Proposed condition B6: Revised general ongoing condition in relation to quality assessment

Application

B6.1 The requirements in B6.3 to B6.5 apply to all registered higher education providers.

B6.2 The requirements in B6.6 to B6.8 apply to certain registered providers with a **Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) rating**.

Requirement to participate in the OfS quality assessment system

B6.3 A provider must participate in the **quality assessment system** in accordance with the participation requirements set out in the Schedule to this condition.

Requirement to publish assessment ratings and outcomes

B6.4 A provider must publish its current **TEF rating** or **minimum requirements outcome** and any associated material in accordance with the publication requirements set out in the Schedule to this condition.

Requirement to improve following a Requires improvement TEF rating or Unsatisfactory minimum requirements outcome

B6.5 A provider that holds a **TEF rating** of Requires improvement or **minimum requirements outcome** of Unsatisfactory for any assessed **aspect** must not receive a Requires improvement rating or Unsatisfactory outcome for any assessed **aspect** at its next assessment under the **quality assessment system**.

Requirement for providers rated Requires improvement or Bronze under the TEF scheme to reduce or limit student recruitment

B6.6 A provider must submit any information requested by the OfS for the purpose of calculating a reduction requirement under B6.7 or recruitment limit under B6.8, in the form and by any deadline specified by the OfS.

Recruitment reduction requirement for providers with a Requires improvement aspect rating

B6.7 A provider that receives a **TEF rating** of Requires improvement for one or both **aspects** must ensure that the **number of entrants** to courses of the **type of provision** to which the Requires improvement **TEF rating** relates does not exceed the recruitment limit determined in accordance with B6.7.a and B6.7.b.

B6.7.a The **academic year** in which the provider receives the Requires improvement **TEF rating** to which B6.7 applies is the baseline year. In the **academic year** immediately following the

baseline year, the recruitment limit is 90 per cent of the **number of entrants** in the baseline year to courses of the **type of provision** to which the Requires improvement rating relates.

B6.7.b For each subsequent **academic year** that the provider retains a Requires improvement **TEF rating** for the **type of provision** to which the Requires improvement **TEF rating** relates, the recruitment limit is 90 per cent of the recruitment limit in the preceding **academic year**.

Recruitment limit for certain providers with a Bronze aspect rating

B6.8 From the 2030-31 **quality assessment system** cycle or from a provider's second assessment under the **quality assessment system**, whichever occurs earlier, a provider that receives a **TEF rating** of Bronze in both assessed **aspects** or, where only one **aspect** is assessed, that **aspect** is rated Bronze, must ensure that the **number of entrants** to courses of the **type of provision** to which the Bronze **TEF rating** relates does not exceed the recruitment limit determined in accordance with B6.8.a.

B6.8.a The **academic year** in which the provider is awarded the Bronze **TEF rating** to which B6.8 applies is the baseline year. In the **academic year** immediately following the baseline year and for each subsequent **academic year** that the provider retains a Bronze **TEF rating** for the **type of provision** to which the Bronze **TEF rating** relates, the recruitment limit is the **number of entrants** in the baseline year to courses of that **type of provision**.

Definitions

B6.9 For the purposes of this condition B6:

a. **'academic year'** means 17 July to the following 16 July.

b. **'aspect'** means either the **student experience aspect** or the **student outcomes aspect** in the **quality assessment system**.

c. **'minimum requirements assessment'** means an assessment under (i) of the **quality assessment system**.

d. **'minimum requirements outcome'** means for either or both **aspects** assessed in a **minimum requirements assessment**, an outcome of Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory.

e. **'number of entrants'** means the total number of students commencing courses who are registered with or taught by a provider, including those taught through subcontractual arrangements by a partner provider.

f. **'OfS guidance'** means a separate document or documents published by the OfS from time to time that sets out the operational requirements of the **quality assessment system.**

g. '**student experience aspect'** considers the quality of course content and delivery, assessment, academic support, resources and student engagement.

h. **'student outcomes aspect'** considers students' success in and beyond their studies, in terms of continuation and completion, and measures of further study and employment outcomes.

