

Office for Students (OfS)

Conditions of Registration Summary

Below is a summary of the Office for Students (OfS) conditions of registration. These are conditions which need to be met and maintained by all registered providers. These are broken down into three levels of conditions, which are:

- Initial Conditions – conditions which need to be met by all providers in order to be OfS registered.
- General Ongoing Conditions - conditions providers must meet to stay registered.
- Specific Ongoing Conditions – decisions that the OfS may choose to impose on organisations assessed as being high risk for them to remain registered.

The University of Buckingham is exempt from a few of the conditions, as it is not a fee-capped institution. These are highlighted in blue below. Others were introduced since the University became a registered institution. Further information can be found here: [Home - Office for Students](#)

Condition	Sub Condition	Initial or general ongoing Condition?	Approved (fee cap) providers	Approved providers	Summary of the Condition
A). Access and participation for students from all backgrounds	Condition A1 (fee capped providers only)	Both	Yes	No	a). Have in force an access and participation plan approved by the OfS in accordance with the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA). b). Take all reasonable steps to comply with the provisions of the plan.
	Condition A2 Access & Participation	Both	Yes	Yes	a). Publish an access and participation statement. b). Update and re-publish this statement on an annual basis.
B). Quality, reliable standards, and positive outcomes for all students	Condition B1 High quality academic experience	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	The provider must ensure that the students registered on each higher education course receive a highquality academic experience. For the purposes of this condition, a high quality academic experience includes but is not limited to ensuring all of the following:

					<p>a). Is up-to-date b). Provides educational challenge c). Coherent d). Effectively delivered e). Appropriate to the subject matter of the course and requires students to develop relevant skills.</p>
	Condition B2 Resources, Support and Effective Engagement	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must take all reasonable steps to ensure:</p> <p>a). Each cohort of students registered on each higher education course received resources and support which are sufficient for the purpose of ensuring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high quality academic experience for those students; and 2. those students succeed in and beyond higher education. <p>b). Effective engagement with each cohort of students which is sufficient for the purpose of ensuring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A high quality academic experience for those students; and 2. those students succeed in and beyond higher education.
	Condition B3 Successful Outcomes	Both	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must deliver positive outcomes for students on its higher education courses.</p> <p>For the purposes of this condition, delivering positive outcomes means that either:</p> <p>a). in the OfS’s judgement, the outcome data for each of the indicators and split indicators are at or above the relevant numerical thresholds; or</p> <p>b). to the extent that the provider does not have outcome data for each of the indicators and split indicators that are at or above the relevant numerical thresholds, the OfS otherwise judges that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The provider’s context justifies the outcome data; and/or 2. this is because the OfS does not hold any data showing the provider’s numerical performance against the indicator or split indicator; and/or

					3. this is because the OfS does hold this data but the data refers to fewer than the minimum number of students.
	Condition B4 Assessment and Awards	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>a). Students are assessed effectively;</p> <p>b). Each assessment is valid and reliable;</p> <p>c). academic regulations are designed to ensure that relevant awards are credible;</p> <p>d). Subject to paragraph B4.3, in respect of each higher education course, academic regulations are designed to ensure the effective assessment of technical proficiency in the English language in a manner which appropriately reflects the level and content of the applicable higher education course; and</p> <p>e). Relevant awards granted to students are credible at the point of being granted and when compared to those granted previously.</p>
	Condition B5 Sector-recognised standards	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must ensure that, in respect of any relevant awards granted to students who complete a higher education course provided by, or on behalf of, the provider (whether or not the provider is the awarding body):</p> <p>a). Any standards set appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards; and</p> <p>b). Awards are only granted to students whose knowledge and skills appropriately reflect any applicable sector-recognised standards.</p>
	Condition B6 TEF	General ongoing condition only	Yes, if the provider fulfils eligibility requirements and meets headcount and indicator thresholds	Yes, if the provider fulfils eligibility requirements and meets headcount and indicator thresholds	The provider must participate in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

