



BULK DATA TRANSFER – INTRODUCTION

TIER 4 - PHASE 3

Bulk Data Transfer (BDT) Toolkit:
Revised XML Specification Document (XSD) and additional Validation Rules

This pack is designed to assist you, as a Tier 4 Sponsor, in preparation for use of the Bulk Data Transfer (BDT) functionality of the Sponsorship Management System (SMS) as part of Phase 3 of Tier 4. Within the pack are a number of files and documents that will be useful in checking your institution's readiness for the use of the BDT functionality.

This pack can be forwarded to your IT Provider should it be useful to them.

The pack contains the following documents:

1) Revised XSD Schema

Following the issue of the XSD schema on 26th June 2009, the UK Border Agency is reissuing the XSD schema in order to provide an updated framework and set of validation rules that will facilitate the standardised exchange of bulk data between your student management systems and the Sponsorship Management System (SMS).

In summary, Bulk Data Transfer (BDT) can be used by you to migrate key information from your IT system directly into the SMS, or vice versa. The XSD schema demonstrates how files must be formatted to be sent between your student management system and the SMS. Therefore, it is important to use the updated schema (attached to this communication) to validate your BDT files.

The XSD schema has been updated in response to feedback from the Educational sector to increase the field sizes for the following fields:

- Migrants Other Name
- Partner Institution Name
- Overseas Higher Education Institution's name

In each case the field size has been increased from 35 to a maximum number of 250 characters. These are the only changes.

The previous version of the XSD is still valid for use with the SMS, therefore you do not have to apply the new schema unless you prefer to benefit from an increased field size for the three described fields above. If Sponsors' XSD files do not match either Schema, the file will not upload and an error message will be displayed on the SMS stating that the file is invalid.

2) Additional on-line Validation Rules for BDT Operations document

This document details the type and degree of validation that takes place at the point at which the data is being uploaded into the SMS from your IT system(s) when undertaking both bulk data upload and bulk data reporting. If the file being uploaded to the SMS does not meet the validation criteria, error messages will be displayed stating what validation criteria the file does not meet.

3) Import, Export and Reporting BDT files

This communication includes three files that will inform your institution's technical team, in terms of making updates to your student management system. Specifically, there is:

- An example export CAS XML file. You can check that your own student records system is able to process the example CAS export file.
- An example upload CAS XML file. You can check that your own student records system is configured in a way to produce files that are the same specification as the example upload file.
- An example upload reporting file. You can check that your IT system can process the example reporting file.

Please use the attached document in conjunction with these files to understand your responsibilities in terms of using them and ensuring your system is compatible with the SMS.

This pack also contains documentation to support the use of these example files.