

To interested parties

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17 June 2021

Open letter consultation: proposed new name for NCH at Northeastern Limited

NCH at Northeastern Limited has applied to the OfS to change its name to ‘Northeastern University – London’. This open letter invites views on whether the proposed new name is, or has the potential to be, confusing or misleading.

The Higher Education and Research Act 2017 amended relevant legislation to give the Office for Students (OfS) the power to approve the use of the word ‘university’ in a registered higher education provider’s name.¹

The OfS has published guidance for registered higher education providers that wish to use either ‘university’ or ‘university college’ as part of their name (‘university title’ or ‘university college title’).² In that guidance, the OfS states that it will consult on a provider’s proposed new name and assess the extent to which the proposed name is confusing or misleading.³

NCH at Northeastern Limited (www.nchlondon.ac.uk/), also known as New College of the Humanities, is an OfS-registered higher education provider.⁴ It has applied to the OfS for university title and proposes to change its name to ‘Northeastern University – London’.

The purpose of this open letter is to consult, in line with Regulatory advice 13, on whether NCH at Northeastern Limited’s proposed name ‘Northeastern University – London’ is, or may be, confusing or misleading. We are inviting views on the following questions:

¹ See section 77 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 and section 39 of the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998

² Regulatory advice 13: How to apply for university college and university title (OfS 2019.08): www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-13-how-to-apply-for-university-college-and-university-title/

³ See Regulatory advice 13 paragraph 16: www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-13-how-to-apply-for-university-college-and-university-title/

⁴ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/

1. Considering NCH at Northeastern Limited's proposed new name of 'Northeastern University – London', in your views is it, or does it have the potential to be, confusing or misleading?
2. If you consider that NCH at Northeastern Limited's proposed new name 'Northeastern University – London' is, or has the potential to be, confusing or misleading, can you explain why you think this and provide any evidence to support your view?

Who should respond to this consultation?

We welcome responses from anyone with an interest in the proposed new name for NCH at Northeastern Limited.

We are particularly (but not only) interested in hearing from:

- Existing or potential future students of NCH at Northeastern Limited.
- Other providers of education with a similar geographic descriptor or based in the same geographic area.
- Professional organisations and local employer groups that work with NCH at Northeastern Limited.
- Local, regional or other bodies with similar names to the proposed name 'Northeastern University – London'.
- Local emergency services to NCH at Northeastern Limited.
- Higher education membership groups.

How to respond

The consultation closes at **noon on 15 July 2021**.

Please submit your response by completing the online form at survey.officeforstudents.org.uk/s/Northeastern/

If you require this document in an alternative format, or need assistance with the online form, please contact Regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk. Please note: this email address should not be used for submitting your response.

How we will treat your response

The OfS will process any personal data received in accordance with all applicable data protection laws (see our privacy policy).⁵ Further information is provided within the survey.

⁵ Available at www.officeforstudents.org.uk/ofs-privacy/

We may need to disclose or publish information that you provide in the performance of our functions, or disclose it to other organisations for the purposes of their functions. Information (including personal data) may also need to be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Data Protection Act 2018 and Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan Lapworth', written in a cursive style.

Susan Lapworth
Director of Regulation