

Autumn Series – the addition of an autumn sitting to the link products

Technical Briefing Document

Introduction

In the summer of 2020, due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak no exams took place. To enable students to receive qualifications, the Government announced that students who were due to sit A level, AS level or GCSE exams this summer would receive a calculated grade. In England, in situations where Students did not feel their final grade reflected their ability, or who were not able to receive a grade in the summer, there was an opportunity to sit an exam in the autumn term; AS and A level exams took place in October and GCSE exams scheduled for November.

Students will receive their A and AS results on Thursday 17 December 2020 and UCAS intends on processing these validated results for 2021 cycle applicants via ABL and making them available to providers as a previous sitting in February 2021 (exact date TBC).

Please note, UCAS will not be processing these results for 2020 cycle applicants. Students who are holding delayed confirmation decisions in the 2020 cycle (either for a 2020 or 2021 start) will be advised to contact their choices directly with their results.

Solution Approach

In order to process the results as 'previous autumn results' it is necessary to add a new sitting for Autumn to the link products and to roll over the subject data for all examination types associated with the following 5 JCQ boards:

AQA
OCR
PEARSON
WJEC
EDUQAS

Technical Implementation

No new subject codes will be added, but we will be adding a new sitting and associating all of the summer subject codes to this sitting.

For jdbc-link this means:

Adding a new sitting for Autumn in cvRefAwardBody: Autumn = A
and associating all summer subject codes for the impacted awarding bodies in cvEBLSubject

For xml-link this means:

Adding a new sitting for Autumn in getReferenceAwardingBodies: Autumn = A
and associating all summer subject codes for the impacted awarding bodies in getReferenceABLSubjects

Deployment Timelines

HEP 1	HEP 2	Production
Friday 20 th November 2020	Friday 13 th November 2020	February 2021 – Exact date TBC

Test data will be available on request following deployment. More information around requesting test data can be found [here](#).