Background

The Longitudinal Education Outcomes (LEO) Standard Extract provides unparalleled insights into the English public. It combines the education, earnings and benefits data records of the whole population from 1985 onward to enable rich longitudinal analysis of the outcome of citizens’ education & interaction with the care system. We can investigate the impact that these outcomes have had on citizens’ lives in relation to their later earnings, taxation, and receipt of benefits.

The capacity to analyse these longer-term labour market outcomes together, at person level, enables developments in the assessment of education policy and provision with much greater visibility and accuracy than ever before.

The vast range of highly valuable insights which can be drawn from this enormous dataset remains largely untapped and this is an exciting opportunity to facilitate more urgently needed research outcomes.

About the dataset

The LEO Standard extract is continuously being updated and improved with new variables and other developments, with the second iteration of the LEO via ONS SRS service being made available to users imminently. This includes the addition of industry data (telling us what industry a data subject works in), UCAS data and COVID-19 furlough data amongst other valuable updates. The current version available for this funding opportunity combines:

- A wide, rich range of data from the National Pupil Database, including School Census, Children in Need and Looked After Children data
- Higher Education Statistics Agency data on students at UK publicly funded higher education institutions and some alternative providers
- Individualised learner record data on students at further education institutions, including apprenticeships
- Pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) employment data and data from the self-assessment tax return, both held by His Majesty’s Revenue and Customs
The National Benefit Database, Labour Market System and Juvos data, held by the Department for Work and Pensions.

- IDBR (imminent)
- COVID-19 furlough data (imminent)
- UCAS (imminent).

Example research questions

We are looking for innovative and exciting uses of LEO. Here are some examples of the kind of questions LEO can be used to answer:

- Does going to an Ofsted rated “Good” school matter? How does this have an impact on a person’s labour market outcomes?
- When pupils are permanently excluded from school, are pupil referral units effective in improving outcomes for young people?
- Which education factors have a positive impact on labour market outcomes of school leavers with poor attainment?
- What impact does being in the care system have on labour market outcomes (after controlling for other demographic and education factors)?
- What predicts the successful completion of nursing and midwifery degrees and entry into employment clinical areas?¹

This is not an exhaustive list and other questions are also welcomed providing you can demonstrate policy-relevance and likelihood of impact and uptake.

¹ This specific question has been raised in relation to the ongoing work to provide research access to the Nursing and Midwifery Council registrant data including linkage to Census 2021. Please contact scadr@ed.ac.uk if you would like to be put in touch with an existing stakeholder group in this area.