# Developing a data reference model for higher education

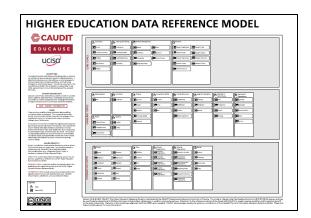
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#### Why a conceptual data model?

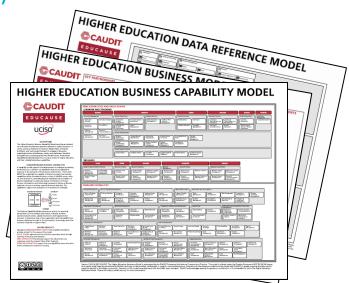
- Support understanding and communication a common language.
- Present a view of an organisation from a data perspective.
- Enables documentation and reflection.





#### Higher Education Reference Models (HERM)

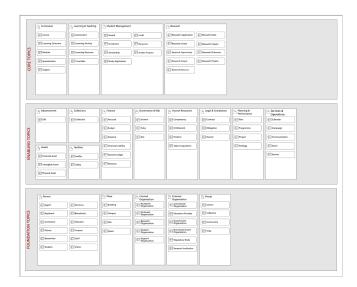
- The Higher Education Reference Models (HERM) provide standardised business and data architectures that communicate a generalised view of how higher education institutions are organised and the information they use.
- These models are valuable when used as a framework for enterprise storytelling, bringing strategy to life, improving decision-making, and fostering effective communication.
- The HERM is distributed under Creative Commons licensing: Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)

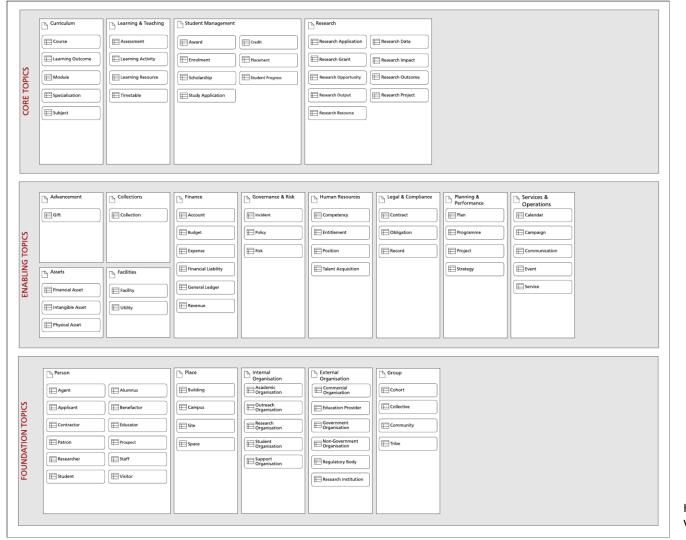




#### **HERM Data Reference Model**

- Describes a standard set of conceptual data architecture elements relevant to higher education.
- Common language for business stakeholders, enterprise architects and technology strategists to communicate clearly.
- Consists of the data entities & associated catalogue.





HERM data reference model Version 2.6.1



#### Example entities

Person	
Agent	Alumnus
Applicant	Benefactor
Contractor	Educator
Patron	Prospect
Researcher	Staff
Student	Visitor

Curriculum	
Course	
Learning Outcome	
Module	
Specialisation	
Subject	



#### Example entities - Course

• Curriculum topic

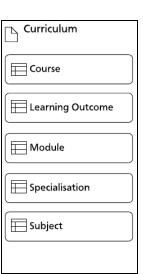
 "Course data relate to a programme of study offered by

the institution."

Alternative Names

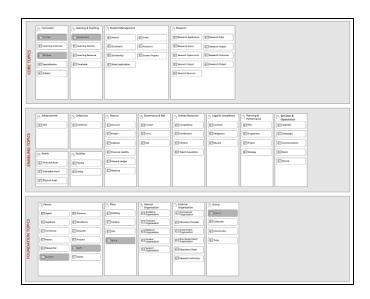
• Academic Programme Courses are programmes such as "Bachelor of Architecture" and "Master of International Business". Note that many institutions refer to these constructs as "Academic Programme" or

"Degree Programme", etc. ....

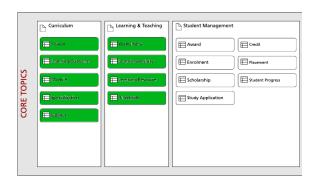




#### Using the Data Reference Model



Project data impact



Supporting data owners & data stewards



#### Challenges

Concepts

Relationships

Terminology

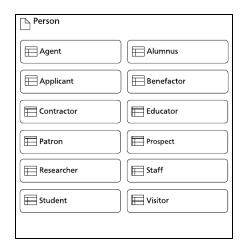
Language

Use cases



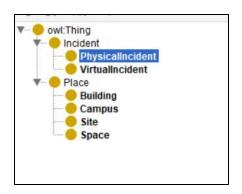
#### Developing the Data Reference Model

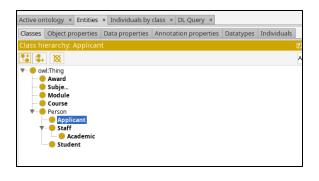
- Conceptual data model typically represents entities and their relationships.
- Next version aims to:
  - Expand information about these entity relationships.
  - Connect the capability model and data model.
  - Refining the entity definitions.
  - Provide options for localised flexibility in terminology.





#### Ontology approach

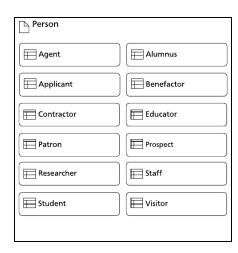






#### Developing the Data Reference Model

- Focused effort on areas such as 'curriculum'
  - Reviewing concepts and language.
  - Supporting localisation and customisation.
  - Needs support to capture international perspectives.
- Expanding use cases and guides
  - Data modelling
  - Data integration
  - Data governance





#### Collaborative effort

- International collaborative effort CAUDIT, UCISA, Educause, and EUNIS.
- Different perspectives and contexts requires support for localisation and customisation.
- Supports evolution of data model, enrichment of the data catalogues, and extension to new domains.









### Next steps for the HERM Data Reference Model

- Maturing the data reference model entities, relationships and supporting use.
- Growing collaboration with EUNIS.
- HERM version 3 scheduled for release later in 2023.

 Please consider getting involved – many different perspectives and voices will enrich the model and its potential uses.



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