	Condition B7	Initial Condition Only	Yes	Yes	a). Have credible plans that would enable the provider, if registered, to comply with conditions B1, B2 and B4 from the date of registration; and b). have the capacity and resources necessary to deliver, in practice, those plans.
	Condition B8		Yes	Yes	The provider must demonstrate, in a credible manner, that any standards to be set and/or applied in respect of any relevant awards granted to students who complete a higher education course provided by, or on behalf of, the provider (if registered), whether or not the provider is the awarding body, are consistent with any applicable sector-recognised standards.
C). Protecting the interests of all students	Condition C1 Consumer Protection Law	Both	Yes	Yes	The provider must demonstrate that in developing and implementing its policies, procedures and terms and conditions, it has given due regard to relevant guidance about how to comply with consumer protection law.
	Condition C2 Student Complaints (OIA)	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	The provider must: a). Co-operate with the requirements of the student complaints scheme run by the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education, including the subscription requirements. b). Make students aware of their ability to use the scheme.
	Condition C3 Student Protection Plan	Both	Yes	Yes	The provider must: a). Have in force and publish a student protection plan which has been approved by the OfS as appropriate for its assessment of the regulatory risk presented by the provider and for the risk to continuation of study of all of its students. b). Take all reasonable steps to implement the provisions of the plan if the events set out in the plan take place. c). Inform the OfS of events, except for the closure of an individual course, that require the implementation of the provisions of the plan.

					<p><i>For any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025 initial condition C3 will cease to apply. It will be replaced by initial condition C5 (treating students fairly). Ongoing condition C3 would not apply to providers if successfully registered under initial condition C5.</i></p>
	<p>Condition C4 Student Protection Direction</p>	<p>General ongoing condition only</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The provider must comply with any Student Protection Direction in circumstances where the OfS reasonably considers that there is a material risk that the provider will, or will be required by the operation of law to, fully or substantially cease the provision of higher education in England ('Market Exit Risk').</p> <p>A Student Protection Direction may be varied or revoked (wholly or in part) by express provision in a subsequent Student Protection Direction issued by the OfS in accordance with this condition of registration, and the OfS may otherwise revoke a Student Protection Direction by issuing a notice in writing to the provider.</p> <p>A Student Protection Direction (or, as the case may be, part of a Student Protection Direction) will cease to have effect in accordance with the following provisions:</p> <p>a. in circumstances where a Student Protection Direction is varied or revoked (wholly or in part) by a subsequent Student Protection Direction, on and from the time and date that the subsequent Student Protection Direction takes effect; or</p> <p>b. in circumstances where a Student Protection Direction is revoked by a notice in writing, on and from the time and date specified in that notice in writing.</p> <p>Where a Student Protection Direction ceases to have effect at any time (for any reason), that cessation does not in any way affect the ability of the OfS to investigate and/or take any form of regulatory or enforcement action in respect of any non-compliance with that Student Protection Direction (whether or not the non-compliance remains ongoing in nature) which took place during the period that the Student Protection Direction was in effect.</p> <p>For the purposes of this condition:</p> <p>'Student Protection Direction' means, irrespective of whether or not an approved student protection plan exists, a direction requiring a provider to:</p> <p>a. produce a special type of plan setting out Student Protection Measures for approval by the OfS and thereafter implementation by the provider (both in timescales specified in writing by the OfS) ("Market Exit Plan");</p>

					<p>b. instead or in addition to a), put in place and/or implement any Student Protection Measures which are specified in writing by the OfS (in timescales specified in writing by the OfS); and</p> <p>c. do (or refrain from doing) such other consequential, ancillary or incidental actions, as the OfS considers is reasonably necessary, for ensuring that a Market Exit Plan or Student Protection Measures are put in place and/or implemented in an effective and expedient manner (including, but not limited to, compliance with general ongoing condition of registration C3, publishing information, deploying human resources, and consulting a registered insolvency practitioner on the feasibility of the Market Exit Plan (all in timescales specified in writing by the OfS)).</p>
	Condition C5	Initial	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must, if registered, treat each student fairly in relation to any activities that are connected with the provision of higher education and/or ancillary services.</p> <p><i>Condition C5 applies for any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025. It replaces existing initial condition C1 (Guidance on consumer protection law) and initial condition C3 (Student protection plan) which cease to apply. Ongoing condition C1 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered but ongoing condition C3 would not apply to providers registered under initial condition C5.</i></p>
D). Financial Sustainability	Condition D Financial Sustainability	Both	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must:</p> <p>a). Be financially viable. b). Be financially sustainable. c). Have the necessary financial resources to provide and fully deliver the higher education courses as it has advertised and as it has contracted to deliver them. d). Have the necessary financial resources to continue to comply with all conditions of its registration</p>
E). Good Governance	Condition E1	Both	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider's governing documents must uphold the public interest governance principles that are applicable to the provider.</p> <p>For any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025 initial condition E1 will cease to apply. It is replaced by initial conditions E7, E8 and E9. Ongoing condition E1 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered.</p>

