

Blackburn College – Specific ongoing conditions of registration

During the initial registration and assessment process the Office for Students has imposed one specific ongoing condition of registration.

1. Specific ongoing condition of registration imposed in relation to Condition B3 (quality and standards)

The OfS has concluded that Blackburn College has satisfied the initial condition of registration. However, our assessment of your student outcome data suggests that you are at increased risk of breaching Condition B3.

We are therefore imposing a specific condition of registration requiring an improvement plan.

We have already provided the dataset containing the indicators we have assessed and an explanation of how they have been constructed.

The requirements for an improvement plan supersede the requirements in relation to quality and standards set out by the Higher Education Funding Council for England as part of the 2016-17 Annual Provider Review process.

The text set out below constitutes the specific ongoing condition imposed on Blackburn College pursuant to section 6(1) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 and is to be referred to as “Specific Ongoing Condition B3A (Blackburn College)”:

Specific Ongoing Condition B3A (Blackburn College)

Requirement to submit an improvement plan

B3A.1 The provider must submit an improvement plan for approval by the OfS by 30 April 2019 which complies with the requirements set out in paragraph B3A.2 and specifies the actions that the provider intends to take in order to:

(a) deliver a material improvement in student outcomes (in a manner which is capable of being permanently sustained) in relation to the following areas:

- (i) Continuation rates for full-time other-undergraduate students;
- (ii) Continuation rates for full and part-time first degree students;
- (iii) Completion rates for undergraduate students
- (iv) Professional employment or progression to postgraduate study rates for full-time first degree students;

(v) Professional employment or progression to postgraduate study rates for full and part-time PGCE students;

B3A.2 The requirements are that the plan must contain specific targets for achieving material improvements in each of the student outcome areas referred to in paragraph B3A.1(a) that:

- (a) for each target, have at least two progress review dates and a final completion date;
- (b) have been developed in a way which takes into account the views of current students and reflects robust data and analysis; and
- (c) have been approved by the governing body of the provider.

B3A.3 The provider must put in place internal arrangements for the oversight of its approved plan which comply with the following requirements:

- (a) there must be a named committee within the provider's governing arrangements (the "Oversight Committee") that:
 - (i) is responsible for the oversight of the approved plan and the provider's compliance with Specific Ongoing Condition B3A;
 - (ii) has sufficient delegated responsibility to ensure the plan's effective implementation and the provider's compliance with Specific Ongoing Condition B3A;
- (b) The Oversight Committee must be chaired by an independent person (who may be an independent member of the governing body);
- (c) the Oversight Committee must receive regular reports on the provider's incremental progress in delivering the approved plan, including the progress being made in respect of the targets required by paragraph B3A.2; and
- (d) the Oversight Committee must provide the provider's governing body with regular reports on the provider's overall compliance with Specific Ongoing Condition B3A;

B3A.4 Once the improvement plan is approved by the OfS (with or without amendments specified in writing by the OfS), the provider must take all reasonable steps to comply with the plan and, for the avoidance of doubt, such steps must include (but are not limited to) putting in place and maintaining adequate levels of resource.