i. **‘TEF assessment’** means a process under the **TEF scheme** whereby an eligible provider applies to be assessed against applicable criteria to determine whether the quality of provision is below, at or above the minimum requirements, and is awarded a **TEF rating** for one, or both, of the **student experience aspect** and **student outcomes aspect**.

j. **‘TEF rating’** means for either or both **aspects** assessed in a **TEF assessment**, a rating of Requires improvement, Bronze, Silver or Gold.

k. **‘TEF scheme’** means the scheme operating from July 2027 which the OfS has adopted under section 25 of HERA to give ratings to providers regarding the quality of, and the standards applied to, higher education that they provide on the basis of **TEF assessments,** where those providers are eligible for and have applied for such a rating**.**

l. ‘**type of provision**’ means either undergraduate or postgraduate taught provision delivered in England.

m. **‘quality assessment system’** means the system operating from July 2027 whereby the OfS:

    i. Assesses all registered providers on a cyclical basis against the minimum quality requirements set out in ongoing conditions of registration B1, B2, B3 and B4.

    ii. Assesses eligible providers that apply for a **TEF rating** under the **TEF scheme** and awards **TEF ratings** to those providers.

Schedule

Participation requirements

All providers

1. When notified by the OfS, a provider must, by the deadline notified to it by the OfS, submit a provider submission for the purpose of a minimum requirements assessment or, where the provider has applied for a TEF rating, a TEF assessment, in accordance with OfS guidance.

2. A provider submission must be accurate and must be approved by the provider's accountable officer before submission to the OfS. The accountable officer is responsible for the accuracy of the submission.

3. A provider must submit any information or other material required by the OfS for the purposes of carrying out a minimum requirements assessment or TEF assessment by any deadline specified by the OfS.

4. Where the OfS notifies a provider that its minimum requirements assessment or TEF assessment will include a visit to the provider, the provider must facilitate and cooperate with that visit in accordance with any requirements specified by the OfS, including the date, time and manner of the visit. This includes providing the OfS with access to the provider's virtual learning environment.

Providers assessed for TEF ratings

5. Where a provider is being assessed for a **TEF rating** for the **student experience aspect**, it must, in accordance with **OfS guidance**:

    a. Nominate a suitable TEF student contact.

    b. Consult the TEF student contact at an early stage to identify what support the TEF student contact may require from the provider to facilitate the preparation of an independent student submission.

    c. Provide, in a timely manner, all reasonable support that is sufficient to enable the TEF student contact to make an independent student submission.

    d. Not influence, direct, review, edit, approve or incentivise the content of an independent student submission.

Publication requirements

6. In publishing its TEF rating ('rating') or minimum requirements outcome ('outcome'), or both, a provider must:

    a. Publish its current rating or outcome on all relevant course webpages within scope of the assessment and that are taught directly by the provider.

    b. Publish its current rating or outcome no earlier than the date on which the OfS publishes that rating or outcome, and no later than the date specified by the OfS.

c. Publish its current rating or outcome for each **aspect** assessed. If only one **aspect** was assessed and awarded a rating or outcome, a provider must use the standard wording for the unassessed **aspect**, as specified by the OfS.

d. Publish its current rating or outcome alongside any other information from a related assessment report that a provider may choose to publish. The provider must not otherwise publish information from the assessment report separately from its rating or outcome.

e. Use the full definitions of the ratings or outcomes, as set out in Part 1.3 of the **OfS guidance**, whenever it publishes a written description or explanation of that rating or outcome.

f. Clearly state the **type of provision** to which the published rating or outcome relates.

g. Provide a link to the full assessment outcome on the relevant OfS outcome webpage wherever ratings, outcomes or associated information are published.

h. Use the standardised logos provided by the OfS and adhere to published technical guidance on size and presentation.

7. A provider must not publish any rating or outcome that has been suspended or removed by the OfS, has been superseded, or is otherwise no longer current.

8. Where a provider publishes its TEF scorecard, it must be published in the form set out in the relevant assessment report.

9. Where a provider publishes all or part of an assessment report, it must not publish any extract, quotation or summary that is likely to mislead readers as to the overall findings or outcome of the assessment.