

# THE OFFICE FOR STUDENTS

What is it and how will regulation affect the University of Leeds?





The Office for Students (OfS) is the acting regulator and competition authority for the higher education (HE) sector in England.

The OfS 'works in the interests of students and prospective students' and also has a wider remit to grant degree awarding powers and the title of 'university' to new institutions, as well as removing these from all institutions.

The OfS takes a 'risk-based' approach to regulation, risk-assessing institutions at the point of registration, and regularly thereafter to determine whether they can continue to satisfy the conditions of registration.

## Objectives of the OfS

That **all students, from all backgrounds**, and with the ability and desire to undertake higher education:

-  are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from, higher education.
-  receive a high quality academic experience, and their interests are protected while they study or in the event of provider, campus or course closure.
-  are able to progress into employment or further study, and their qualifications hold their value over time.
-  receive value for money.

## What does this mean for the University of Leeds?

We are now regulated by the OfS and were required to formally register as a HE provider in early 2018, subject to meeting a number of initial regulatory conditions, including having in place and publishing an [Access and Participation Plan](#).

Failure to comply with registration conditions could lead to OfS intervention and institutional sanctions - including enhanced monitoring, fines, and likely reputational damage.

We will continue to be monitored by OfS and are subject to 23 conditions of registration (as of October 2018), including:

- Participation in the [Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework](#) (TEF).
- Having in force and publishing an OfS approved [Student Protection Plan](#)
- Collecting and returning various datasets to the OfS and providing to the OfS, and publishing, in the manner and form specified by the OfS, the [transparency information](#) as set out in section 9 of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017.



Office for  
Students



The OfS is the market regulator for Higher Education in England



The OfS became operational on 1 April 2018 and will gain its full regulatory powers from 1 August 2019. A transition period is currently in place.



To be recognised as a HE provider and able to access funding and student support, institutions must appear on the [OfS Register](#)



A place on the OfS Register is subject to a number of initial and ongoing conditions of registration



OfS inherited HEFCE's funding responsibilities (aside from those for research which passed to UKRI), and OFFA's responsibility for promoting fair access to higher education.



Work required to ensure our continued compliance with conditions of registration is likely to impact on many areas across the university – with some colleagues already undertaking new regulatory-based tasks.

### Related links:

[Office for Students](#)  
[UK Research and Innovation](#)  
[Higher Education and Research Act 2017](#)

[Strategy and Planning Intranet](#)  
[OfS Regulatory Framework](#)

### For more information contact:

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