

Statement about the prioritised categories for the 2023-24 assessment cycle

Condition B3: Prioritisation criteria

The Office for Students (OfS) is publishing the prioritisation criteria we will use to select providers to assess in relation to their compliance with ongoing condition B3 (student outcomes). We have made a final decision about the criteria that will apply to the 2023-24 assessment cycle. This is the second cycle of B3 assessments.

General approach to prioritisation

Paragraph 36 of Regulatory advice 20¹ explains that in each year we will decide:

- which student outcome measures, modes and levels of study we wish to prioritise
- whether we should focus on particular split indicators, such as subject of study or student characteristics, or on any themes, such as partnership arrangements
- how many cases we will assess in that year.

In 2022, we set out provisional criteria for the 2023-24 cycle alongside the final criteria for 2022.² We have now decided on the final criteria for 2023-24. Please note that some of the criteria have changed from those we provisionally decided in 2022.

The criteria are set out in full in Annex A.

Next steps

We will decide which providers we will assess in 2023-24 using the factors set out in paragraph 36 of Regulatory advice 20:

- the number of students affected by performance below a numerical threshold in the prioritised categories
- the distance from the relevant numerical threshold in the prioritised categories
- the statistical certainty we have that a provider's underlying performance is below a relevant numerical threshold

¹ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/regulatory-advice-20-regulating-student-outcomes/.

² See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/condition-b3-prioritised-categories-for-the-2023-24-assessment-cycle/.

- the number of a provider's indicators or split indicators not in the prioritised categories that are below a numerical threshold
- other regulatory intelligence, including but not limited to notifications from third parties, outcomes from the Teaching Excellence Framework exercise, and previous compliance with condition B3 or other conditions of registration.

We will decide the scope of the assessment for each provider, including whether our assessment will relate only to the prioritised categories or will extend beyond these. We will then undertake step one of our assessment process, by considering whether any existing information we hold in relation to a provider justifies its performance. For more information, see paragraphs 37 to 46 of Regulatory advice 20.

When we have made these decisions, we will write to the providers we have selected. We do not expect to write to providers before the start of 2024.

Charging

Providers that are selected for a B3 assessment in the 2023-24 cycle will be charged for the assessment. Charging arrangements will be as set out in the Guidance for providers on implementation of The Higher Education (Assessment Fees) (England) 2023.³ This applies to quality and standards assessments that begin after 7 August 2023.

If you have any questions about the information in this statement, please email us at regulation@officeforstudents.org.uk.

³ See www.officeforstudents.org.uk/publications/payment-of-fees-for-quality-and-standards-assessments/.

Annex A: Condition B3 prioritisation criteria for 2023-24

Table 1: Prioritisation criteria for 2023

Student outcome measures	Continuation Completion Progression
Mode of study	Full-time
Levels of study	First degree Other Undergraduate
Specific split indicators to be used	Other undergraduate: Level 5+ Other undergraduate: Level 4 First degree with integrated foundation year Partnership arrangements: sub-contracted in and sub-contracted out students. Subject: business and management