UCAS Undergraduate (UG) - Enhancements to applicant release into clearing – Link Products

Technical Briefing Document

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Introduction

Functionality to allow UG applicants to release themselves into clearing by self-service was introduced for the 2019 clearing period. In 2020 we made enhancements to require the applicant to provide the reason for them doing so and a real time report was made available in the Weblink application.

For clearing 2021 we are enhancing the reporting with a separate view/method in odbclink/xml-link respectively similar to the report in web-link to allow higher education providers (HEPs) to identify the applicants that have used this functionality to give up their place with them. This view/method will capture the applicant's self-release decision and reason in real time and will not disappear when the clearing choice is substituted.

Solution Approach

In odbc-link and xml-link, a new view/method will be available to provide the details of the applicants releasing themselves into clearing from their place with the HEP.

Technical Implementation
- New Reporting method will be added to the xml-link webservice to report the self-released applicant details.
- New Reporting view will be added to the odbc-link database to report the self-released applicant details.
- The fields of the view/method will be similar to those currently available in web-link.
- Link Product manuals to be updated to reflect the new view/method details.

System Changes

xml-link

- A new xml-link method 'getUCASApplicantSelfReleasedReport' will be added in the webservice.
- This method will take the following input fields

FIELD_NAME	DATATYPE	SIZE/FORMAT
institutionCode	string	4
userId	string	10
password	string	20
personalId	string	10
applicationSchemeCode	string	4
lastUpdated	string	dd/mm/yyyy hh:mm:ss
rowStartPosition	int	9

- The output fields of the method will be

FIELD_NAME	DATATYPE	SIZE/FORMAT
personalId	string	10
forenames	string	50
surname	string	30
choiceNumber	int	2
applicationSchemeCode	string	4
courseCode	string	5
campusCode	string	2
facultyCode	string	20
reasonDescription	string	2000
year	string	4
lastUpdated	dateTime	yyyy-MM-dd HH:mm:ss.SSSZ

- The xml-link manual will be updated with the latest details.
- There are no changes with the existing reason code information shared in **furtherDetails** field in **getUCASApplicantChoices** method along with **Reply** field change to '**D**'.

odbc-link

- A new odbc-link view 'ivAppSelfReleasedReport' will be added in the database.

- This view will output the details in the fields

FIELD_NAME	DATATYPE	SIZE/FORMAT
PERSONAL_ID	VARCHAR2	10
FORENAMES	VARCHAR2	50
SURNAME	VARCHAR2	30
CHOICE_NUMBER	NUMBER	2
APPLICATION_SCHEME_CODE	VARCHAR2	4
COURSE_CODE	VARCHAR2	5
CAMPUS_CODE	VARCHAR2	2
FACULTY_CODE	VARCHAR2	20
REASON_DESCRIPTION	VARCHAR2	2000
YEAR	VARCHAR2	4
TIMESTAMP	TIMESTAMP	dd-mon-yyyy HH:mm:ss

- The ODBC manual will be updated with the latest details.
- There will no change with the existing reason code information in **DETAIL** Column in **IVSTARC** for ROUTE A and EXTRA choice along with **Reply** field change to '**D**'.
- There are no changes with the **Reply** field change to "**D**" in **IVSTARZ1** for the applicant who self-released their clearing choice.

web-link

- No changes will be required as the self-release into clearing report is already available.

Deployment Timelines

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