sponsor type**
- The data mapped to the applicant will be available in the tab **Education**, under the section **Activities in preparation for Higher Education.**

Deployment Timelines

HEP 1	HEP 2	Production
23-Apr-2021	16-Apr-2021	24-May-2021