

Barking and Dagenham College

The Office for Students has refused the registration application made by Barking and Dagenham College. This document, prepared for students at Barking and Dagenham College, explains what this means and the impact it may have on your studies.

The Office for Students is the regulator for higher education in England. One of our roles is to maintain a register of universities, colleges and other higher education providers. Normally, only students at registered providers can access financial support through loans from the Student Loans Company (SLC). To be registered, those running higher education courses must demonstrate that they meet a range of conditions, including conditions relating to their financial sustainability, their management and governance, and the outcomes they deliver for students. You can find details of our conditions of registration at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/regulation/conditions-of-registration/initial-and-general-ongoing-conditions-of-registration>.

Registration is a rigorous process, and we are required by law to refuse applications which do not satisfy our conditions.

We have refused the application from Barking and Dagenham College because it did not meet one of our conditions, relating to the quality of its higher education courses. You can find more information about our reasons for refusal at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/refused-registration-decisions/>

The OfS's decision is likely to affect you if you are:

- (a) A current student registered directly with the College on a higher education course that allows you to access funding from the Student Loans Company
- (b) A prospective student thinking of registering directly with the College for a higher education course that allows you to access funding from the Student Loans Company

The courses likely to be affected are:

- BTEC HNC
- BTEC HND
- Foundation degree
- Some BA (hons) courses
- Some MBA courses

The OfS's decision is not likely to affect you if you are:

- (a) A current student registered on a higher education course that is delivered by the College under a sub-contractual relationship with another higher education provider (you will be registered with the other provider and not the College)
- (b) A prospective student thinking of registering on a higher education course that is delivered by the College under a sub-contractual relationship with another higher education provider (you would be registered with the other provider and not the College)
- (c) A current student on a higher education course that allows you to access support through an Advanced Learner Loan
- (d) A prospective student thinking of registering on a higher education course that allows you to access support through an Advanced Learner Loan
- (e) A current student registered on a further education course
- (f) A prospective student thinking of registering on a further education course

The pattern of courses that are affected by the OfS's decision is complex and so you should speak to Barking and Dagenham College for information about the position of your course.

For the courses affected, the Office for Students is working with the College in order for it to have the opportunity to apply to ‘teach out’ its current students. Being granted designation for teach out would mean that continuing students, subject to individual eligibility, would be able to continue to access student support from the Student Loans Company. While this process continues students will continue to be able to access support.

Any new students on these courses will not be able to access loans from the Student Loans Company.

We cannot advise individual students. We have provided these Q&A to cover a range of situations. However, each student will have individual circumstances, so you should seek individual advice as appropriate.

You can find information about how to contact the Student Loans Company at:

<https://www.slc.co.uk/students-and-customers/contact-information-for-customers/student-finance-enquiries.aspx>

General questions

- *What does it mean that a higher education provider has been refused registration with the Office for Students?*

The Office for Students is the regulator for higher education in England. Our registration process requires universities, colleges and higher education providers to meet a number of conditions to ensure that student interests are protected including in relation to their financial sustainability, their management and governance and the outcomes their students achieve. When we decide not to register a higher education provider, this is done because it is in the interests of students, and it is not a decision which is taken lightly.

- *What does this mean for new students?*

Any new higher education students (who start after 31 July 2019) on courses eligible for funding from the Student Loans Company will not be able to access student finance.

- *Will this affect exams I'm due to take or coursework I need to submit?; Will we lose any facilities?; Will extra-curricular activities continue?*

We are seeking to minimise any disruption to continuing students. You should discuss any concerns you may have with Barking and Dagenham College.

- *If I continue on the course, will the programme be structured as advertised when I applied?; Will I still be taught the same modules?*

Barking and Dagenham College will be able to tell you whether it intends to make any changes to the course. In considering whether it plans to make changes, it will need to ensure that it meets its obligations to you under consumer protection law.

- *Will I be able to transfer to another provider?*

Students at any university, college or other higher education provider may look into transfer options. If you wish to transfer to another university, college or higher education provider to complete your course, you will need to discuss with the provider you are looking to move to what their entry requirements are. Barking and Dagenham College can provide you with appropriate information, advice, and guidance.

You can check our Register to see if that provider is registered by the Office for Students. UCAS and Discover Uni are two sources of information about alternative courses.

- *Does this affect all higher education courses at Barking and Dagenham College?*
No.

Students on higher education courses delivered by the College under a sub-contractual arrangement with another higher education provider may continue to access the student support system.

Students on higher education courses eligible for support through an Advanced Learner Loan are not affected.

- *Does this affect further education courses at Barking and Dagenham College?*
No. Barking and Dagenham College's further education provision is inspected by Ofsted and is not affected by this decision.

Student finance

- *Am I still entitled to a student loan if I stay at my current provider?*
The Office for Students is working with the College in order for it to have the opportunity to apply to 'teach out' its current higher education students who receive loans from the Student Loans Company. Being granted designation for teach out would mean that continuing students, subject to individual eligibility, would be able to continue to access student support from the Student Loans Company. While this process continues students will continue to be able to access support.
- *If I decide to no longer continue with my course and I don't want to transfer somewhere else, will I have to repay loans I was given this academic year?*
Yes. You may wish to contact the Student Loans Company to discuss repayment arrangements, or refer to information at www.studentloanrepayment.co.uk
- *Do I need to call the Student Loans Company myself and explain what's happening?*
No. The Student Loans Company is aware of the Office for Students' decisions for individual providers. You may however wish to contact the Student Loans Company to discuss your individual circumstances if you have any concerns.
- *Will I still be eligible for DSA?*
Eligibility for student support is a complex subject and is based on individual circumstances. You may wish to contact the Student Loans Company to discuss your circumstances and potential eligibility.

Communications

- *Who do I go to if I have questions?*
You should speak to Barking and Dagenham College. If you have specific questions about student finance, you should speak with the Student Loans Company.