Today’s session – an overview

- Introduction to Prospects Hedd
- Processing degree verification requests
- Our work on degree fraud
- Q&A
What we do

• Operation of the UK’s Official Degree Verification Service
• Provide the verification of individual candidate credentials
• Authentication of UK degree-awarding bodies
• Investigation and prevention of degree fraud
• Powered by Jisc
Our story so far

• Prospects Hedd (Higher Education Degree Datacheck) is the UK’s Official Degree Verification Service

• Launched in 2011, following a need within the UK University sector to bring efficiency and standardisation to third party verification process

• Initially funded by HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) under the Universities Modernisation Fund around shared services and systems, which the whole sector could utilize

• Prospects merged with Jisc (Joint Information Systems Committee) in May 2020 and Prospects Hedd became incorporated within Jisc’s portfolio of products and services
Why Hedd?

- Total of 127 UK Universities available for verification, covering 87% of UK graduates
- More exclusive UK University partners than any other provider
- 700,000 Hedd verifications submitted to date
- Secure – encrypted transmission of candidate data
Why Hedd?

- Verifications starting from just £12
- Automatic verification available
- More than 50% of all enquiries completed by next working day
- Re-invest profits back into the Higher Education Sector
Why Hedd?

- Verify French qualifications through Hedd via our exclusive agreement with VerifDiploma
- Irish Degree verification service to be launched shortly
Hedd enquirer benefits

- Central processing system
- Fast & efficient service
- Secure, real-time online platform
- Customer Service Team manages the relationship with Universities
- Dedicated Account Manager
- Dashboard with flexible functions, MIS & Reporting
- Bulk verification uploads via API integration
Our users

- Hedd platform used by organisations to verify the degree credentials of individuals
- Graduates cannot verify themselves
- Users include Screening Agencies, Employers, Embassies, Notaries, Educational Institutions, Recruitment Agencies and more
- 44% of Hedd enquiries are from outside UK & European Union
- Exclusive agreement with CSCSE (Chinese Service Center for Scholarly Exchange) to verify all returning UK students
What’s included within a Hedd Verification?

- Qualification Type
- Course Name
- Year of Award
- Classification
- Attendance Dates
- Current Student Status
Registering & submitting a Hedd enquiry

- Visit [www.hedd.ac.uk](http://www.hedd.ac.uk) and register for your Enquirer account.
- Click Register located top right of the home page
- Complete your details
- Once we have reviewed your details, your account will be activated and receive a notification of your account activation via email
• Once logged in, use the Institution search function on your dashboard to search for your chosen Institution.

• View your chosen Institution page, check consent and verification requirements and click Verify Now to start your verification.
Verify a candidate’s degree data

The University of Manchester

Candidate’s details

Given or first name(s)
Family or surname
Family or surname at the time of study (if different)
Date of birth (mm/dd/yy)

Attendance details

Study status: Current student/Graduated student
Year of award: [Year]

Proof of consent from the candidate

Current form: [PUB, PDF, Docx or Doc]
Choose PDF: [No file choosen]

Qualification details

Course name: [Start typing or choose...]
Qualification type: [Start typing or choose...]
Classification: [Start typing or choose...]

- Simply enter the information provided your candidate and upload your consent form containing the candidate’s signed consent.
- Review your verification details, complete your payment and submit your verification.
- Your verification request will then be sent directly to the University through our platform (Automatic verification will be completed instantly).
- You will receive an email notification once a University has completed your verification.
- Login to your dashboard to view your completed degree verification.
### Enquiry breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Enquirer entered</th>
<th>Match</th>
<th>Official records</th>
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<td>As enquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Last name</td>
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<td>Attendance end date</td>
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Understanding the degree verification result

Pending: Once submitted, an enquiry will have a pending status unless automatically verified. Pending enquiries have a due date at the top of your enquiry page.

Verified automatically: Enquiries that are verified automatically will immediately display the full verification data that the institution has provided to Hedd.

Further information required: The University requires further information before they can confirm the award.

Verified manually: In this scenario, the University were able to complete your verification but have been required to provide corrections.

Verified by University or College: This applies to enquiries that have been manually checked by the University but have not required any amendments.

Unable to verify: This status indicates the University cannot verify from the information provided.
Understanding your dashboard

Start a verification by searching for an institution via the Institution Search function.

View your latest pending degree enquiries directly on your dashboard and view all enquiries by clicking View all my pending enquiries.

Purchase bulk credits in advance using the Top-Up option.

Manage or add users to your enquirer account using the Manage Users function, allowing multiple users to submit verifications using the same pot of credits.

Search for a specific enquiry by entering a Hedd Reference Number.

View your latest completed and in-progress degree enquiries directly on your dashboard and view all enquiries by clicking View all my completed degree enquiries.
Use search parameters such as Candidate, Institution, Enquiry Date Range and Enquirer to personalise your search results.

Select the status of enquiry you wish to include within your report.

Filter your search results by Enquirer, Enquiry Status, Candidate and more.
Check the authentication of UK degree-awarding bodies using our Authentication Database

We operate a database which holds data of all UK Recognised Institutions including Universities and Colleges.

Includes records of previous degree-awarding institutions that may no longer be in operation or have since been integrated into another institution.

Alongside holding records of legitimate UK degree-awarding bodies, we also hold details of 243 bogus Institutions we have identified.

This function is available directly on our homepage and is available free of charge.
Indicating that this Institution is a UK government recognized University or College that currently gives degree awards

Indicating that this Institution was a UK government recognized University or College that previously gave degree awards

Indicating that this Institution is constituent college of a recognised University or college that currently gives degree awards

Indicating that this provider does NOT award recognized UK degree awards
Investigation and prevention of degree fraud

• Heddl Degree Verification launched in 2011, promoting best practices and importance on correctly verifying degree credentials of candidates

• Commissioned in 2015 to establish a watchdog service to shut down bogus universities and raise awareness into degree fraud practices

• We’ve identified over 300 bogus institutions and closed down 85!

• Authentication Database which currently holds records of 471 genuine and 243 bogus institutions
Investigation and prevention of degree fraud

- We’ve collected over 400 fake degree certificates
- Provide toolkits for enquirers, institutions & students
- Free degree fraud advice via our hotline
- Operation of events including Degree Fraud Awareness Week & Best Practice Events
Facts & Statistics

• 83% of employers believe some of their hires will have lied about their degree

• 49% of large businesses and 48% of SMEs have encountered an applicant who has lied about their degree qualifications

• 82% of employers ask to see a degree certificate – only 35% follow up with the University

• 11% of all organisations surveyed suggested that they were either ‘not at all confident’ or ‘fairly confident’ that they are protected against degree fraud

Data provided by Institute of Student Employers Pulse Survey 2019 & Credence CVs Uncovered Report 2019 in collaboration with Prospects
Our Degree Fraud Work & Collaborations
Student Voter Registration
Questions?

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Telephone: +44(0)208 148 2466