View from the OfS
University Museums Group

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UCL
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Agenda

• Context of the establishment of the Office for Students

• Overview of the new regulatory environment for English higher education

• Future priorities and activity
Higher Education and Research Act 2017

CHAPTER 29

Explanatory Notes have been produced to assist in the understanding of this Act and are available separately.

£25.25

Securing student success: Regulatory framework for higher education in England

Office for Students

Office for Students Strategy 2018 to 2021

Reference OFS 2018/18
Enquiries to info@officeforstudents.org.uk
Date of publication 30 April 2018
We aim to ensure that...

**Participation**

**Objective 1**
All students, from all backgrounds, with the ability and desire to undertake higher education, are supported to access, succeed in, and progress from higher education.

**Experience**

**Objective 2**
All students, from all backgrounds, receive a high quality academic experience, and their interests are protected while they study or in the event of provider, campus or course closure.

**Outcomes**

**Objective 3**
All students, from all backgrounds, are able to progress into employment, further study, and fulfilling lives, and their qualifications hold their value over time.

**Value for money**

**Objective 4**
All students, from all backgrounds, receive value for money.
The regulatory framework

Provider level regulation

- Go through a registration process
  - Not compulsory but route to public funding, student loans, tier 4 licences, degree awarding powers and university title
  - Providers are checked for compliance with 24 conditions (ranging from access and participation to financial sustainability)
  - We can register a provider with specific conditions or enhanced monitoring

- Are regulated on an ongoing basis
  - Providers must comply with ongoing conditions
  - OfS gathers information but only investigates where there is a risk of a breach of condition
  - Ultimately can sanction or even de-register
The regulatory framework

Sector level regulation

OfS has a role to create conditions for improvement over and above the baseline conditions.

- Transparency
- Student engagement
- Improve information, advice and guidance for students (IAG)
- Improve quality of teaching (Teaching Excellence Framework)
- Funding
- Convening and collaboration
Future priorities and activity

• Review of registration process
• Establishing ongoing monitoring and intervention
• Admissions review
• Mental health
• New guidance from the Secretary of State (this week), prioritising
  • Revisiting baselines on quality as part of improving VfM
  • Further reform of TEF
  • Review of admissions (inc. PQA)
  • Action on marketing practices such as unconditional offers
  • Student contracts
  • Incentivising innovation in provision (e.g. flexible, part-time, accelerated) especially for mature students
• [No mention of Augar]
Thank you for listening

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