

Oxford Brookes University – 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 A1 (Access and participation plan)

The Director for Fair Access and Participation has concerns relating to your self-assessment of performance.

We require you to submit to the Director for Fair Access and Participation by 31 December 2018, a self-assessment of performance, a report containing the outcomes of the analysis, and a resulting operational action plan.

Assessment of performance, reporting requirements and action plan

A1A.1 In accordance with the requirements of A1A.2, the provider must conduct and complete, within the Relevant Timeframe, a robust and comprehensive assessment of its performance in relation to the “Underrepresented Groups”.

A1A.2 The assessment of performance under paragraph A1A.1 must:

- (a) be conducted with the objective of the provider significantly furthering its understanding of the issues affecting the Underrepresented Groups;
- (b) include analysis which satisfies the checklist of requirements set out in Part B, section 1 of Regulatory Notice 1;
- (c) include analysis of performance, over the last five years, in relation to each category of Underrepresented Groups against each of the Categories of Outcome;
- (d) include analysis which fully explores (in a manner sufficient for the purposes of providing a fully reasoned explanation in a report to the OfS), of internal and/or external factors which have negatively and/or positively affected the provider’s performance in any areas where there are “Identified Gaps”;
- (e) include analysis which fully explores (in a manner sufficient for the purposes of providing a fully reasoned explanation in a report to the OfS):
 - (i) what actions have been taken through previous access agreements to address gaps in outcomes for students from all underrepresented groups; and
 - (ii) whether and to what extent such actions were successful or unsuccessful in reducing the gaps.

A1A.3 The provider must produce a report containing the outcomes of the analysis carried out pursuant to paragraphs A1A.1 and A1A.2 and submit the final and complete version of the report to the Director for Fair Access and Participation by 6pm on 31 December 2018.

A1A.4 The report referred to in A1A.3 must:

- (a) be prepared with the primary purpose of demonstrating to the Director for Fair Access and Participation that the provider has an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the issues affecting Underrepresented Groups and the materiality of Identified Gaps; and
- (b) provide a fully reasoned explanation of the analysis contained within the report.

A1A.5 In accordance with paragraph A1A.6, the provider must produce an operational action plan setting out in detail how it will seek to deliver a significant improvement in outcomes for Underrepresented Groups and the Identified Gaps ('the envisaged improvements'). For the avoidance of doubt, the required level of detail is significantly more than the contents of the Approved 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan.

A1A.6 The operational action plan must include:

- (a) a set of clearly defined objectives in respect of the envisaged improvements;
- (b) a detailed and clear explanation of each of the steps the provider intends to take to achieve the envisaged improvements, how those steps relate to the set of objectives included pursuant to A1A.6(a), and the envisaged time periods for the realisation of such improvements (including incremental elements);
- (c) for each Identified Gap, a fully reasoned explanation of the provider's intended approach to maintaining its understanding of the reason(s) for the gap; and
- (d) arrangements for how the provider will monitor progress against the steps included pursuant to A1A.6(b) and maintain an informed understanding of the effectiveness of each step.

A1A.7 The provider must submit a final and complete version of an operational action plan (which complies with paragraphs A1A.5 and A1A.6) to the Director for Fair Access and Participation by 6pm on 31 December 2018.

Definitions for condition A1A

A1A.8 In this condition:

"Approved 2019-20 Access and Participation Plan" means the plan submitted by Oxford Brookes University and subsequently approved by the Director for Fair Access and Participation pursuant to section 29(3) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 in respect of the 2019-20 academic year;

"Categories of Outcomes" means each of the following:

- (a) access;
- (b) continuation;

(c) attainment; and

(d) progression;

“Director for Fair Access and Participation” means the member of the Office for Students referred to in paragraph 2(1(c) of schedule 1 to the Higher Education and Research Act 2017;

“Identified Gaps” means:

(a) gaps identified by the provider as a result of analysis carried out pursuant to paragraphs A1A.1 and A1A.2; and

(b) gaps identified by the OfS and based on groups set out in the annex to this condition;

“Office for Students” means the body corporate established by section 1(1) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017;

“Regulatory Notice 1” means the guidance published by the Director for Fair Access and Participation to which the OfS had regard in deciding whether to approve the 2019-20 access and participation plans, established by section 29(4) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017;

“Relevant Timeframe” means in advance of 31 December 2018 and in sufficient time for the provider to prepare and submit a complete and final version of a report to the Office for Students in accordance with paragraph A1A.3; and

“Underrepresented groups” means different categories of individuals which are underrepresented in terms of each of the Categories of Outcomes compared with other individuals, as set out in page 8-9 of Regulatory Notice 1.

Annex to condition A1A

For the purpose of this condition, the student groups identified by the OfS have the following definitions:

Student group	Definition of group
LPN Q1+Q2	Young, full-time students from low participation neighbourhoods – POLAR3 quintiles 1 and 2 (https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/polar-participation-of-local-areas/)
IMD Q1+Q2	Young, full-time students from Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintiles 1 and 2. IMD quintile values are 1 to 5, with 1 being the quintile of highest deprivation. The quintiles are defined as follows. a. For students domiciled in England at providers in England, the English Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015 quintile.

	<p>b. For students domiciled in Wales at providers in Wales, the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2014 quintile.</p> <p>c. For students domiciled in Scotland at providers in Scotland, the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2016 quintile.</p> <p>d. For students domiciled in Northern Ireland at providers in Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Multiple Deprivation Measure 2017 quintile.</p>	
White IMD Q1+Q2	Young, full-time, white students from Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) quintiles 1 and 2 (as defined above).	
Black	Full-time students with a declared ethnicity of Black, in line with the standard HESA definition	
Asian	Full-time students with a declared ethnicity of Asian, in line with the standard HESA definition	
Mixed/other	Full-time students with a declared ethnicity of Mixed or Other, in line with the standard HESA definition	
Mature	Students aged 21 and over, in line with the standard HESA definition	