

Privacy notice for the consultation on the OfS strategy for 2022-25

Introduction

The Office for Students (OfS) is committed to protecting your personal information and being clear about what information we hold about you and how we use it. This privacy notice tells you what to expect when OfS collects your personal information.

Why we process personal data:

We process personal information to enable us to fulfil our public tasks including our responsibilities as the lead regulator for higher education in England. This function is directed by the Secretary of State and is in accordance with our legal obligations including those described in the Higher Education and Research Act 2017. You can find more information about the OfS and the work that we do on our website: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/.

Data controller and Data Protection Officer

OfS is the “data controller” of any personal information collected within scope of this privacy notice. Our location and contact details are below:

Alison Madge

Data Protection and Information Manager

Office for Students

Nicholson House

Lime Kiln Close

Bristol

BS34 8SR

Tel: 0117 931 7270

Email: alison.madge@officeforstudents.org.uk

Our Data Protection Officer (DPO) is the first point of contact for people whose information is processed. You can contact the DPO using the details above.

How we will use your information

We can only use your personal information where we have a specific purpose or purposes for doing so.

The Office for Students is consulting on a new strategy for 2022-2025.

To achieve the above aims, the specific uses that will be made of your personal information are listed below:

- Your name and email address will be collected to so that we may contact you for any queries in relation to your submission.
- We will also ask about the organisation you are from (if applicable), which will be used to record and analyse the responses. Individuals or organisations will not be identifiable in our consultation response.
- We will summarise and/or publish the responses to this consultation on the OfS website (and in alternative formats on request). This may include a list of the providers and organisations that respond, but not personal data such as individuals' names, addresses or other contact details. Individuals, organisations and roles will not be identifiable in our consultation response.

If we want to use your personal information for a reason other than those purposes set out above, we will tell you before we start that use and provide further information about the new purpose(s).

Legal basis for using your personal information

Under data protection legislation, we require a legal basis to be able to process your personal information for the purposes set out above. In this case, the legal basis is:

- Article 6(1)(e) - public task. The legal basis for processing your personal information is that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller.

Collecting this personal data is necessary for the performance of our statutory functions as set out under the Higher Education and Research Act (HERA) 2017.

What personal information we will collect

The personal information we will collect and use as part of this consultation is set out below:

- Full name
- Email address
- Whether responding as an individual or an organisation
- The name of your organisation (where you are responding on behalf of an organisation)
- Individual's role (from a list provided to select from)

Who we give your personal information to

We will not routinely pass your information to any other organisation except where required to do so as part of our functions or by law.

Where your personal information will be stored

Your personal information will be stored securely within the UK and will not be transferred outside that territory unless required by a court order. The responses to this survey are collected via SmartSurvey.

Information collected through SmartSurvey is stored on secure servers in the UK or EU and does not leave Europe at any point. Their privacy notice can be accessed via their website: www.smartsurvey.co.uk/privacy-policy.

How do we protect your personal information

OfS has a number of security measures in place to protect your personal information, listed below:

- Accredited to the Cyber Essentials PLUS standard for cyber security
- All staff are required to undertake training in data protection and information security on joining OfS and then on an annual basis;
- Formal information security policies that must be read and understood by all staff;
- Personal information is only available to those members of staff who require access as part of their role.

Your rights over your personal information

Once your personal information has been collected, you have certain rights in relation to that personal information that may be exercised.

You have the right to request:

- A copy of your personal information;
- Inaccurate personal information held about you is corrected;
- Your personal information to be deleted;
- Processing of your personal information is restricted;
- A copy of your information in a format that allows easy transfer (“data portability”);
- That you are not subject to automated decision making or profiling (if these take place).

All these rights have certain limitations depending on the request and the purpose for which we are holding your personal information.

Further information can be found about these rights and our processes for handling such requests at: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/ofs-privacy/individual-rights-under-the-general-data-protection-regulation/

How long we will hold your personal information

We are only able to retain a copy of your personal information as long as it is still needed for the purpose(s) for which it was collected. The personal information you have submitted will be kept for one year after the end of our published response. After that point, your personal information will be confidentially and securely disposed of.

Complaints about the use of your personal information

If you are unhappy with the way in which your personal information has been handled by OfS, please contact us at: dp@officeforstudents.org.uk and we will try to resolve your issue.

If we are not able to resolve the issue to your satisfaction, you can also make a complaint to the data protection supervisory authority. In the UK, this is the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and they can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

Cheshire

SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Email: casework@ico.org.uk

Changes to this notice

We keep our privacy notices under regular review and we will inform you of any changes to this notice by writing to you via email. This privacy notice was last updated on 11 November 2021.