

Office for  
Students



# 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

# We are the independent regulator of higher education in England

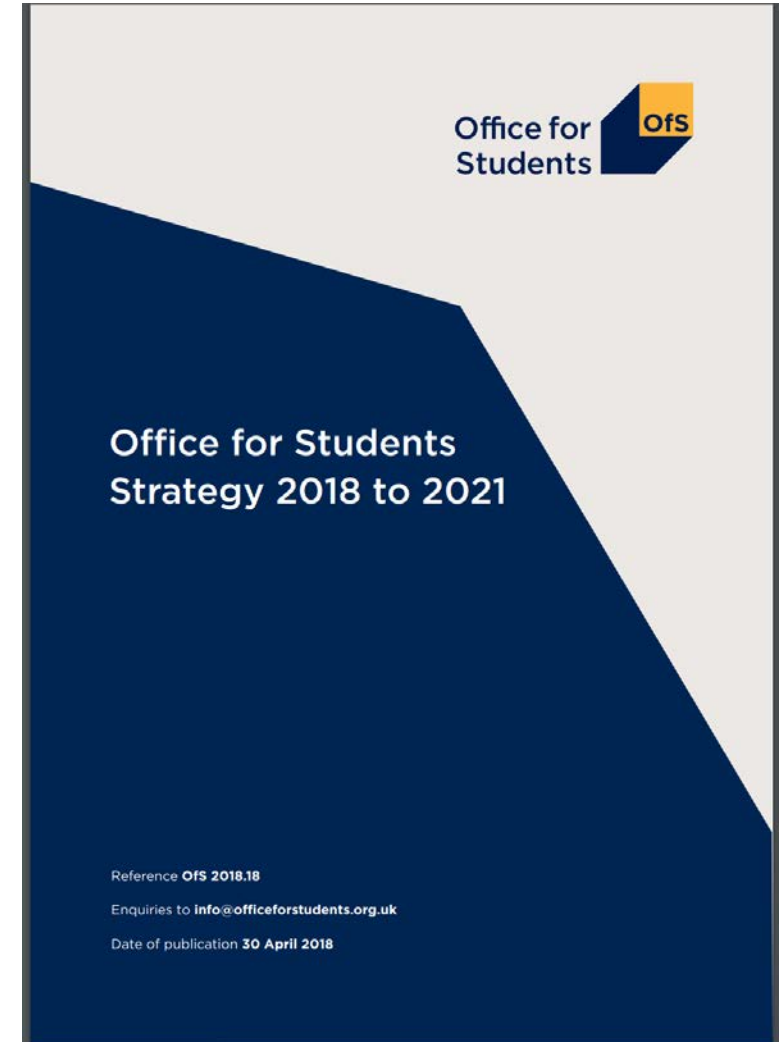


## Higher Education and Research Act 2017

CHAPTER 29

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

£23.25



# We aim to ensure that...

Office for  
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**every student,  
whatever their  
background,**

**has a fulfilling  
experience of  
higher education**

**that enriches  
their lives and  
careers.**

**Participation**

**Experience**

**Outcomes**

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

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# 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]

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# Thank you for listening

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