	Condition E2	Both	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must have in place adequate and effective management and governance arrangements to:</p> <p>a). Operate in accordance with its governing documents. b). Deliver, in practice, the public interest governance principles that are applicable to it. c). Provide and fully deliver the higher education courses advertised. d). Continue to comply with all conditions of its registration.</p> <p>For any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025 initial condition E2 will cease to apply. It is replaced by initial conditions E7, E8 and E9. Ongoing condition E2 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered.</p>
	Condition E3	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The governing body of a provider must:</p> <p>a). Accept responsibility for the interactions between the provider and the OfS and its designated bodies. b). Ensure the provider’s compliance with all of its conditions of registration and with the OfS’s accounts direction. c). Nominate to the OfS a senior officer as the ‘accountable officer’ who has the responsibilities set out by the OfS for an accountable officer from time to time.</p>
	Condition E4	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The governing body of the provider must notify the OfS of any change of which it becomes aware which affects the accuracy of the information contained in the provider’s entry in the Register</p>
	Condition E5	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must comply with guidance published by the OfS to facilitate, in co-operation with electoral registration officers, the electoral registration of students.</p>
	Condition E6	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must meet requirements relating to incidents of harassment and/or sexual misconduct which include the conduct of staff towards students, and/or the conduct of students towards students.</p>
	Condition E7	Initial	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must have a set of documents which will enable the effective governance of the provider in practice. The provider must also have a business plan which meets relevant requirements, covers a five-year period and can be delivered in practice.</p> <p>Condition E7 applies for any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025. It replaces existing initial conditions E1 and E2 which cease to apply. Ongoing conditions E1 and E2 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered.</p>

	Condition E8	Initial	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must have in place comprehensive arrangements for the purposes of detecting, preventing and stopping fraud and the inappropriate use of public funds. The provider must also have a satisfactory track record in relation to receiving and/or accessing public funds.</p> <p>Condition E8 applies for any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025. It replaces existing initial conditions E1 and E2 which cease to apply. Ongoing conditions E1 and E2 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered.</p>
	Condition E9	Initial	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must have key individuals who have sufficient knowledge and expertise to facilitate the provider to:</p> <p>a). Comply with the ongoing conditions of registration applicable to it (if registered); b). Deliver, in practice, the provider’s business plan; and c). deliver, in practice, the provider’s fraud and public money arrangements.</p> <p>The provider must also have relevant individuals who are fit and proper for the purposes of ensuring that:</p> <p>a). The provider is suitable to access and receive public funds. b). Public trust and confidence in the higher education sector is maintained; and c). the provider is suitable to protect the interests of students.</p> <p><i>Condition E9 applies for any new applications for registration on or after 28 August 2025. It replaces existing initial conditions E1 and E2 which cease to apply. Ongoing conditions E1 and E2 would continue to apply to providers if successfully registered.</i></p>
F). Information for students	Condition F1	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	The provider must provide to the OfS, and publish, in the manner and form specified by the OfS, the transparency information set out in section 9 of HERA.
	Condition F2	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	The provider must provide to the OfS, and publish, information about its arrangements for a student to transfer.
	Condition F3	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>For the purpose of assisting the OfS in performing any function, or exercising any power, conferred on the OfS under any legislation, the governing body of a provider must:</p> <p>a). Provide the OfS, or a person nominated by the OfS, with such information as the OfS specifies at the time and in the manner and form specified.</p>

					<p>b). Permit the OfS to verify, or arrange for the independent verification by a person nominated by the OfS of such information as the OfS specifies at the time and in the manner specified and must notify the OfS of the outcome of any independent verification at the time and in the manner and form specified.</p> <p>c). Take such steps as the OfS reasonably requests to co-operate with any monitoring or investigation by the OfS, in particular, but not limited to, providing explanations or making available documents to the OfS or a person nominated by it or making available members of staff to meet with the OfS or a person nominated by it.</p>
	Condition F4	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	For the purposes of the designated data body (DDB)'s duties under sections 64(1) and 65(1) of HERA, the provider must provide the DDB with such information as the DDB specifies at the time and in the manner and form specified by the DDB.
G). Accountability for fees and funding	Condition G1 (Fee capped providers only)	General ongoing condition only	Yes	No	A provider in the Approved (fee cap) category must charge qualifying persons on qualifying courses fees that do not exceed the relevant fee limit determined by the provider's quality rating and its access and participation plan.
	Condition G2	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes [1]	The provider must comply with any terms and conditions attached to financial support received from the OfS and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) under sections 41(1) and/or 94(2) of HERA. A breach of such terms and conditions will be a breach of this condition of registration.
	Condition G3	General ongoing condition only	Yes	Yes	<p>The provider must pay:</p> <p>a). Its annual registration fee and other OfS fees in accordance with regulations made by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>b). The fees charged by the designated bodies.</p>