



# student survey.ie

## Good practice in the usage of ACUnits

### What are ACUnits?

ACUnits are variables in the student demographic data submission made by each participating institution to the survey company which delivers the survey platform and prepares the survey results. This is part of the usual preparation for StudentSurvey.ie fieldwork and this student demographic data submission is made no later than three weeks before commencement of fieldwork.

ACUnits allow institutions to apply multiple levels of organisational structure of their institution to the dataset, which facilitates easier analysis of the results and a deeper knowledge of the students who have responded to the survey.

**From 2023 onwards, four levels of ACUnit will be offered to all HEIs: ACUnit1, ACUnit2, ACUnit3 and ACUnit4.**

### What is the value of ACUnits?

All of the value of the ACUnits variables is centered at institution level. These are variables added purely for ease of analysis for institutions. These variables help institutions understand which cohorts of students are responding to the survey and subsequently, what their results are. It allows for multi-level institutional analysis, such as at the level of campus, faculty, college, department, school, or whatever unit(s) are represented. Institutions have the freedom to use these variables as they see fit and as best benefits their analysis.

### Further information

If you wish to discuss the use of ACUnits in your institution, or require further details about how to begin using these valuable variables in your student demographic data submission for StudentSurvey.ie, please contact the StudentSurvey.ie Project Manager at [info@studentsurvey.ie](mailto:info@studentsurvey.ie).

This document, the survey, and all other associated StudentSurvey.ie supports are living documents and tools. If you have any feedback for the StudentSurvey.ie Analysis and Impact Group on this document, or your experience using any of the StudentSurvey.ie tools and supports, please use the StudentSurvey.ie Project Manager as your contact point.



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## Examples of how ACUnits can be used effectively

The following two examples of how ACUnits are used demonstrate some of the ways in which these variables can be used to capture institutional organisational structure.

These examples are provided in order to show how ACUnits can be used effectively, but usage is not limited to these structures. You may use ACUnits as best facilitates analysis of the data within your institution and makes the results most accessible to the people who can achieve the most impact on foot of the results.

One option is to use ACUnits to capture the hierarchical organisation of your institution. ACUnit1 may represent a high level of the institutional academic organisation, such as Faculty or College. ACUnit2 may represent the next level of the organisational hierarchy, such as School, Department or Unit. This should allow for the results to be analysed by the relevant unit management in addition to any centralised institutional analysis.

To capture institutional academic organisation:

HEI	Number of ACUnit1	ACUnit1	ACUnit2
University	5	<b>College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</b>	School of Applied Psychology School of Applied Social Studies School of Film, Music & Theatre School of Education Department of English and others...
		College of Business and Law	...
		College of Medicine and Health	...
		College of Science, Engineering and Food Science	...
		Adult Continuing Education	...



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A complementary use for ACUnits is to represent the institutional physical organisation, which may be valuable to multi-campus institutions, or some other useful aspect of the organisation of the institution not immediately linked to management hierarchy.

To capture institutional physical organisation or some other useful aspect:

HEI	Number of ACUnit1	ACUnit1	ACUnit2
TU	8	Galway City Campus >>>>>>	School of Business School of Engineering School of Science and others...
		Mountbellew Campus	...
		Connemara Campus	...
		Mayo Campus	...
		Sligo Campus	...
		Sligo St. Angela's Campus	...
		Donegal Letterkenny Campus	...
		Donegal Killybegs Campus	...