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.

Related links:
Office for Students
UK Research and Innovation
Higher Education and Research Act 2017

Office for Students
OfS Regulatory Framework

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