

UCAS technical briefing document

odbc-link and xml-link changes to support

A level science practical grades

May 2016

Summary

Starting from the 2017 academic cycle, students in England, and in some independent schools in Wales, will be assessed for their practical skills in the science subjects of biology, chemistry and physics. The science practical assessment (practical endorsement) will be represented alongside the grade. It will be possible to attain a 'pass' grade for the science practical endorsement, but there will be no 'fail' grade.

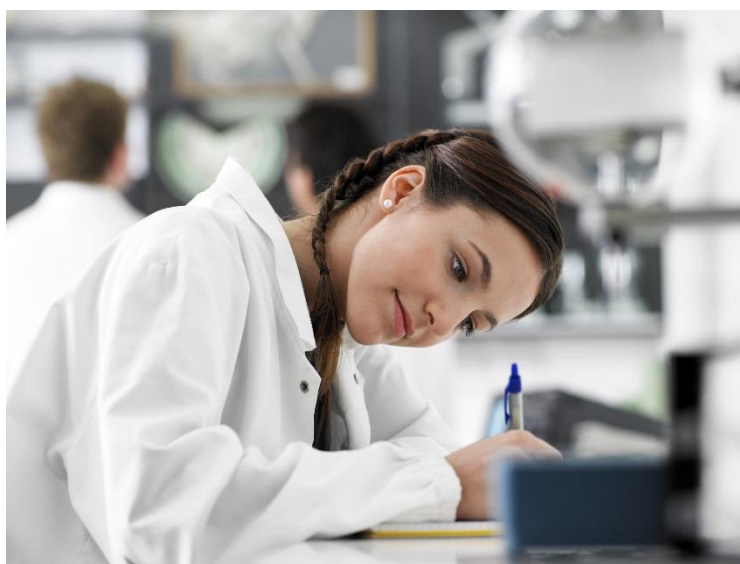
We have to represent these new A level grades in Apply, and all supporting applications, including odbc-link and xml-link.

We have had to make some small changes to the underlying data structure for both systems.

Changes

The only impact for the 2017 cycle is for referee predicted A level science practical grades, as nobody will have attained the science practical grade until the 2018 cycle.

For the 2017 cycle, for xml-link we've added **'predictedPracticalGrade'** in the ApplicantQualification web service and **'predictedPracticalGrades'** in both the



getUCASApplicantReferees and getUCASApplicantReferees_U web services.

In odbc-link, we've added a new column to the ivFormQuals table named **PREDICTEDPRACTICALGRADE**. We've also added **PREDICTEDPRACTICALGRADES** to the ivReference and ivReferenceU tables. If you want to view predicted practical grades, you will have to update your systems to take account of these new fields from the 2017 cycle onwards.

However, if you're only interested in achieved science practical grades you need to make changes for the 2018 cycle. In this case we've added **'practicalGrade'** in the ApplicationQualification web service for xml-link and the **PRACTICALGRADE** column in the ivFormQuals table for odbc-link.

The following tables indicate the field length and data type of the column changes in odbc-link:

A.2.1 (ivFormQuals)

Name	Type	Size	Nulls?	Description
PracticalGrade	varchar2	20	Y	Practical grade for this qualification as

				entered by the applicant – see note 7
PredictedPracticalGrade	varchar2	20	Y	Predicted grade for practical as entered by referee – see note 7

A.2.14: (ivReference)

Name	Type	Size	Nulls?	Description
PredictedPracticalGrades	varchar2	300	Y	The predicted grades for practical subjects given by referee.

A.2.26: (ivReferenceU)

Name	Type	Size	Nulls?	Description
PredictedPracticalGrades	varchar2	300	Y	The predicted grades for practical subjects given by referee.

For xml-link this is the field length and type information:

1. Add the below change against ApplicantQualification
practicalGrade --String – 20-- Contains the practical grade for the qualification.
predictedPracticalGrade – String-- 20-- Contains the predicted practical grade for the pending qualification.
2. Add the below change against UCASApplicantReferee , which covers methods getUCASApplicantReferees and getUCASApplicantReferees_U (Unicode Version)
predictedPracticalGrades – String-- 300-- The predicted practical grades as given by the referee.

These changes will also be detailed in the xml-link and odbc-link manuals.

If you have any questions, please contact your Technology Relationship Manager.