

Bloomsbury Institute Limited

The Office for Students has refused the registration application made by Bloomsbury Institute Limited. This document, prepared for students at Bloomsbury Institute, 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 Bloomsbury Institute because it did not meet two of our conditions, one relating to the quality of its higher education courses, and the other relating to its management and governance arrangements. You can find more information about our reasons for refusal at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/>

The Office for Students has been working with the Bloomsbury Institute to ensure that the interests of students currently studying there are protected. As a result, the Office for Students has agreed that English-domiciled students currently studying at Bloomsbury Institute will be able to continue to access student loans from the Student Loans Company until 31 July 2022 in order for them to continue their studies.

Any new students 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.

Can I still study at Bloomsbury Institute next year, even though it is not registered with the Office for Students?

Yes. We have agreed with the Bloomsbury Institute that current students will be able to continue to access student loans until 31 July 2022, or the end of their studies, whichever is earliest. Bloomsbury Institute can seek an extension to this.

Will the Office for Students continue to monitor Bloomsbury Institute?

Yes. The Bloomsbury Institute will need to meet a range of requirements – including around financial viability – in order for current students to continue to access loans from the Student Loans Company. The Office for Students will monitor compliance with these requirements, and can take action if necessary.

What does this mean for new students?

Any new students (who start after 31 July 2019) will not be able to access student finance through the Student Loans Company.

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?

The decision that we have made allows you to continue your studies without interruption. You should discuss any concerns you may have with Bloomsbury Institute.

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

Bloomsbury Institute 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. OfS requires Bloomsbury Institute to have a plan in place to support

students wishing to transfer. If you decide to transfer to another provider, Bloomsbury Institute 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 Unistats are two sources of information about alternative courses.

Student finance

Can I be refunded/compensated?

No - if you are a current student, you will be able to continue your studies without interruption. Should you have a complaint about any aspect of your course, you should first raise this with Bloomsbury Institute.

Am I still entitled to a student loan if I stay at my current provider?

Yes - the Office for Students has agreed that students currently studying at Bloomsbury Institute will be able to continue to access student loans until 31 July 2022 in order for them to continue their studies. Bloomsbury Institute can seek an extension to this.

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, and know that current students can continue to access loans. 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 Bloomsbury Institute. If you have specific questions about student finance, you should speak with the Student Loans Company.